



# Head Teacher's Newsletter

## AUTUMN TERM 2024

Issue No 06 | December 2024



### Mrs Frost-Briggs' message to parents and carers

As the autumn term comes to a close, I reflect upon what the students have achieved in their lessons, sporting events, clubs and charity events across the school. I thought parents and carers might enjoy a snapshot of what has been happening in school so have included some examples in this newsletter.

The work students achieve in their lessons is crucial and sets them up to make great progress in their subjects but it is some of these enrichment opportunities where we see some of our students really shine, which is wonderful to see. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support of the school.

#### Governor vacancy

We are carrying a vacancy for a Parent Governor at the moment. Should any parent/carer of a student in Year 7-13 be interested in joining our Governing Body and helping to shape the future of The Ripley Academy then please do find out more information here: [Parent-Governor-Vacancy.pdf](#)

I would like to wish you all a lovely holiday and a fantastic Christmas and good health and happiness for 2025.

#### Impressing us this term are:

Some of our students who are in the cadets came in their uniform for Remembrance Day back in November. It was fantastic to see them looking so smart and grown up. Here is Amy W in Year 11. Amy is a credit to the school and to the cadets with her school record of no behaviour points, a positive attitude to learning and a fantastic work ethic and approach to school. Well done Amy!



#### In the spotlight are:

Mrs Forster and Miss Byrne went to see Teddy O (Y8) in a fantastic performance of 'The Phantom of the Opera' at Derby Theatre. Well done Teddy!

Sabina B (Y9) performed with her dance group at Disneyland Paris during half-term – WOW!

And our budding star Rowan M (Y11) has released a new single!! Fantastic!

These are remarkable achievements and I would like to congratulate all our students!

#### Meet Alice!

We are delighted to welcome Ripley's first ever Therapy Dog! Alice visits us once a week and has appointments with students who are engaging in therapeutic talking therapies. We've got people queuing up to want to meet Alice – the staff included!



Newest recruit to  
The Ripley Academy

## Careers Corner!

During the summer term in the week commencing Monday 21st -23rd July all Year 10 students will undertake a compulsory 3 days' work experience placement with an employer of their choice. We believe work experience is a vital opportunity for students to experience the world of work and develop employability skills. Letters have been sent home with more information on how to support your child to find placements and how we use the Unifrog work experience platform.

If you are interested in offering a work experience placement at your place of work please contact Mrs Tollervey:

ltollervey@ripleyacademy .org

## Careers Education this term

Students in Year 7-10 have been taking part in weekly careers sessions during tutor time, learning about a range of different subjects and P16 pathways. Unifrog career of the month videos and Optimus career booklets have been the foci and Mrs Tollervey has enjoyed popping into tutor rooms and listening to discussions.

Year 11 and 13 have been meeting with Ideas for Careers advisor for the school, Sharon Harvey. Parents will receive an action plan from these meetings with a record of the discussion points and guidance for future pathways.

## Charity Events

On the Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> form and Year 9 students worked collaboratively to hold a bake sale for Children in Need. This was organised by Grace R in Year 13 and raised an amazing £207.52!



A massive well done to all those students who were involved in helping: Freya B, Holly B, Troy S, Daskh P, Thomas M, Gracie R, Yau Sum T, Jordan G, Erica S, and Finlay H.



A big thankyou to everyone who has contributed towards this year's collection for Derventio. Jackie from Derventio has collected so many boxes of provisions collected by the students and staff and was stunned with your generosity. The boxes will be very much appreciated by residents of the Amber Valley who have experienced homelessness.

Y13 students visited forms and encouraged students to come together and collectively donate a selection of items including Christmas treats and useful groceries that are to be shared amongst local people. Y13 Sixth form students presented the donations to Derventio, who talked about the work of the Housing Trust in supporting homelessness locally. Well done Amber P, Amelia W, Callum S, Gracie R, Lewis H, Lilly C, Lucy C, Matt D and Matt M.

## Maths Challenge Success for Year 12 and Year 13

Seven Year 12 and eight Year 13 students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge this term. The Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Over 250,000 students took part across the UK with the top 40% of students nationally receiving a gold, silver or bronze certificate.

We are proud to announce that 12 of our students have been awarded a certificate! Alex W was the 'Best in School' followed closely by Jake A, Gracie R, Declan D and Harry F whom all received silver certificates. Yoyo T was the awarded 'Best in Year 12' achieving a bronze certificate. Ella B, Leo P, Michael W, Nathan B, Rhys L and Andrew M were also awarded bronze certificates. A fantastic effort from everyone; well done!



## *In loving memory...*

Students have also been raising money to fund a commemorative bench in fond memory of Mrs Turner, who sadly passed away last academic year. Donations were given to The Laura Centre and the PDSA as Mrs Turner's chosen charities as well as providing this personalised bench of Mrs Turner's favourite colour where students and staff can come and sit and pay their respects. We hope this brings some peace and comfort.

Mr Turner, Jessica and Eleanor are pictured here sitting on the bench for the first time. The family would like to thank all students, staff and parents for the support they were shown during this impossibly difficult time and wish to congratulate the students on the fundraising they were able to complete. Forever in our hearts.



## **What's happening in Modern Foreign Languages?**

Our linguists of the term are: Evie P (Y9), Daisy-Mae C (Y10), Poppy G (Y9), Harry B (Y7). Well done! We also have received very nice letters from the school in Chateau-Renault which we are twinned with. Our Y8 dual linguists are currently preparing their letters to reply.



## **Ripley Academy kick off in style!**

Finn D led his team to success in their first match of the season securing an 11-1 victory!

The team saw a mixture of skills, experience and rising stars with MOM going to Matt M for an impressive four goals! This team is just getting started – watch out!



## Community Christmas Dinner

Last Wednesday saw us host our annual Community Christmas dinner for special guests through Amber Valley Centre for Voluntary Services. We welcomed over 60 guests for dinner, carols and a huge raffle with lots of donated prizes from local businesses and staff. Thank you to those students who served dinner on the evening, the Year 8 students who made the table centrepieces and to the choir for singing. It was a lovely event and so gratefully received.

## STEM and enrichment in Science

### YEAR 7

Space to learn event: Sixty of our Y7 students took part in a Space to learn event ran by the National Space Academy. The session involved the design, building and firing of rockets and learning about the challenges space travel presents. Pupils really enjoyed the event and even got to hold some meteorites and even a small piece of rock from the Moon.



### KS3 – Science club

Miss Rice and Mr Cox have been running the KS3 science club over the last few weeks. This has been really well attended and pupils have taken part in lots of varied activities. They have made their own slime and really enjoyed dissecting owl pellets to see what was inside. I'm sure there will be much more science fun to enjoy in the new year.

### Y8 – IET Faraday challenge

Thirty Y8 pupils took part in a national engineering competition based on batteries and battery technology. Pupils were tasked with designing a child's toy or gadget that would make a disabled person's life easier. They had to create a design, build a prototype all to a budget and then present their idea to the group, justifying their choices. Pupils really engaged with the event and seemed to gain lots from it in terms of creativity and confidence.

