



Head Teacher's Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 2025

Issue No 08 | July 2025

Mrs Frost-Briggs' message to parents and carers



As we wrap up another school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on everything we've achieved and to congratulate our students for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment.

This year has been full of exciting trips, events, and celebrations that have highlighted the best of what our school community has to offer. A few of the standout moments this term were the school trips to Paris and Barcelona. These trips gave our students the opportunity to explore new cultures, learn outside the classroom, and create lasting memories. A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the students and made these trips both enjoyable and educational.

Our *Friday* event was another highlight. This bi-annual event was a real celebration of students' pride in their work. Hundreds of stickers were given out in advance of this event which acted as an invite for students to bring their fantastic work to show the panel, talk around it and get a prize.

Throughout the year, our *Rewards Store* has been a great way to recognise the consistent hard work, positive behaviour, and contributions of our students. From academic achievements to everyday acts of kindness, it's been great to see students engage with this initiative and take pride in earning their rewards. This system continues to motivate students to strive for their best and contribute positively to our school culture.

Our *Celebration of Success Evening* was another key event that recognised the outstanding achievements of our students. This event highlighted not only the top academic performers, but also those excelling in sports, arts, and extracurricular activities. It was a night to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of all our students throughout the year.

As always, I would like to thank you—our parents and carers—for your ongoing support. The partnership between school and home is vital to everything we achieve, and your involvement and encouragement are truly appreciated. I wish all of you a restful and enjoyable summer. We look forward to welcoming students back in September for another exciting chapter at Ripley Academy!



What's happening in maths?



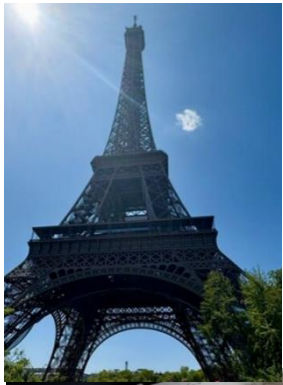
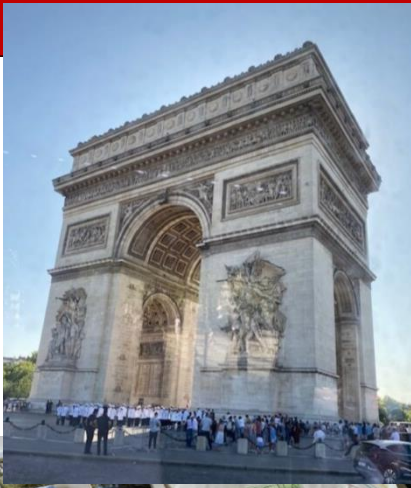
Last Wednesday, Mrs Potter took some of our best year 7 mathematicians to John Flamsteed to compete in the EMET Year 7 Maths Challenge. The teams worked together and used their problem-solving skills to solve tricky puzzles and participated in a maths relay race for the final round of the competition. The two Ripley teams came 9th and 12th place and were very proud of their medals. Well done! 😊

In May, 60 of our talented Year 7 and 8 students participated in the Junior Maths Challenge – a national competition that promotes mathematical reasoning, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills through a series of thought-provoking questions.

This year, over 250,000 students from across the UK took part, with the top 40% earning a Gold, Silver, or Bronze certificate. We are thrilled to share that 20 of our students were among those top achievers! A special congratulations to Zac L, who was named 'Best in School' and earned a Silver certificate. Silver certificates were also awarded to Oliver W, Summer S, Thomas M, James G, Ned E, Eva B, Evan S, Maggie S, Jack M, Erin F, Nicholas C, and Michael C. Bronze certificates were awarded to Bailey B, Ellen B, Rhys D, Arlo I, Marley P, Harry S, Jacob S, Georgina A, Annabel B, Maximus C, Ellis G, Honor H-G, Samuel M, Esther P, Isla S, and Archie W. Well done everyone!

International travel!

Our recent trip to Barcelona was a great success for all involved. From day one, the Spanish heat was on, but pupils represented the school brilliantly across a busy and exciting itinerary. Highlights included a visit to Gaudí's spectacular Sagrada Familia, time in central Barcelona with shopping and sightseeing, a tour of the Camp Nou museum, a high-adrenaline day at Port Aventura theme park and cooling off at Illa Fantasia water park. The group also explored the famous Codorniu Caves, took part in a treasure hunt around Girona, and visited the bustling market in Tordera for a Spanish-language shopping list challenge. There was also time to relax and enjoy the beach and hotel pool, with plenty of opportunities to unwind after the busy days. Despite the intense heat, students remained upbeat and enthusiastic throughout. Staff were incredibly proud of their behaviour, resilience, and teamwork. A huge well done to all involved!



Meanwhile in Paris, students visited the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, had a boat ride on the Seine, visited the freshly renovated Notre-Dame, the Illusion museum and the PSG stadium. Students had a great time and also were able to practise their language skills with some street sellers, caricaturists, and when buying food they didn't know at the market. It was a really lovely group that were really patient during the long journey on the coach also!

We also received letters from the French school in Chateau-Renault we are paired with. It is the second year that our Year 8 dual linguists are doing this. Last time both groups exchanged information on menus in school and timetables, this time they printed photos to show their towns and their region. Brilliant stuff, well done everyone!

Business class have it in the bag!

As part of exploring different production methods, Year 10 Business students have recently been busy designing and manufacturing paper bags for the luxurious Radders Department Store. They were tasked with designing a paper shopping bag for our summer sale collection, but were then foxed when it turned out they then had to make each other's designs and not their own! This allowed them to explore the ins and outs of job production - working to the exact specification of a client rather than to their own designs. Although difficult, Year 10 have risen to the challenge and have performed admirably, producing the best set of bags Mr Radbourne has seen, both in quality and design.



Head Teacher's well done to...

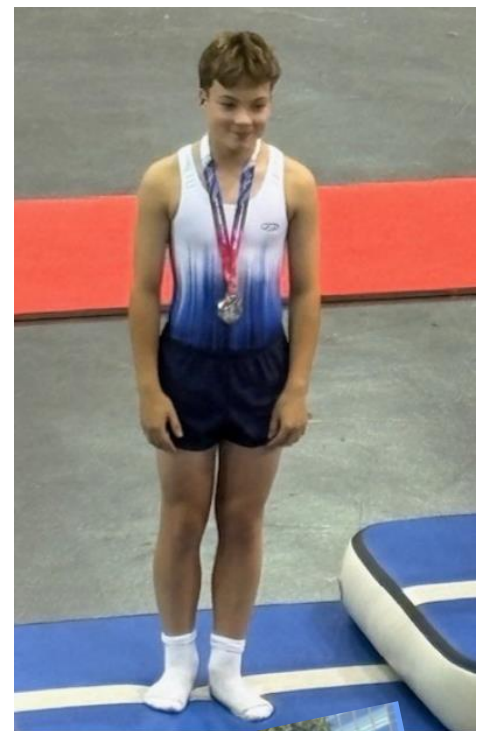


One of our students has given us a particular reason to be proud this term! On Saturday 12th July, Harry N participated in a Boxing event at Cannock Chase in front of over 1500 people. Not only did he take part, but he won the British GCo boxing title in his weight category. In total, Harry has won 12 titles in 24 fights, including world titles, European titles and national titles as well as representing England in Munich where he came away with 3 bronze medals. Performing at this level comes with a lot of sacrifices in terms of training and strict diet and ice baths! This is so impressive Harry, well done 😊



Well done to the "Linguists of the term": Izabella L, Eva B, Isabelle G and Hayden S.

Another student who has achieved something remarkable outside of school is Drew who competed in the English Silver Tumbling Championships at Telford in May. Drew came away with a silver medal and went on to compete at the Inter Regional Challenge finals (British level) representing his club, Amber Valley Gymnastics Academy and also the East Midlands region. Drew managed to secure another silver medal here to! What a remarkable achievement, well done Drew!



STEM Event

Mr Page took nine Year 10 pupils to the University of Derby to take part in the Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire STEM Competition 2025. Pupils were tasked with designing and constructing a railway bridge over a gap that was aesthetic, lightweight and load bearing for an electric train to cross. They had to do all of this with a budget that couldn't be exceeded.

The pupils rose to the challenge and showed great creativity, communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills along with plenty of resilience to produce some excellent bridge designs. One group was successful in achieving a prize for the 'Most innovative design award' so well done to them.

Pupils were impeccable on the day and showed great enthusiasm and pride in their work. They seemed to really enjoy the event and got a glimpse into potential careers within STEM that will hopefully inspire them to become the scientists and engineers of the future.



Year 12 Work Experience week

Our Year 12 students have recently participated in a week of work experience. This invaluable initiative provides our students with the opportunity to step outside the classroom and gain first-hand exposure to the world of work, all while developing essential skills for the future.

During the week students experienced a diverse range of industries - Education, Architecture, NHS, Floristry, Army, Design, Finance, Leisure, RAF, Retail and Engineering, exploring potential future paths in a real-world setting. Many of our Year 12s reported that they left their placements with a deeper understanding of their chosen fields having had the chance to interact with professionals, make valuable contacts, and explore potential future apprenticeships or job opportunities.

The positive feedback from both students and employers highlights the success of this year's Work Experience week, with some students being offered Apprenticeships following their sixth form studies! As we reflect on the incredible growth and development of our Year 12 students, we are reminded of how important these experiences are in shaping their future success.

We would like to expand our thanks to all the companies and individuals who hosted our students this year. Your mentorship and guidance make a last impact, and we truly appreciate your support.

We would love to expand our employers for next year, if this is something you could support with, please contact Mrs Saccaggi on esaccaggi@ripleyacademy.org



Year 12 Employability Day

Our Year 12 students enjoyed a day developing transferable, employability skills through a series of engaging activities delivered by our guests from The Talent Foundry who provided insights into the world of logistics real estate, raising awareness of its everyday life impacts and career opportunities in and around Derby .

Throughout the day our students had the opportunity to work closely with Logikor employees who had travelled from across the country to support this event. The day culminated in an Industry Expo where the students pitched their Business Plan to Industry experts.

Feedback from the Logikor staff was overwhelmingly positive as the students really rose to the challenge. Well Done Year 12.

AVSSP District Athletics

An amazing day was had by all at this year's District Athletics competition. The students were nothing short of remarkable despite the heat!

Our Year 10 boys returned with a trophy, placing 1st in their category. With the Year 10 girls result adding to the total, The Ripley Academy Year 10 team finished 3rd in the district overall. Well done to all students who participated, we are proud of you all.

1st Place: Maggie S, Jack M, Joshua A, Samuel M, Zamar J, Connor S, Corey F, Tyler P, Evan J, Seth F, Dylan B, Tyler P

2nd Place: Isla P, Maggie S, Lacey R, Myles R, Ashton C, Henry W, Connor S, Corey F, Dylan B

3rd Place: Summer B, Cameron M, Drew W, Alfie B, Isla J, Joel B, Luno C