



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs BA (Hons)**
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

9th September 2025

Re: Year 8 Personal Development Curriculum 2025–2026

At The Ripley Academy, we believe that Personal Development is a vital part of your child's education and growth. Our carefully planned curriculum is designed to support our students in developing the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, and responsible lives, both now and in the future.

This year, your child will take part in a range of lessons and activities through our Personal Development curriculum, covering the following key areas:

- **Proud to be Me** – Students will learn what a career is and investigate their job interests. They will understand how social media can impact their self-esteem.
- **Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing** – Students will discuss what mental and physical health is. They will look at what body image means and how this can impact them.
- **Identity, Relationships & Sex Education** – Students will learn about contraception and what a healthy relationship looks like. They will also study gender identity and sexual orientation.
- **Dangerous Society Online and Offline** – Students will understand the dangers of substance misuse and how cyber-bullying, and online grooming is dangerous.
- **Equality & Diversity** – Students will be able to recognise the signs of homophobia and discuss how to challenge this. They will also understand how we can support people in the LGBTQIA+ society.
- **Law, Crime & Society** – Students will understand how to best make decisions and how laws are made in the UK.

We fully respect that some parents and students may hold particular personal or religious convictions. If any of these are incompatible with the content of specific RSE lessons, we understand and respect your right to request that your child be withdrawn from those sessions. If you wish to make such a request, please contact the Head of School in writing.

We are also excited to tell you that as a school we are actively working towards obtaining the Derbyshire Bronze BERT Award (Building Effective Relationships Together). This award is designed to support the development of relationships and sex education in accordance with statutory requirements and the Ofsted framework. Accreditation of the award demonstrates the high-quality



relationship and sex education within our school which helps to support our children to lead safe, healthy, happy lives.

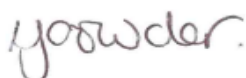
We also appreciate that you may wish to explore more details about what your child will be learning and we encourage you to visit our school website, where you will find a comprehensive overview of our Personal Development curriculum, including the RSE elements.

You can access this information at:

<https://www.ripleyacademy.org/curriculum/curriculum/personaldevelopment/>

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child has a successful and enriching Year 8.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs L Tollervey
Head of Personal Development