



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



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

8th September 2025

Re: Year 9 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:

- **Essential Life Skills** – Students will learn about saving and managing money and the importance of this. They will look at how online pressures can lead to stress.
- **Body Confidence** – Students will investigate self-esteem changes and how they can notice this. They will also learn about different types of bullying.
- **Sex, Law & Consent** – Students will understand what “consent” is and they will learn about FGM (female genital mutilation) and the law along with STIs (sexually transmitted infections).
- **Legal and Illegal Drugs** – Students will learn about the different types of addiction and learn about different illegal substances. They will learn what a “party drug” is.
- **Contraception & STIs** – Students will learn more about sexually transmitted infections and how these can be prevented by the use of contraception. Students will also learn about HIV and Aids and the prejudice and discrimination that people may face.
- **Extremism & Terrorism** – Students will learn about terrorism and how we can spot signs of radicalisation and what counter terrorism means.

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with the content of specific RSE lessons, we understand and respect your right to request that your child be withdrawn from those sessions.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.

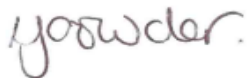


You can access this information at:

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

We look forward to working with you to ensure your child has a successful and enriching Year 9.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L Crowder'.

Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L Tollervey'.

Mrs L Tollervey
Head of Personal Development