

NEWSLETTER

The Ripley Academy

Executive Head Teacher - Mrs Frost-Briggs

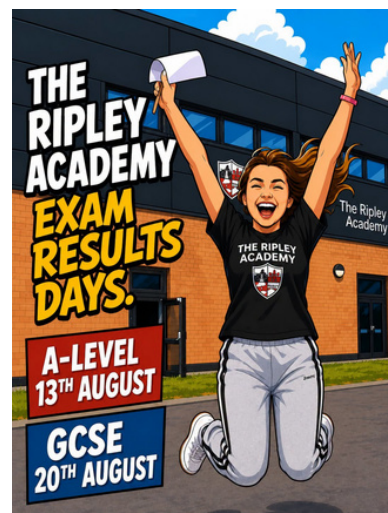


As we reach the end of a very long (and hot!) summer term, I would like to thank our students, staff, and families for their continued commitment to The Ripley Academy. Throughout the year, and especially during the last few weeks, our students have demonstrated resilience and adaptability in working hard during the heatwave and have shown kindness to others, helping one another and making the most of every opportunity.

We have been lucky to benefit from many memorable moments that have enriched the lives of our students this year. Students enjoyed celebrating the many cultures and backgrounds within our community during Diversity Day, they showed great teamwork on Sports Day, and enjoyed some unforgettable experiences in Barcelona, Paris, and Florence, where our students explored the countries' rich culinary traditions. I feel strongly that it is these enrichment activities that our young people will use to build life-long memories of their time at Ripley. We've seen students build confidence, develop independence and broaden their horizons and I am subsequently extremely grateful to the team of wonderful staff for providing these experiences for our young people to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to grow, thrive, and discover their potential.

We enjoyed sharing the successes of many of our young people in the Celebration of Success evening last week and a special shout out to Matt and Anna for their wonderful poem recital and solo guitar performance respectively. I also really enjoyed watching the Year 10 Music Performance and look forward to the Cross Art Days and prom next week!

I wanted to end by saying a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our school community this year. I wish you all a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another year of learning, growth, and opportunity.





A huge thank you to Mrs. Newson and our amazing gardening club for making our school entrance so welcoming and vibrant for summer! Please see Mrs Newson if you would like to find out more about this lovely club!



What a wonderful day we had in York with our Year 12 Creative Arts Students. We visited the Van Gogh Immersive Experience followed by an amazing tour of York St John University's Art, Design and Animation suites. A truly inspiring day!



Maths Ambassadors



This academic year the Maths Ambassadors (Evelina, Ruby, Mia, Michael and Logan) have worked incredibly hard to support the maths department with many tasks. One of their main tasks has been the monitoring, preparation and distribution of new exercise books. This task has required them to develop their communication skills (with each other as well as members of staff), their problem-solving skills and challenged them to develop the most efficient process.

They have been an asset to the Maths Department this year!



Message from Mrs Forster



Year 6 Transition -

- On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of June, we were absolutely delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students to The Ripley Academy for their transition days. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence as students explored the school, met their teachers and support staff, and began making new friendships. Throughout the two days, students embraced every opportunity, taking part in a range of engaging activities and showing excellent teamwork, kindness and resilience. We are incredibly proud of how quickly they settled into our school community and would like to thank our staff, student leaders and families for their support in making the experience such a success. We cannot wait to welcome our newest cohort back in September and begin the next exciting chapter of their journey with us!

Celebration of Success Evening -



- Our Celebration and Success Evening was a truly memorable occasion and a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our incredible students. The evening was filled with pride, inspiration and applause as we reflected on the hard work, determination, talent and resilience shown by so many young people across our school community. It was fantastic to see students being recognised for their academic accomplishments, personal growth, leadership, creativity and positive contributions to school life. We were also honoured to be joined by a number of special guests, whose support and encouragement helped make the event even more meaningful and memorable. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, supported and contributed to the evening; together, we created a celebration that perfectly showcased the ambition, commitment and pride of our students.

3rd place Maths Challenge

8 of our lovely year 7s took part in the EMET year 7 Maths Challenge. Both of our teams worked hard to solve tricky problems, and one of our teams came 3rd place and received prizes for their amazing effort!

What have you enjoyed during your Transition days at The Ripley Academy?

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I really liked the cooking lesson, it was really fun and tasty!

Tuesday - Year 6

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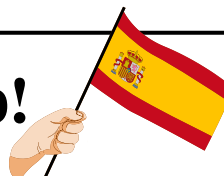
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The Teachers have been so friendly and the student helpers have been so supportive and helpful!

Bella - Year 6



Barcelona Trip!



ToBarcelona 2026: Unforgettable!

Ripley Academy students had a fantastic time on the MFL trip to Barcelona, enjoying five busy days full of culture, language, sightseeing and fun. After arriving in Spain, the group visited the breathtaking Sagrada Família before heading to Calella for hotel check-in and their first evening together.

During the trip, students explored the fascinating Codorníu Caves, learning about the cava-making tradition, before enjoying the thrills, rides and shows of PortAventura. They also experienced more of Barcelona, including its striking architecture and the Camp Nou museum, before cooling off at Illa Fantasia water park.

Another highlight was the Tordera market challenge, where students had the chance to use their Spanish in a real-life setting. The group then travelled to Girona, exploring its beautiful riverside houses, historic streets and quiz route.

Throughout the trip, students showed excellent enthusiasm, behaviour and teamwork. It was a brilliant opportunity to experience Spanish and Catalan culture first-hand, make memories with friends and bring language learning to life. ¡Qué viaje tan fantástico!





Bonjour,
Voici les nouvelles de Paris!



ParisTrip!



Y8 and 9 students really enjoyed their time in Paris - under the heat! They witnessed the stunning views of Paris from the Eiffel tower and Montmartre, explored the shops on the Champs Elysees, toured Parc des Princes, tried new food on a French market and experienced a sensational sunset river cruise on the Bateaux Mouches! They have also been to the Arc de Triomphe, the Trocadero, seen Notre Dame and visited the illusion museum. It has been a great stay with so many brilliant memories!





Diversity Day!

Thank you to Miss Tollervey for organising our Diversity Day! The students and staff loved their carousel of activities and workshops!

YEAR 7 WORKSHOPS

- Road safety
- Taste testing insects in Food Technology
- Creating culture jars in Art
- A workshop delivered by I Can I Will on being an active bystander.

YEAR 8 WORKSHOPS

- Wellbeing workshop delivered by Mrs Forster
- Beat boxing
- A Lubrizol ramp challenge
- A Misogyny session Delivered by PC Levi Tabbron

YEAR 9 WORKSHOPS

- Learn Mandarin with Miss Yuan
- A Street Doctors workshop focusing on Knife crime
- A NHS Sexual health session
- Tilbury Douglas construction delivered a digital Lego workshop

YEAR 10 WORKSHOPS

- A consent workshop with SV2
- Career focused session on work experience preparation
- A Job Centre Plus session on Civil Service careers
- Dancop discussed careers and industries

All year groups had the opportunity to see a musical performance from **Harlee** and a discussion about how she overcame her own mental health struggles.

<https://www.facebook.com/theprimeagencyUK>

There was a real buzz all around the school, a fantastic day to end the school year!



Year 10 Work Experience

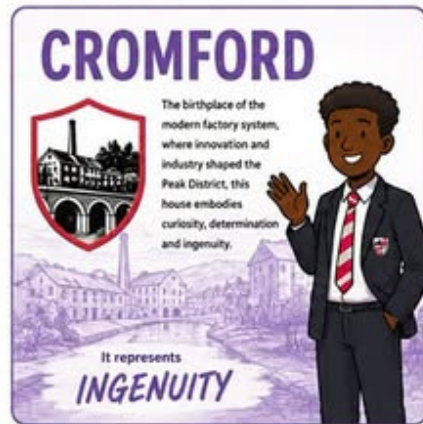
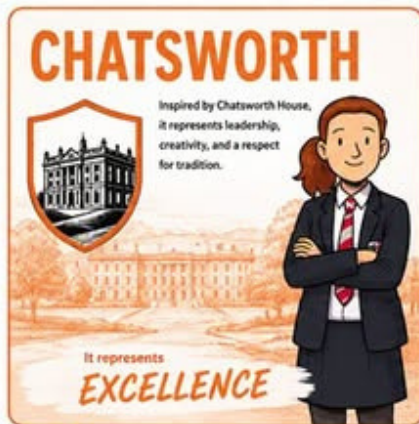
Year 10 Students Prepare for Work Experience

During the week commencing 20th July, our Year 10 students will be taking part in their work experience placements, giving them the opportunity to experience the world of work first-hand. This exciting milestone allows students to develop valuable employability skills, build confidence, improve their communication and teamwork, and gain a greater understanding of the wide range of career pathways available to them. Our students are really looking forward to the experience and embracing the opportunities ahead.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the local businesses and organisations that have generously agreed to host our students. Their continued support plays an invaluable role in helping prepare our young people for their future careers. We are confident that our students will represent both themselves and the school with pride throughout the week, and we look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return.



Our House System



Over the last few terms, we have been delighted to introduce our new House System, creating even more opportunities for students to develop a sense of belonging, teamwork and healthy competition within our school community.

Our six houses – Dove, Monsal, Riber, Kinder, Cromford and Chatsworth – have already begun to make their mark, with students embracing the opportunity to represent their house with pride.



From September, every student will receive a house badge to wear on their blazer, proudly displaying the house they belong to. We hope these badges will strengthen students' sense of identity and encourage them to support one another throughout the year.

Our very first House Competition took place during Sports Day, where students demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, determination and teamwork. Congratulations to Dove House, who were crowned our inaugural House Champions and proudly lifted the first House Trophy!

This is just the beginning of our House journey. We are excited to introduce many more house competitions and events throughout the next academic year, giving every student the chance to earn points for their house, showcase their talents and contribute to their team's success.

We look forward to seeing the House System continue to grow and become a valued part of school life.



Step up to Sixth Form

On Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July we were thrilled to welcome our new Year 12 students for our Step Up To Sixth Form induction event. Students had the opportunity to be a Sixth Former for two days; attending lessons in each subject, starting some independent learning through our '4 Hours in' strategy and starting to think about their Extended Project Qualification topic.

We had some fun with our teambuilding activities; students got to know each other through a variety of tasks, including a Taskmaster inspired coconut launching!

For any students who are yet to pre-enrol, they can complete this form to secure their place using the QR code.

We are also looking forward to our first Sixth Form trip to Manchester next year, where students will be able to visit a selection of museums, galleries and other places of interest, along with some great food and fun activities later in the day.

Students can register their interest when they join us in September!



Pre-enrolment at The Ripley Academy Sixth Form 2026 Entry



Year 12 Work Experience

Our Year 12 students recently completed their work experience placements, spending time with employers across a wide range of industries, including Healthcare, Education, Engineering, Government, Aviation, The Arts, Hospitality, Animal Care and Accounting.

The placements provided students with an excellent opportunity to explore potential career pathways, develop workplace skills and gain first-hand insight into their chosen industries. Throughout the week, students experienced the day-to-day responsibilities of the workplace, built confidence in professional environments and strengthened important skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving.

We would like to thank all of the employers who generously supported our students by offering placements and sharing their knowledge and expertise as they begin planning their future careers.



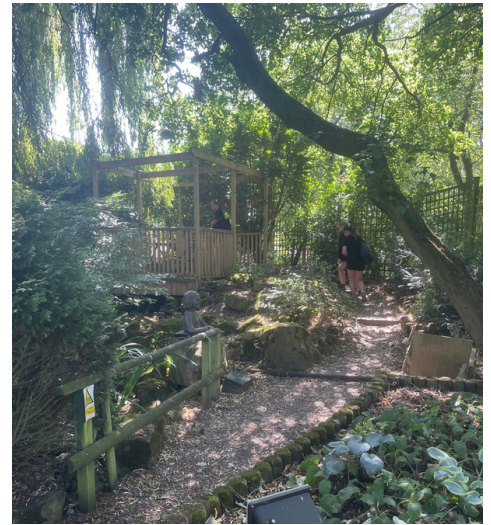


Sports Day

Well done for a remarkable sports day, there were ambitious individual performances and some amazing team performances. Thank you to everyone who took part, it was nice to see a positive atmosphere and everyone cheering and supporting the athletes. Well done to all.



National Holocaust Centre



On Wednesday, Mrs Kenway took 42 Year 9 RE students to the National Holocaust Centre. The students participated in a full day of activities centred around the museum and memorial gardens. This was part of a teaching programme exploring questions of responsibility for the Holocaust, personal experiences and why issues of Anti-Semitism are still relevant today. Unfortunately, the survivor speaker's train was delayed from London, but instead the students got to hear a video testimony of survivor Steven Frank, who survived Theresienstadt concentration camp. The students were exemplary and the member of staff at the Holocaust Centre who led the session commented on the intelligent questions our students were asking. Well done to our Year 9 students - this was an amazing opportunity to reflect important issues centred around the Holocaust and they were nothing short of remarkable!

A Journey Through Latin America: Cultural Talks for Our Dual Linguists



On 15th July, our Dual Linguists were treated to a vibrant journey through Latin America with a special series of cultural talks celebrating Mexico, Chile, and Guatemala.

The suite was transformed for the occasion, decorated with flags from across the Spanish-speaking world and a display table full of traditional textiles, crafts, and artefacts for students to explore. Our speakers brought each country to life sharing everything from the wonders of Chichén Itzá and the traditions of Día de los Muertos in Mexico, to the dramatic landscapes of Chile, from the Atacama Desert to the towers of Patagonia and the moai of Easter Island. Students even tried to guess the ingredients of a Chilean completo, a hot dog quite unlike any they'd seen before! We were also delighted to welcome a guest speaker from Guatemala, who introduced students to the "Heart of the Mayan World," sharing the rich history, food, and living traditions of Mayan culture.

Students were wonderfully engaged throughout, discovering the fascinating connections that link these three countries, from shared foods like tamales and avocados to their celebrated Nobel Prize-winning writers. A fantastic celebration of language, culture, and curiosity. ¡Muchas gracias to everyone involved!



Year 10 Students Take on the YESD Design Challenge

On Tuesday 7th July, nine Year 10 students proudly represented The Ripley Academy at the annual Young Engineers and Scientists of Derbyshire (YESD) Design Challenge, hosted by the University of Derby. The event is designed to develop students' problem-solving, teamwork and communication skills through an authentic engineering challenge, while inspiring young people to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

With it being a World Cup year, this year's challenge had a football theme. Students were tasked with designing and building a device that could "bring it home" by propelling a football from the penalty spot past a stationary goalkeeper. Extra points were awarded for successfully directing the ball through different scoring zones, encouraging teams to combine creativity with precision.

The Ripley Academy entered three teams, who competed against schools from across Derbyshire. Working within a set budget for materials, each team followed a structured design-and-build process, testing and refining their ideas throughout the day.

Although we did not take home the overall prize, our students demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and creativity. They embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, gained valuable insight into real-world engineering and problem-solving, and represented the Academy superbly throughout the competition.

The day concluded with the traditional teachers' challenge, where Mr Ritchie performed admirably, finishing as runner-up after an all-too-familiar penalty shootout defeat in the final!

Well done to all of our students for their hard work, determination and fantastic representation of The Ripley Academy.

Attending Students:

Evie C - 10R

George K - 10R

Charlotte L - 10P

Daksh P - 10L

Harumi S- 10R

Ethan S- 10Y

Hayden S - 10R

Grace S- 10P

Mariella S - 10D



Maths Challenge Success



Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the Junior Maths Challenge this term. The problems on the Senior Mathematical Challenge are designed to really make students think outside the box!

We are proud to announce that 35 of our students have been awarded a certificate! Jon C was the 'Best in School' followed closely by Amelia A – both securing Gold certificates! Harrison C, Jacob G, Evelyn H, Archie R, Cora S, Bailey B, Nicholas C, Michael C, Erin F, Finly J, Jacob R and Maggie S all received Silver certificates. Whilst bronze certificates went to Aubrey M, Toby M, Brad O'C, Hannah S, Kenadie T-H, Rosalind W, George W, Isabelle W, Morgan WR, Kirsty B, Ellen B, Isla B, Hayden C, Rhys D, Jacob H, Jack M and Otto O.

Congratulations to all the students who took part - we look forward to continued success in the Maths Challenges at The Ripley Academy

Year 11 News!

Prom is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the hard work, resilience and determination our students have shown throughout their time at the academy, particularly during the challenges of their GCSE examinations. It is a chance for them to come together one final time as a year group, celebrate their achievements and create lasting memories with friends and staff before embarking on the next stage of their journey.

We are looking forward to welcoming students for what promises to be a fantastic evening filled with celebration, laughter and well-deserved recognition. We can't wait to see everyone dressed for the occasion and to celebrate everything the Class of 2026 has accomplished.

We hope all of our Year 11 students have an unforgettable evening and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to their exciting next chapter.



Our Year 11 students enjoyed a fantastic afternoon celebrating the end of their time at The Ripley Academy. The celebrations began with a food reception and the traditional shirt signing, giving students the opportunity to spend time together and create lasting memories before coming together for their Leavers' Assembly.

The highlight of the afternoon was a surprise leavers' video featuring staff performing a choreographed dance routine to Uptown Funk! It had students laughing, cheering and singing along, providing the perfect send-off to a wonderful year group. We are incredibly proud of everything our Year 11 students have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next chapter of their journey.