The Ripley Academy
and Sixth Form
We are Ambitious ▪ We are Committed ▪ We are Proud

Executive Headteacher
Mrs H Frost-Briggs
Head of School
Mr J de Rijk

Re: Year 11 Personal Development Curriculum 2026–2027

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:

Sexual Health - Students will revisit and extend their understanding of sexual health and relationships. They will learn about fertility, sexual health, STIs, contraception, peer-on-peer abuse, respect, love and making responsible decisions.

Staying Safe - Students will explore how to stay safe in both online and real-world situations. They will learn about digital footprints, online reputation, group chats, cyberbullying, live streaming, vaping, new psychoactive substances, festivals and substance addiction.

Adult Health & Looking After Yourself - Students will prepare for greater independence by learning how to take responsibility for their health. They will explore organ and blood donation, teenage pregnancy, mental health, parenthood, cancer awareness and screening, healthy relationships and the difference between social media and real life.

Justice, Ethics & Modern Society - Students will explore important moral, ethical and social issues. They will consider misinformation, targeted advertising, data privacy, cyber flashing, upskirting and peer-on-peer abuse, while developing their ability to think critically about modern society.

Leaving Year 11 – Stay Safe, Stay Smart - Students will prepare for the transition beyond school by developing their independence, resilience and decision-making skills. They will revisit key issues around safety, relationships, health and wellbeing and consider how to make responsible choices as they move into adulthood.

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with the content of specific RSE lessons, we understand and respect your right to request that your child be withdrawn from those sessions.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

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Proud to be rated Ofsted Good in both 2022 and 2025

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 11.

Yours faithfully,





Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs L Tollervey
Head of Personal Development