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 7 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:

- **Friends, Respect & Relationships** - Students will learn what makes a good friend and how to build positive, respectful relationships. They will explore consent and personal boundaries, managing friendships and online relationships, dealing with pressure and influence, and understanding how ideas about masculinity can affect people.
- **Managing Change**- Students will learn how to manage changes and transitions in their lives. They will explore puberty, growing up, personal hygiene, periods, self-esteem, sleep and relaxation, and how to look after their physical and emotional wellbeing.
- **Staying Safe Online & Offline**- Students will learn how to keep themselves safe in different situations. They will explore online safety, grooming, gaming, gangs, criminal behaviour, knife crime and other risks, as well as making safe and responsible choices.
- **Puberty & Body Development**- Students will develop their understanding of puberty and the physical and emotional changes that happen during adolescence. They will learn about periods, boys' and girls' health, personal hygiene, body development, self-esteem and dental health.
- **Money, Media & Modern Society**- Students will develop their understanding of money and their role in society. They will learn about tax, government, advertising, financial scams, responsible citizenship, census information and how technologies such as deepfakes can influence the information we see.

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.

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Proud to be rated Ofsted Good in both 2022 and 2025

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 7.

Yours faithfully,





Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs L Tollervey
Head of Personal Development