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

Re: Year 8 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:

- **Law, Crime & Society -** Students will explore how laws are created and why societies need rules. They will learn about decision-making, communities, crime, punishment, prisons and rehabilitation, and consider how laws affect individuals and society.

- **Identity, Relationships & Sex Education -** Students will explore identity, self-esteem and healthy relationships. They will learn about love, respect, conflict, periods and the menstrual cycle, contraception and sexual orientation, while developing an understanding of respectful relationships.

- **Staying Safe & Building Respect -** Students will learn how to recognise risks and keep themselves and others safe. They will explore peer pressure, personal safety, bullying, banter, respect for women, sexist behaviour and how to respond to difficult or unsafe situations.

- **Digital Worlds & Emerging Dangers -** Students will develop their digital literacy and learn about emerging online risks. They will explore AI, deepfakes, algorithms, chatbots, digital media, online grooming, cyberbullying and illegal online behaviours.

- **Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing -** Students will learn how to look after their physical and mental health. They will explore healthy eating, cholesterol, stress management, mental health, positive body image, loneliness, bullying and ways to seek support when they need it.

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with the content of specific RSE lessons, we understand and respect your right to request that your child be withdrawn from those sessions.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