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 9 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:

- **Equality & Diversity Explored** - Students will explore identity, diversity and inclusion within modern Britain. They will learn about stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, multicultural Britain, learning disabilities, kindness and challenging discrimination such as Islamophobia and antisemitism.
- **Sex, the Law & Consent** - Students will develop their understanding of consent, relationships and the law. They will explore sexual consent, FGM, domestic abuse, sexual harassment, stalking, healthy relationships and making informed decisions about sexual activity.
- **Legal & Illegal Drugs** - Students will learn about drugs, addiction and the risks associated with different substances. They will explore drug classifications, cannabis, party and illegal drugs, volatile substance abuse and the wider impact of substance misuse.
- **Contraception & STIs** - Students will learn about sexual health and how to reduce risks. They will explore different types of contraception, condoms, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, testing and treatment, as well as challenging stigma and discrimination.
- **Body Confidence & Combating Extremism & Terrorism** - Students will explore body confidence, self-esteem and the influence of media and airbrushing. They will also learn how extremism and terrorism can develop, how radicalisation happens, and how communities and organisations work to prevent these risks.

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with the content of specific RSE lessons, we understand and respect your right to request that your child be withdrawn from those sessions.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

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Proud to be rated Ofsted Good in both 2022 and 2025

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,





Mrs L Crowder
Deputy Headteacher

Mrs L Tollervey
Head of Personal Development