

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope your child has had a positive and productive start to the new academic year and has settled in well to their new classes. Can I take this opportunity to thank you again for your support as a Ripley parent. It really does make a difference.

I am writing to you regarding how school keeps you informed about your child's progress and about some changes we are going to make this academic year.

In reporting your child's progress we endeavour to provide timely and accurate information that is as helpful as possible to parents whilst also being manageable in terms of teachers' time and priorities. From this academic year, school will communicate your child's progress in the following ways:

- **Progress Reports** - for most year groups in school, parents will receive a Progress Report every half term across the school year. Parents of children in Years 8-13 will be familiar with these reports, which will now be available more regularly than previously. Progress Reports are available on the Parent Portal and contain subject-specific information on your child's progress, including commendations and any causes for concern. In KS3 they also include key tests and assessment scores, whilst in KS4 (GCSE) and in the Sixth Form they contain on-track grades (the grades that teachers think are most likely at the end of the key stage if your child continues working as they are currently).
- **Parents' Evenings** - traditional, annual consultation evenings will continue as in previous years.
- **Parentline** and **T2P** - at any other times, where parents wish to contact school to discuss academic progress, the Parentline system provides a means of communicating. Please note that messages received through Parentline will be answered within 5 working days; do not expect an immediate response. School will also use the T2P system should members of staff wish to contact parents. Emails to individual members of staff will not receive a response.
- **Tutor Report** - the final Progress Report of the year will contain a report from your child's Progress Tutor. This short report will be individual to your child and will provide an overview of their achievements, both personal and academic, over the academic year.

From this academic year, therefore, parents will not receive the annual, formal report on the Parent Portal as in previous years. Having consulted with Governors, including Parent Governors, and staff, it has been concluded that more regular and more up to date Progress Reports are preferable to an annual written report which, by the time it is received, is often out of date.

I hope you will agree that the above changes are in the best interests of pupils and match our ambition of providing accurate and timely information for parents. I look forward to continuing to work with you over the course of this academic year and into the future.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr M Wood**  
Principal

*Believe.....*

Principal Mr M Wood  
Chair of Governors Prof JD Crewdson

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