

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com  
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



01524 64496  
admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

## The Sixth Form

Over the coming weeks and months we will be sharing information about Ripley Sixth Form with our Year 11 pupils ahead of our Virtual Open Evening in February.

When your children join us in Year 7, we talk about an Education for Life and we want them to come on a 7-year journey with us through to Year 13. We very much hope that our Year 11s will stay on with us – they are part of our Ripley family, we know them well and so we are best placed to support them through the next stage of their education. We offer a wide range of different courses, giving them lots of choice.

From Sixth Form, our students go on to exciting apprenticeships, the best universities and into interesting and brilliant careers. Ripley Sixth Form is the best of both worlds – the safety of family, but new and exciting with more independence than over in main school. We can't wait to share what we do with you – watch this space!

Even if your child isn't in Year 11 yet, do look out for the open evening videos and presentations after Christmas to give a flavour of what's to come.

## Maternity Leave

We wish Mrs Benter well as she starts her maternity leave today! We can't wait to meet Baby Benter when he / she arrives.

## Remembrance Day

Last week we commemorated Remembrance Day. The whole school community paused to remember all those who have given their lives in conflicts around the world. I had the privilege of being part of the Year 7 group at the front of school. We watched the cadets marching in their new uniforms and laying the wreath outside school. If you click on the link below, it will take you to our website where you can see some pictures of the event and a video about our CCF group. The video features our pupils talking about why being part of our cadets is important to them.

<https://ripleystthomas.com/act-of-remembrance-11-11-2020/>

## Worship

Worship is a central part of our Christian school life and one of the ways we live this out is through our weekly virtual worships. All of these are on Firefly for children to watch if they are isolating or absent. Before half term, Michael our Chaplain, focused on the theme of HOPE in uncertain times and led our virtual Harvest Service. This half term we are thinking more about WHOLENESS and WELLBEING (with themes about kindness, happiness, perseverance, and light in darkness) - including referencing Jesus being spoken of as "*the prince of wholeness*" in the Message Bible version of Isaiah 9:6. Look out for a virtual Christmas Service coming up in December!

*Believe.....*

## **Equipment**

At the start of the year, we asked for parents' support in ensuring that pupils attended school with the basic equipment. It has come to the time of the year when equipment gets lost, or begins to run out. Please could I ask you to check that your child is attending school with the necessary equipment. In line with the COVID risk assessment, we do want to limit the sharing and lending of items. A list of equipment can be found below.

### **Basic Equipment**

- Journal
- Blue/black pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Whiteboard pen
- Reading book
- Mini whiteboard (issued to all pupils at the start of the academic year)
- Glue stick (issued to all pupils at the start of the academic year)

### **Specialist Equipment**

- P.E. kit
- Black fine line pen (for GCSE D&T)
- A pair of compasses (Maths)
- Protractor (Maths)

The school stationery shop is open at break time every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Pupils pay for their items using their Scopay account, in the same way they purchase their lunch.

### **Parking**

We have received an email from a resident on Beeching Close near school. Parents are regularly parking here at drop off time and blocking driveways. This is preventing residents from leaving to pick up their own children from other schools. Please be mindful of our neighbours when parking.

### **Phone calls**

One small point – when we phone you from school or from our homes to inform you of a positive case, our numbers either show up as Unknown or Withheld. This means that occasionally parents are not answering the phone – could I ask that if you receive a call from a withheld number that you do pick up in case it is us trying to contact you.

I hope you have a nice weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal