

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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22 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## **Blended Learning and Key Pieces of Work**

I mentioned in my letter last week that we have put in place a system for monitoring completion of key pieces of work and informing you when one has been missed with a 'Key Piece of Work' click. I shared that this was not a sanction but rather **for information only**, so that we are able to track and provide support for those that may be falling behind.

We have made a tweak to our monitoring system in the light of some feedback received this week. We have turned off the email alerts, but the information will still appear on the parent portal so you can track your child's completion of key tasks. I know that many of you value this information, so we have not removed this completely.

Next week we will be trialling a new system for monitoring work completion. Progress Leaders and Senior Leaders will be reviewing pupils' engagement with blended learning on a weekly cycle and will be making contact home when we have concerns about work completion or engagement with blended learning. Teachers will continue to recognise good work with the Ripples system.

We thank you for your understanding whilst we work to develop new systems and find a good balance between the need to keep you informed regularly whilst at the same time recognising the challenges that home learning presents. We know it is very difficult trying to juggle everything – please be assured we are understanding of this and we thank you for all you are doing.

We will be asking parents for feedback next week so that we can continue to improve our systems.

## **Live lesson recordings**

As you will be aware, we record all live lessons so that pupils who miss the session can catch up their learning and for safeguarding purposes. All recordings are shared within our school community only. There are times, however, where it would be useful to share the recording of one class with another to aid their learning. Where we share recordings between classes they will be shared securely within the school community and not more widely. If you have any questions about this, please do let us know via Parentline.

## **KS3 Curriculum – for parents of Year 8**

As you may be aware, pupils in Year 8 would normally be approaching their GCSE options choices with a view to starting their GCSEs in Year 9 next year. Given that their time in Key Stage 3 (KS3) has already been cut short due to COVID-19, we are proposing that we change our curriculum model from September 2021. Rather than starting their GCSEs in Year 9, we propose that the current Year 8 continue to study their Key Stage 3 subjects for another year to make up for the time they have missed. They would therefore make their option choices in Year 9 and begin their GCSEs in Year 10.

This model of a three-year KS3 and a two-year KS4 is the more common curriculum that many schools have returned to in recent years. Having a longer KS3 means that pupils will have access to a broader curriculum for longer, enabling them to build more knowledge across a wide range of subjects before specialising in Year 10. GCSE courses are designed to be taught over two years, so a return to a two-year KS4 would be manageable.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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If you would like to make any comments about the above proposal, please do so by Friday 29 January using the email [consultation@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:consultation@ripley.lancs.sch.uk)

**A prayer**

At the end of this third week of lockdown, I share with you Michael's prayer from his worship this week which was based around the verse from Hebrews 10:23, reminding us to hold 'unswervingly' to hope.

Dear God,

Thank you that you are faithful, and now more than ever, help us to trust in you.

When life feels uncertain and confusing and the road ahead seems unclear, help us.

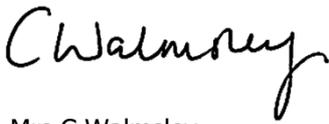
When we feel anxious or afraid, help us to look to you for support.

When we feel stressed and overwhelmed, help us to know your peace.

Help us to hold unswervingly to hope in these times, we pray.

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal