

Ripley Sixth Form FAQs

- **What time does school start?**

You need to arrive in school in order to register at 8.45am each day.

- **Where do I go when I arrive?**

On your first day you should go to the Phythian Hall. After this you will be assigned to a registration group and form room. Staff will be around to welcome and guide you!

- **Can I come into school late if I don't have lessons in the morning?**

No! Students must register at 8.45am every morning. If you don't have a lesson or tutorial after this, this time will be allocated to study.

- **Can I change subjects?**

You are able to make changes to subjects initially at enrolment. You may decide to take a different subject based on your GCSE grades and this is fine. There is also a period of transition in Year 12. You must attend your chosen subjects for the first three weeks. If you decide to make a change at this point, a signed letter from a parent is needed. You can only make a change if you have the entry requirements for that subject and it fits the option blocks. It will also be dependent on class numbers.

- **Can I be in the same classes as my friends?**

We can't guarantee that you will be in the same classes as your friends as we are restricted by the option blocks and class sizes. However, this is a great opportunity to make new friends and you will be able to see your friends at break and lunch!

- **What do we do in 'free' periods?**

You will have designated study periods for the majority of free time on your timetable. You should use these to complete homework, do some wider reading, prepare for the lessons ahead, revise and consolidate your notes. You can study in the Silent Study Room, the JCL or you may be able to work in the department area for practical subjects such as Art, Music and Product Design – you should check with your teacher.

- **What can I wear?**

We have a dress code for Ripley Sixth Form. This gives you some choice within certain parameters. Dress smartly for a professional working environment. You MUST wear your ID badge at ALL times.

- **Can I use my mobile?**

Yes around the Sixth Form Centre. But, NOT in lessons unless directed by the teacher and NOT in main school (where the Sixth Form path joins the main drive).

- **Will I have time for a job?**

Yes this is a great way to earn a bit of money and gain valuable skills but don't let this become too demanding. We recommend one or two shifts per week ONLY.

- **What are tutorials?**

You will have 3 tutorials timetabled across the two week period. Tutorials are where you will access advice and guidance from your personal tutor to support your academic progress and personal development. You will also be given the tools and information you need to help you access your next steps beyond sixth form.

- **Will I be able to manage A-levels?**

Studying at this level can be challenging. However, you have very strong support to help you manage the demands of your courses and your personal tutor is always on hand to help with any issues you may have.

- **I'm struggling with the Bridging Units, does that mean I won't cope with the workload?**

There is a step up from GCSE to A-level and BTECs. The Bridging Units are for you to show effort and aptitude, not to be able to make this leap automatically. Managing the workload takes time and practice – we will be here to show you how to best manage your time when you start in September.

- **How will Ripley help me with my career?**

You will work closely with your tutor in completing your Career Planning Journey throughout Years 12 and 13, utilising expert guidance to help you make informed decisions about your future. You will engage with a wide range of talks and workshops covering university, apprenticeships, employment and gap years through our assembly, PSHE and enrichment programmes. The support we offer will give you the tools you need to secure your chosen destination after sixth form.

- **What is enrichment?**

Enrichment gives you the chance to engage with exciting opportunities in addition to your academic studies. You will have designated time on your timetable to allow you to access a wide range of activities and societies to help you explore your interests and develop your skills. These include our bespoke careers academies, the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, sport, music, online courses and a range of groups to suit all kinds of interests including creative writing, law, film production, environmental issues, social sciences and many more!

- **Can I park my moped/car at school?**

No. There is not enough space to allow student parking on site. If you are driving to school you must find somewhere safe and legal near school and allow yourself time to park and arrive on time.

- **I won't know anyone, how will I cope?**

You will make friends very quickly, don't worry. You will be encouraged to get to know your peers in tutorials and your new classes. Even students coming from Ripley may not be in the same friendship groups. Your personal tutor will be able to help you with any anxieties you may have. See this as an exciting opportunity to meet many new people.

- **Do I have a form tutor?**

You will have a registration tutor each morning and you will also attend tutorials three times during the fortnight with your personal tutor. Your registration tutor will manage your attendance and punctuality and give out daily notices. Parents should contact your personal tutor via Parentline to pass on any information or if they have any queries.

- **When do I use the Silent Study Room and JCL?**

You will have designated study periods on your timetable and we recommend you use the Silent Study room and/or the JCL for these. However, you can use it any time you are free, including before and after school.

- **Will I have a computer login?**

You will be assigned a personal log in when you start in September. Students already from Ripley will be able to use their existing details to log in.

- **Can I have a locker?**

There are a large number of lockers in the Sixth Form centre. You can put your name down on a list if you would like one and these will be allocated accordingly. Some people choose to share a locker. You need to supply your own padlock and key once these are allocated.