

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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20 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of the most unusual academic year. In September, I optimistically thought we might be under COVID restrictions for 'about a term'. One year later, we find the end of the school year disrupted again. This was not the way we wanted to finish the year, but we look forward to starting the next one without bubbles and track and trace! Let's hope it lasts.

I hope you will join me in thanking the staff for their commitment and hard work during what has been a very difficult year. They have kept positive, worked incredibly hard to keep education going, whilst dealing with their own anxieties about the pandemic as well. Thank you to you all for the support and kind words you have been sending in, especially over the last couple of weeks. They have really kept us going and have been much appreciated.

September

Please refer to the letters sent yesterday regarding the staggered return to school and the lateral flow testing which we will be doing on site at the start of the year. We will send further information about this in due course.

Please also check the letter from Mr Wilson regarding uniform expectations. We will be checking uniform carefully throughout our first week back, so please ensure uniform still fits before the end of the summer. In particular, a reminder that skirts should sit just above the knee and must not be worn rolled up.

We will be running our uniform swap shop in September, so please send in any good quality items which have been outgrown. These can be brought to Mr Wilson's office in the first instance.

Staffing changes

We say goodbye to the following staff today who are either retiring or moving onto pastures new.

- Mrs Ann Casson – Vice Principal
- Mr Paul Cairns – Senior Assistant Principal
- Mrs Alison Fenna - Learning Support Manager
- Mr Mike Farnfield - Assistant Progress Leader
- Mrs Jenny Watkinson - Sixth Form tutor and previously Head of Year 13
- Mrs Julie Bostock - SCITT director
- Mrs Rebecca Ashcroft – Subject Leader – English
- Mrs Nikki Mann – Subject Leader - RE
- Miss Michelle Hayes – Assistant Subject Leader - English
- Miss Abigail Hardman - Teacher of PE
- Miss Georgina Kett – Teaching Assistant
- Mr Adam Morley – Performing Arts Technician
- Mr Andy East – English teacher
- Mrs Fran Saponiere – RE teacher
- Miss Edie Shemilt-Griffiths – Business teacher

A number of these colleagues have had long and distinguished service at Ripley. All have worked with dedication and commitment during their time with us and I'm sure you'll join me in thanking them for their service to the school and wishing them well in their retirements or next steps!

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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We welcome the following colleagues to the Ripley family in September

- Mr Robert Stuart - MFL teacher
- Mr Robert Watkinson – MFL teacher
- Mrs Naomi Rigby – Subject Leader English
- Mr Jake Bithell – RE teacher
- Miss Lauren Hindle – RE teacher
- Miss Jessica Mansfield – Geography teacher
- Mr Dominic Leighton – English teacher
- Miss Hazel Nguyen – Teacher of Economics
- Mrs Grace Britton - Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
- Miss Megan Dews - Food Technician
- Mr Pip Alpin - Performing Arts Apprentice
- Miss Mia Richardson - Learning Support Apprentice

We welcome them to the Ripley family and wish them well in their new roles.

NSPCC article

Please find below some information from Mrs Benter from the NSPCC which may be useful for parents. The 'go to publication' text contains the link to the article.

Home or out alone: a guide to help you decide if your child is ready to stay home or go out alone.

Summary: NSPCC guide for parents and carers to help decide whether their child is ready to stay at home or go out alone. Includes practical tips and advice and covers risks parents should consider before making a decision, such as how their child feels about the idea and who they should contact in an emergency. Provides a checklist for parents and children to work through together helping them prepare for different types of scenarios. Contains questions about what to do if there is an accident at home or if they are approached by a stranger outside.

Publication details: London: NSPCC, 2021

[Go to publication](#)

Catering Assistant

We are looking to recruit for a Catering Assistant to join our catering team. This post is 20 hrs per week (to be worked Monday to Friday), term-time only, plus four days.

If you know of anybody who may be interested in applying for this post, please would you direct them to the school website www.ripleystthomas.com/vacancies for full details and an application form.

And finally...

As we come to the end of this challenging year, the words of my favourite Psalm 23 come to mind:

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
He restores my soul.

I wish you all rest and restoration for the summer ahead. God bless and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal