

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR

YEAR 7

2025/2026

WELCOME



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

Welcome to Ripley! It is a pleasure to be able to welcome you into our community as we begin this journey together.

What an exciting time this is for you with so many new experiences and opportunities ahead! As we begin this journey, we reflect on our vision for you, inspired by our Christian faith:

'I have come that they may have life - life in all its fulness' John 10:10

There is so much on offer at Ripley from the variety of subjects you will study within your timetable, to the fabulous array of co-curricular clubs, and opportunities to develop your love of learning on trips at home and abroad! God has given each of you many different gifts and talents and we can't wait to see you discover new talents and develop old ones. Take every opportunity, work hard, be polite and try your best - we can't wait to see you grow and flourish.

If you need any help, please do not worry - there is a lot of support in school from your progress tutors, who you will meet on your first day. These include your teachers, our school chaplain - Michael, as well as Mrs Timperley, Miss Stainsby and Mrs Potter, and many more adults in school!

So, we look forward to meeting you in September, looking smart and proud in your new Ripley uniform, and ready for your Ripley journey to begin.

With best wishes,

Mrs H Best

Acting Headteacher



Welcome to Ripley St Thomas Academy.

We are delighted that you have chosen Ripley as your secondary school and we look forward to welcoming you fully in September. The transition process started in June with your visit from one of our transition team. We hope that your child enjoyed the visit and we also hope that the information in this booklet will support you in answering any questions that you may have between now and September. We understand that leaving primary school and starting secondary school can be a daunting process and we are excited to be supporting you every step of the way. We will look forward to seeing your child next in July for their transition day, until then, we hope that they enjoy the last half-term of Year 6, make some memories and live life to the full!

We really can't wait to welcome them in September.

Mrs K Potter

Assistant Head, Transition Lead



Welcome to Ripley!

As Head of Year 7, I am delighted to welcome you to our school community. This is an exciting new chapter in your journey, and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Starting secondary school can feel like a big change, but you will soon find your place, make new friends, and discover subjects and activities you love.

Our caring team of teachers and pastoral staff are ready to help you settle in, feel confident and enjoy your time here. We will have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved - whether it is joining a club, taking part in school events, or trying something completely new.

We can't wait to meet you, learn more about you, and see all the amazing things you will achieve in Year 7.

Mrs J Timperley

Progress Leader Year 7



IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES 2024/2025

Autumn Term 2025

Re-open	Tuesday 2 September 2025 (Years 7 & 12 only) Wednesday 3 September 2025 (Years 8-13)
Staff Training Day	Friday 3 October 2025
Half Term	Thursday 23 October 2025 – Friday 31 October 2025
Closure after school	Friday 19 December 2025 (early closure – 12.30pm)

Spring Term 2026

Re-open	Monday 5 January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 February 2026 – Friday 20 February 2026
Closure after school	Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Re-open	Monday 13 April 2026
May Day closure	Monday 4 May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 May 2026 – Friday 29 May 2026
Open Day	TBC
Closure after school	Friday 17 July 2026 (early closure – 12.30pm)

ATTENDANCE

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school you must phone school on their first day of their absence before 8.30am to provide a reason for their absence. For a prolonged period of absence, you should telephone the school office every day to update us or provide a clear indication of the expected duration of absence. On their return to school you should provide a written explanation. If no explanation for absence is provided within a week there is a risk it will be unauthorised.

Family holidays should not be arranged in term time. Unavoidable requests for leave of absence during term time should be made well in advance to Mrs H Best, Acting Headteacher.

TRANSITION 2025

As we have already said, a member of the transition team enjoyed meeting your child when we visited their primary school. We are now looking forward to them visiting us at Ripley when they come for their transition day.

"My favourite day at Ripley was my transition day because I met lots of new people and made new friends. It was really fun."

Year 7 pupil

There are two transition days – Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July. Your child has been invited to attend one of these dependent upon which primary school they currently attend. However, the structure of these days will be similar. All pupils need to be in school by 8.40am and they should wear their primary school uniform (leavers hoodies are permitted). On arrival, they should make their way to the Chapel. We will be there to greet them and to settle any nerves.

Pupils will attend a variety of lessons. They will need to bring the following items: pen, pencil, rubber and ruler. Trainers will also be required for P.E.

8.40am	Arrival, please go directly to the Chapel for Worship
9.15am	Lesson 1
10.15am	Break <i>(If your child normally has a snack, please send something with them.)</i>
10.30am	Lesson 2
11.25am	Lesson 3
12.15pm	Early lunch. <i>(A school dinner will cost £3 or a packed lunch will be required.)</i>
1.10pm	Lesson 4
2.10pm	Lesson 5: Singing in the Chapel with Dr Allcock
3.10pm	Dismissal

Please ensure that your son/daughter knows how they are getting home. In all the excitement, some inevitably forget and we don't want tears at the end of a fantastic day.

If they are travelling with a sibling or friend who is already at Ripley, please ask that pupil to meet them at the Hall at the end of their school day.

If you are collecting your son/daughter please be aware that you will not be able to access the school site; you will need to arrange where you are meeting them. Please note that there is limited parking near the school, especially at 3.10pm when our school buses are arriving and departing.

Finally, if they are travelling on a school bus please make sure they know which one they need to catch.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL

Moving to high school can seem quite daunting but please rest assured that we know our pupils well and that they are all cared for as individuals by their Progress Tutor and their Progress Leader.

However, as they journey through school it may be that they require additional support to help them deal with some of the challenges that life can bring. At such times, there are additional members of our school community that can help, as well as other professionals who work with the many external agencies we collaborate with.

*"Leaders know
pupils, students and
their families well."*

Ofsted
December 2022

If you have any concerns or worries about your child's wellbeing please contact us.

CHAPLAIN

Michael Reynolds, our school Chaplain, is an integral part of our pastoral team and is available to support pupils. He offers a listening ear and helps many young people look at the world from a different perspective.



The Chaplaincy within school is also a lovely space, which is available to Year 7 pupils at lunchtime to help them get to know new people within a calm, quiet space. Members of our Year 11 Senior Student team join them on a daily basis to offer their support and guidance.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SUPPORT

Laura Johnson, Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, is available to support all of our young people. Laura also co-ordinates the support which is offered by our school counsellors and those from outside agencies such as A.C.E., Barnardos, Lancashire Young Minds and N.E.S.T. to ensure that our pupils receive the support that they need.



FIRST AID

We are incredibly fortunate to have Mrs Bottomley, First Aider, on site to support our pupils during their school day.

Here are some top tips as to what to do when ill health threatens to make learning or attendance difficult for your child:



- **“I don’t feel well”** – If they cannot get up at all then clearly they should be off school. If your child is out of bed, but a bit “off colour” we suggest they come into school. If their symptoms get worse, we will contact you.
- **Asthma** – Most of our asthma sufferers attend school as regularly as every other child. If your child uses an inhaler they should keep one on their person at all times; a spare, which should be named, should be kept in school in the first aid room. Please send one in as soon as you can in September.
- **Broken bones** – should not keep your child off school beyond a couple of days. If in doubt, please contact us as we can re-organise timetables to avoid stairs if necessary and arrange for a friend to carry bags etc.
- **Itchy matters** – Head lice are very common in schools, they love clean hair. Make sure you comb long hair morning and night. If you do find head lice there is no need to keep your child off school while treating them. However, it is for this specific reason that hair should be tied back. Scabies and impetigo are less common but can be quite upsetting. Your doctor can treat this quickly and effectively. Once the infected area has dried up pupils should return to school. There is no need for your child to stay off school after treatment has been given.
- **Paracetamol** – If your child feels unwell e.g. headache, stomach cramps etc. the First Aider can only give your child a paracetamol when necessary if you have given permission.

PEER MENTORS

Each year a group of older pupils volunteer to support other pupils within our school community by taking the role of peer mentor. They work alongside the Year 7 pupils during registration each week, getting to know them and helping them adjust to life at Ripley by sharing from their own experiences.

“Pupils and students told inspectors that they feel safe and happy in school.”

Ofsted
December 2022

The Mentors are easily identifiable around school at break and lunchtime and are there to act as positive role models.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Ripley St Thomas C of E Academy strives to be a fully inclusive school. All pupils at Ripley St Thomas are valued equally, including those with SEND. We endeavour to enable all pupils to achieve their potential, personally, socially, emotionally and academically, in all areas of the curriculum.

We work closely with primary schools to ensure that SEND and wellbeing information is passed on to us before your child attends transition days. If your child has an identified learning need or disability, you will also be invited to a meeting with our SENDCo, Mr Bithell, or Deputy SENDCo, Mr Vernon, and one of our Assistant SENDCos.



All of our teachers receive training in SEND and use a range of SEND-friendly strategies in the classroom. During your child's time at Ripley, we might identify areas in which they need extra support. We have a number of Teaching Assistants who support pupils in class, 1:1 or in small groups. They run a range of interventions (usually during form time) for literacy and numeracy needs, as well as social and friendship groups. We will contact you if we think your child might benefit from that extra input. You are also welcome to contact the Learning Support team at any time via Parentline if you have any concerns about your child.

You can find more information about our SEND provision by scanning the QR codes below, or looking at the school website.

SEND report



SEND policy



THE SCHOOL DAY

8.40am	Form time
9.15am	Lesson 1
10.15am	Break
10.30am	Lesson 2
11.30am	Lesson 3
12.30pm	Lunch
1.10pm	Lesson 4
2.10pm	Lesson 5
3.10pm	Dismissal

FORM TIME

Each morning you will engage in different activities:

Monday: Form Worship

Tuesday: Assembly

Wednesday: Form Reflection

Thursday: Form Reflection

Friday: Worship in the chapel

We participate in 10 minutes of guided reading every day in form time.

TIMETABLES

Each pupil's timetable is unique; the timetable below is an example of a Year 7 timetable. There will be a key underneath, which will provide further details of the teachers' names.

Tutorial	1	2	3	4	5
1Mon	Science AWA L12	French SHU FL6	Geography NCA G3	English EVE E9	Maths JME D3
1Tue	Tech JSC T2	R.E. FSA RE2	Maths HTU MA7	English NRI E10	English RMG READ
1Wed	History KHA H4	Maths JME D3	Science ASU L11	P.E. CPE SPH	History KHA H4
1Thu	Comp. Sci LDU CS2	R.E. FSA RE1	Science RLA L10	Geography NCA G3	P.E. CPE SPH
1Fri	Music PAL MU1	Art AMK ART3	R.E. FSA RE4	English NRI E10	Maths JME D3
2Mon	Maths JME D3	Comp. Sci. LDU CS2	Science AWA L12	Music PAL MU1	English NRI E10
2Tue	History KHA H4	Ag & Hort GOT F1	English NRI READ	Maths JME D3	French SHU FL6
2Wed	Drama ABN DSTU	Food CWE 17	English NRI E10	Science ASU L11	French SHU FL6
2Thu	P.E. CPE SPH	Maths JME D3	English NRI E10	Art AMK ART3	Maths HTU MA7
2Fri	Geography NCA G3	R.E. FSA D3	Ag & Hort JBA F3	Tech JSC T2	Science ASU L11

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

A Ripley education prepares pupils to live life in all its fullness, both during their time at school and beyond. In line with the Christian ethos of the school, which runs as a thread through everything that we do, pupils here are supported and encouraged to discover their God-given talents, to thrive, to flourish, and to become the best they can be.

Our academic curriculum is broad and ambitious for all. It gives pupils the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of our world and their place in it and helps them to appreciate how the past has shaped our present. Pupils leave Ripley with high levels of cultural capital and an in-depth knowledge of music, the arts, literature, and current affairs.

All pupils in Key Stage 3 study two languages to develop this cultural awareness further, alongside their linguistic ability. Pupils benefit from our many practical subjects, developing their enquiry skills through science experiments, designing and creating in D&T and food, as well as building their physical strength and health through their PE lessons. Our rich and diverse offering is well-planned and sequenced to build cumulatively, equipping pupils with the knowledge and skills they need in each discipline; it is taught by teachers who are experts in their subjects because of the high-quality and up-to-date training they undertake.

The curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of SEND pupils and any other groups who may need a more tailored approach. Our co-curricular programme is key to our success and provision beyond the timetable continues to be high profile throughout the school, ensuring that pupils develop creatively, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally. Opportunities for pupils to participate in music and sport, as well as Duke of Edinburgh Award and our CCF, are extensive and encourage the development of key leadership skills and resilience.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is exciting and diverse. Our pupils develop a firm grounding in a wide range of subjects, including Agriculture and Horticulture. The Farm is particularly important to us as it deliberately enables all our pupils to learn about care and sustainability whilst learning to be good stewards of creation. Considering the breadth of subjects studied throughout Key Stage 3, our pupils are in a strong position to make the right GCSE option choices towards the end of that key stage.

“...an aspirational curriculum ... prepares [pupils] well to play their part as responsible and active citizens in modern Britain.”

Ofsted
December 2022

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Year 7 starts with the basis of all Agriculture and Horticulture, the soil. We teach soil science and the importance of healthy sustainable soil. Then pupils learn about food production in Britain, farming regions, products, and terms used in livestock and arable farming.

“Ripley is very lucky to have its own farm and you will get the opportunity to walk the horses, clean the stables and care for the animals.”

Year 7 pupil

In year 8 the focus is animal welfare. The children learn about the five-animal welfare needs in the context of animal husbandry. Horticulture is taught using the topic of growing tomatoes. The children cover topics such as germination, photosynthesis and pollination.

Year 9 introduces animal care and management and then sustainable food production. We explore intensive and extensive methods of food production, organic farming, permaculture, meat consumption and water use.

ART



We want you to love Art! In your lessons, you will try out lots of different ways of creating art, alongside exploring a range of exciting artists, designers and cultures. Not only will you develop your skills in painting and drawing, you will experiment with printmaking, papier mâché, photography and much more. We run a very exciting lunchtime Art club for those of you who really enjoy the subject. We look forward to meeting you in September.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

In Computer Science, you will learn lots of new skills and how to use programs that will help you throughout school and beyond! We learn about E-Safety and all the ways you can stay safe online including how to keep your devices secure, as well as looking at how information is sent over the internet and how to work collaboratively online. We look at the inside of a computer and learn what each piece of hardware does and even find out how Artificial Intelligence works! We love to get creative with programming and you will learn to code by creating your very own games using Scratch - after that you will learn Python - a text-based programming language that is used by real programmers!



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

In Key Stage 3 Design and Technology, pupils build their knowledge and skills in relation to the made world. Through solving problems with creative solutions, students learn how to be analytical and practise the effective communication of design solutions. D&T is a practical subject where students grow in their confidence when handling and manipulating an increasingly broad range of materials along with appropriate hand and machine tools including computer aided design and manufacture.



DRAMA

In your Drama lessons you will explore a range of practical skills with a focus on building confidence, co-operation, concentration and self-control. You will explore drama through the ages and learn how to perform in a range of styles. You will study Shakespeare's language and practise the art of naturalism. You will watch a Live Theatre performance via 'dramaonline' to nurture an appreciation of the design elements of a National Theatre production. There will be opportunities to join the Drama club and be involved in the school production. There is also a Dance club where you can expand upon your performance skills.

FOOD

Food is a practical subject and pupils learn and develop their skills from making a range of food products. As part of their work with food, pupils are taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating. Learning how to cook is a crucial life skill that enables pupils to feed themselves and others affordably and well, now and in later life. By the end of key stage 3 pupils should be able to work with a range of ingredients and tools and perform a variety of practical techniques in order to manufacture a range of food products. They should be able to develop their ability to design, make and evaluate a range of food products.



*"I enjoy the food lesson
because it offers us the chance
to explore new things."*

Year 7 pupil

GEOGRAPHY

Geography has a key role to play in helping pupils to become informed global citizens who have an understanding of the world in which they live. Our hope at Ripley is that our pupils will be inspired to use their unique combinations of knowledge and skills to make a positive difference in the world. Pupils at Ripley study a broad range of topics that explore both the physical and human worlds. By studying Geography our students will be able to comprehend the ever changing world in which they live, through the study of places, patterns and processes. Our students will explore how we affect our environment and how it affects us in the past, present and future. Fieldwork is an essential part of Geography at Ripley. This allows our students to engage in geographical enquiry where they develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers. Opportunities for fieldwork are provided in Years 7, 8 and 9, which includes an optional Adventurous Geography residential in Year 7 and a whole year trip to Bowness in Year 8.

HISTORY

In History, we seek to develop a deep enthusiasm for the study of the past, to build up factual knowledge of different time periods and to work on a range of academic skills such as the ability to explain the causes and consequences of events, to assess historical sources, to explain the significance of an individual or event and to delve into historical interpretations. In terms of topics, our Year 7 pupils start in the world of the Anglo Saxons before moving on to the impact of William the Conqueror and the Norman Conquest on England before studying the Black Death, the Silk Road and the impact of the Tudor monarchs on England.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Our aim is to inspire a love of languages and an appreciation for different cultures. We want to broaden pupils' horizons and educate them about the advantages of being globally aware and culturally sensitive. We aim to teach pupils the importance of being literate, of having excellent communication skills, and of speaking more than one language in our increasingly global society. Our aim is to inspire a love of languages and an appreciation for different cultures. Year 7: All pupils study French and Spanish; topics studied include my life, my school, my town and the world. Year 8 & 9: All pupils continue studying French and Spanish. All pupils in Year 7 get the opportunity to take part in the National Routes into Languages French/Spanish Spelling Bee as well as the chance to travel to Normandy in Year 8.



MUSIC

KS3 Music involves a variety of topics which are explored through singing, keyboard work, and practical music-making tasks. Everyone is a musician, everyone can sing, and we are proud of how music develops pupils beyond musicianship in terms of self-confidence, independence, and analytical skills. Topic areas in Year 7 include Giant Slayer (a musical based on David and Goliath, leading to a whole-year group performance in October); Rhythm, Metre, and Tempo; The Beatles; The Baroque era; Instruments of the Orchestra. Reading music notation is something which we look at from day one, and with many different approaches and games used during lessons, pupils get to grips with this very quickly.

Our KS3 music curriculum operates in tandem with our co-curricular provision and one-to-one lessons in order to provide a comprehensive foundation to learning music. All 15 co-curricular groups and activities are completely free and open to pupils in all year groups. We currently have 200 pupils receiving one-to-one instrumental and vocal lessons each week, delivered by 12 highly experienced specialist tutors. Further details about one-to-one music lessons will be provided at the Year 6 Information Evenings and there will be leaflets available. Dr Allcock, Director of Music, will be available to answer any questions that you might have about Music at Ripley. Come and say hello!

PE

In P. E. you will participate in a range of different sports in your lessons that aim to improve your skill level but also help you to develop key life concepts such as communication, teamwork and evaluation. We will do each sport for six lessons looking at the range of skills you need to be a successful performer in that sport. The sports include: Football, Rugby, Netball, Health Related Fitness, Swimming, Badminton, Dance, Athletics, Rounders, Cricket and lots more! We offer many co-curricular clubs in PE, so we would love to see you come along and try new sports, join in and represent the school sports teams! We are looking forward to welcoming you to Ripley Sport in September!

"There are lots of competitions, challenges and fixtures you can be involved in, it is special when you represent the school against other schools."

Year 7 pupil

RE

In Religious Education, pupils will begin the year by looking at the big question 'Does God exist?' This is a fantastic way to share your views about God and to try to understand why this is such a complex question to answer. We will look at arguments for and against the existence of God and ask the question of whether science and religion can ever be compatible. Year 7 pupils will then move on to a deeper study of the Christian faith and ask the question 'What does it mean to be a person of faith?'. Later in the year, pupils will begin their Archbishop's Award, which challenges pupils to 'be the change they want to see in the world'. The Archbishop's Award focuses on learning about inspirational heroes throughout history who have made a positive impact on the world and then learning to apply it to our own lives. In Religious Education we like to ask the complex questions, listen to and understand the views of others and put what we have learnt into action to best serve our community.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Here at Ripley St Thomas we believe that school is much more than five lessons each day, and therefore our school day does not finish at 3.10pm but continues beyond with the vast array of co-curricular activities, which are available to all pupils.

Over the last year, our pupils have had the opportunity to try the following activities: art club, athletics, badminton, book club, chapel choir, chess club, Christian union, code club, combined cadet force, cookery club (MFL), cricket, D & T electronics club, dance club, drama club, environmental club & climate action alliance, fantasy football club, farm club, football, girls' choir, gravity racing club, guitar group, history 1864 club, hockey, home learning club, jazz band, junior boys' choir, MFL virtual vocab club, maths clinic, orchestra, rounders, rugby boys and girls, running club, samba band, saxophone ensemble, science club, school band, soft ball, story writing, string group, swim fun, table top club, tennis and trampolining.

"At Ripley, the clubs are amazing and the trips are very good."

Year 7 pupil



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

LITERACY

A good level of literacy is crucial for your child's success in all areas of the curriculum and as your child learns more about the different subject areas across the curriculum, it is important that they can express themselves clearly through what they write and what they say. Also, competent readers will find it easier to acquire and comprehend new knowledge. There are plenty of things that you, as parents, can do to help:

Reading

Reading should be an enjoyable activity, but some children need a bit of encouragement in discovering the magic of literature. Try buying your child books as presents and take the time to browse the local book shop or library with them. In addition, the BorrowBox app offers a wide range of eBooks and audiobooks that can be downloaded.

It is also helpful to continue reading with your child. As you read, talk with them about what they like and what they think about the book. It might be beneficial to have a shared 20-minute family reading slot during the week, whereby everyone commits to sitting together and reading. We expect pupils in Key Stage 3 to be reading for 20 minutes each day – reading with them would be a great way of promoting this.

Writing

In Year 7, children will be expected to develop a good writing stamina. We want to encourage pupils to recognise that great writing doesn't just happen, but that great writing is planned, carefully crafted and refined through redrafting and editing. Pupils will be shown how to edit their work using a green pen. You can help them to do this at home when they have finished homework activities across all subjects in the curriculum, helping them check for accuracy errors and support them in the refining process.

The English curriculum in Year 7

The theme of our Year 7 curriculum is Journeys and Perspectives, and we invite our pupils to consider their own journey and transition to high school alongside the journeys of others, particularly refugees, in order to develop tolerance, empathy and understanding of difference. We study two class novels: *In the Sea* There are Crocodiles, and *Trash*, in order to learn about corruption, prejudice and injustice. Pupils are encouraged to challenge media bias and develop their own opinions. We also study Travel Writing, where pupils will learn about the form and genre of transactional texts describing place. In their study of a range of poems exploring identity, pupils are encouraged to appreciate a broad spectrum of poetic voices before crafting their own heritage poem.

Ideas for Summer

During the summer holidays, you can help by encouraging your child to read. The local library will be running a summer reading challenge and anyone who completes the challenge and takes their certificate to their new English teacher will receive a small prize. If you are going on holiday or on a day trip, ask your child to read some tourist information material and then give you a summary of what you might expect of your trip or holiday.

In addition, the English department at Ripley will be providing your child with a copy of the book, *Angel of Grasmere*, by Tom Palmer, which they are to read over the summer holiday. We would love to receive your child's feedback and thoughts on the one they get; in their welcome pack, they will also receive a bookmark and a leaflet outlining how to create a book cover. These will be shared with their peers in their first week at Ripley. We would encourage your child to continue to write over summer; perhaps a diary entry of a day out they have enjoyed or a short story featuring one of the characters from *The Soup Movement*.

Every year we are impressed by the extraordinary effort and quality of summer work completed by pupils. We look forward to seeing what your child comes up with this year!

LIBRARY

The Reading Room is the name of our library which provides a welcoming atmosphere and a positive learning environment for you to read, research, do homework and print your work. It is open before and after school as well as during break and lunch times.

Our hours are: Monday to Thursday - 8:00am to 4:00pm
Friday - 8:00am to 3:30pm

The Reading Room offers a variety of resources including magazines, newspapers, computers, a printer/photocopier, and an extensive collection of fiction and non-fiction books. All pupils are welcome to borrow books for study or to read for pleasure. It also provides access to a wide range of information that supports learning across all school subjects and its facilities are used by the English department for library lessons.

We hope you'll enjoy visiting the Reading Room and make good use of all its resources. If you need any help or would like to request a particular book, please don't hesitate to ask at the library desk.



"The Reading Room is a nice place to read, relax and study"

Year 11 pupil

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

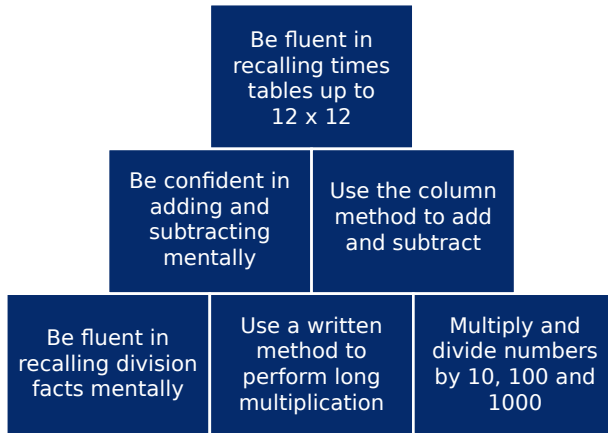
MATHEMATICS

In addition to the basic equipment, for Maths lessons pupils will be expected to have:

- a scientific calculator (Model: CASIO fx-83GT CW or CASIO fx-85GT CW)
- a protractor
- a pair of compasses

Building mathematical ideas

Success in mathematics relies on mastering core skills and being fluent in the basics. This enables deeper mathematical thinking and understanding to develop more easily as pupils progress through the school. Pupils should already be able to:



Maths skills for life

Our aim is to develop the full potential of every pupil in Mathematics, whatever their starting point. We want pupils to have a positive attitude to Mathematics and aspire to experience success and enjoyment in the subject.

The Mathematics department uses a wide variety of both classroom-based and online activities and resources to motivate, engage and challenge pupils of all abilities.

Teaching focuses on enabling pupils to reason mathematically and develop problem solving skills, over time and in different contexts, to enable them to get the most out of day-to-day life experiences as they encounter them. Pupils are also encouraged and stretched to develop more robust skills and knowledge, should they wish to pursue Mathematics beyond GCSE.

Enjoying Mathematics during the summer break

1. Complete the 'SPARX transition booklet' given out on your transition day. Bring your booklet, fully marked to your first maths lesson. Each topic is broken down into Introduce, Strengthen and Extend; please encourage your child to complete as much as they are confident to within each topic. The answers, along with the downloadable booklet can be accessed through this QR code.



<https://sparxmaths.com/resources/transition-booklet>

2. Visit the NRich (maths) website for more challenging activities.



<https://nrich.maths.org/secondary>

For Parents and Carers: been a while since you did some Maths?

Try these recommended reads and websites to familiarise yourself with the latest classroom thinking:

- Website: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zqhs34j>
- Book: *Maths for mums and dads* by Mike Askew and Rob Eastaway
- Book: *How to do maths so your children can too* by Naomi Sani
- Article: Nurturing Successful Mathematicians:
<https://nrich.maths.org/14682>

Be positive about Maths: keep it within your growth mindset

'Perhaps the single most important thing that parents can do to help their children with Maths is to pass on a positive attitude.'

Tanya Byron, Clinical Psychologist

ORGANISATION

For the first time in their school life your son/daughter will be responsible for organising everything that they need. Good organisation is essential and is the key to being successful.

Please ensure that they:

- Keep a copy of their timetable at home in a prominent place.
- Keep all their school books/equipment together in one safe place.
- Pack their bag the night before with all of the books and equipment that they need for the next day and that you check it for them.

Pupils are expected to arrive at lessons ready to learn. Excellent behaviour for learning means:

- You arrive to lessons on time
- You have the correct equipment
- You have brought the homework required for submission that lesson
- You listen to the instructions and explanations without interruption
- You complete all tasks set (and do not disrupt the learning of others)
- You participate actively in the lesson with a positive attitude (and you do not 'opt out')

EVERYDAY ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

Your child **must** bring the following equipment to **every** lesson:

- Pupil handbook (provided by school)
- Black or blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil, ruler, rubber
- Highlighter
- Glue stick
- Whiteboard and whiteboard pen
- Calculator – Casio fx-83GT CW or Casio fx-85GT CW
- Exercise books and textbooks required for their lessons each day
- Reading book

Subject-specific essential equipment

- PE kit
- A pair of compasses and a protractor (for Maths lessons)
- Black fine line pen (Technology)
- Apron (Food)

Arriving at lessons without the equipment listed above will result in lost learning time and will be sanctioned with 'clicks'. The school stationery shop stocks all basic equipment; please see your form notice board for further information about opening times.

HOME LEARNING

All of your son/daughter's homework will be set on our virtual learning platform, Firefly, which you will be able to access. Login details will be sent home in the first week of the autumn term. Please check Firefly every evening as this will enable you to support them and to help them manage their time effectively.

Whilst we appreciate that they need a little down time after a busy day at school, it is still advantageous if home learning is completed on the day it is issued. Please provide a quiet, calm environment in which to complete their work. Take away any distractions such as mobile phones, tablets and televisions.

Encourage your son/daughter to do their best, take an active interest in their work and talk to them about it. If they are unable to complete a piece of work they should go back and speak to their subject teacher.

SUPPORT FOR HOME LEARNING

As a school, we seek to take away any barriers to learning. As such, we provide many different opportunities to enable all our pupils to complete home learning tasks within school. Please refer to your form notice board for further information.

CONTACTING SCHOOL

If you need to pass a message onto your son/daughter please do not contact them on their mobile phone. Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of sight in bags from 8.40am-3.10pm. Rather, phone the school office on 01524 64496 and a message will be passed on.

For all other enquiries and non-urgent issues please contact us via **Parentline**. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate member of staff and they will respond within five working days.



ATTENDANCE

Here at Ripley St Thomas we regard a child's attendance as very important and absolutely vital in their progress and development.

We expect a minimum attendance each academic year of **97%** and we ensure that the importance has a high profile within our school. We run regular attendance competitions and initiatives and we will regularly contact home to both congratulate excellent attendance and raise any concerns we may have where appropriate.

We expect our pupils to know their attendance from conversations with their tutors and we will offer as much support where it is needed to ensure that pupils can achieve excellent punctuality and attendance.

WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

- You can fall behind in work and lessons without good attendance.
- You have less chance of achieving to your full potential with poor attendance.
- You miss out on the social side of school and all of the wonderful co-curricular opportunities we have on offer.
- You miss out on the pastoral care and support that our school will give you where it is needed!

You can find out more about our attendance and read our policies on the school website at the following link: <https://ripleysthomas.com/school-life/attendance/>



SCHOOL MEALS

The school meals which are served at Ripley are the one of highlights of the day for many of our pupils and the canteen is open three times each day.

Breakfast 8.30am – 8.40am serving crumpets, teacakes and toast.

Break time 10.15am – 10.30am serving crumpets, teacakes and toast.

Lunch time 12.30pm – 1pm serving baked potatoes, panini, pasta, sandwiches and a hot meal option which varies each day.

“It is not just at lunchtime you can enjoy food; you can have breakfast and food at break time, too.”

Year 7 pupil

We operate a cashless catering system, which means that our pupils do not need to bring money into school on a daily basis, with the exception of the first day in September when a set menu will be available for our Year 7 pupils just as it is on their transition day in June. This will cost £3, and it will be helpful if they could bring the correct change.

“The canteen has a lot of choice of food and it is not the same every day.”

Year 7 pupil

On their first day, all Year 7 pupils will be issued with a four-digit code, which will enable them to access their catering account until they receive their school ID badges. We will also show them how our canteen operates. In their first week they will have an early lunch to enable them to access the canteen and get to grips with what they are doing whilst it is quiet.

Pupils who choose to bring a packed lunch to school are able to eat in the canteen, and other allocated spaces within school.

Please note that cans/bottles of pop are not allowed in school at any time.

You will receive a letter in September with all the information you need to register and set up a scopay account. If you can, check your son/daughters' catering account balance each week and ensure they have sufficient funds for the week ahead. There is a daily limit on each pupil's account to prevent them over spending.



TRAVEL TO AND FROM SCHOOL

For the first time in their life, your son/daughter may be travelling to and from school independently and there are a number of things that you can do to help prepare them and build their confidence.

- Make sure they know where the bus stop is and practise walking there so you know how long it takes.
- Make sure you are at the bus stop a few minutes early. Stand with the other Ripley pupils and make sure the driver can see you. Put your hand out to stop the bus – it will not stop automatically.
- Whilst the majority of our buses drop you at school and collect you from there, it is a good idea to know your way around Lancaster, and to know how to get to the bus station, or an alternative bus stop.
- Make sure you know what to do if you miss the bus. Will you, for example phone parents for a lift, catch a later bus, or walk home?
- Always have your bus pass/ticket with you. If your bus ticket is on your mobile phone, you will have to make sure it is charged and you have access to your data. If you have no pass with you, you will need to pay. Carry some spare cash for emergencies.

"I really enjoyed spending time with my friends on the way to and from school."

Year 7 pupil

Pupils travelling on the first wave buses should make their way to the waiting area by the pedestrian gate on Ashton Road and await instructions from staff. First wave buses leave by 3.15pm. Pupils travelling on the second wave buses must wait at the appropriate place in the quads and again wait for instructions.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Stagecoach 01524 846903

Travellers Choice 01524 720033

Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches 01524 733831

Archway Travel 01523 874358

Pupils may come to school by bicycle provided they have completed an approved course in safe cycling and have a cycle helmet. Cyclists bring and store their cycles on the school premises at their own risk. It is recommended that cycles are insured and must be secured while on the site with an appropriate cycle lock.

Parents who bring and collect their children by car are requested not to bring the cars into the school grounds as there is insufficient parking and it could endanger the lives of our pupils. Ashton Road is incredibly busy with our school buses at the beginning and end of each day.

FIRST WAVE BUSES

40	Catterall via Garstang
42	Blackpool via Churchtown, Great Eccleston (public bus)
55	Carnforth via Hest Bank, Bolton-le-Sands
55	Carnforth via Hest Bank, Bolton-le-Sands
567	Pilling via Glasson Dock
581	Stalmine via Cokerham, Winmarleigh, Out Rawcliffe
935	Morecambe Clock Tower, via Torrisholme

SECOND WAVE BUSES

81	Kirkby Lonsdale via Caton, Hornby, Wray, Melling
82	Kirkby Lonsdale via Caton, Hornby, Gressingham, Whittington
487	Abbeystead, via Dolphinholme
500	Overton, via Heysham Towers
501	Heysham Combermere Road, via Westgate, Longlands Lane
502	Heysham Towers, via EUston Road, Albany Road
503	Priest Hutton, via Kelleets, Capenwray, Borwick

Information correct at time of printing

WEBSITE

Find more information about the school at **ripleystthomas.com**

- Make payments to school
- Contact school via Parentline
- Download and read policies
- View the support and teaching staff list
- Link to the Ripley VLE system
- Read the latest news
- View upcoming events
- Find the latest Sports fixtures and results
- Find out about The Sixth Form and Ripley Teaching School Alliance

Get updates via Facebook and Twitter

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t @ripleystthomas



RIPLEY ST THOMAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY
Ashton Road, Lancaster LA1 4RS

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e admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk