



RIPLEY ST. THOMAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



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Headteacher:	Mrs E Nicholls
Deputy Headteachers:	Mrs A Bray (<i>Learning, Welfare and Guidance</i>) Mr I Gomersall (<i>Curriculum and Assessment</i>) Mr M Wood (<i>Teaching and Learning</i>)
Head of Sixth Form	Mrs J Garnett
Chairman of Governors:	Professor J Crewdson
Senior Students:	Jonathan Gardner (<i>Head Boy</i>) Chelsea Needham (<i>Head Girl</i>) Tom Leather Rachel Atherton Laura Bland Katie Kelsall Jessica Hall Abdur Usman

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a worshipping community, witnessing to the Christian Faith in all the school's activities, Ripley St. Thomas School aims to develop to the full the academic, spiritual, aesthetic and physical potential of each pupil, encouraging in all its members a real and living faith in God.



DAILY ROUTINES

The school day begins at 8.40 a.m., when staff supervisory duties begin. We welcome early arrivals and expect them to behave in a responsible and orderly manner. The school kitchen provides a breakfast service from 8.00 a.m. Pupils remain in school until 3.05 p.m., except for Sixth Form students who may 'sign out' at lunchtime by agreement with the Head of Sixth Form.

Times of Sessions

8.40 a.m.	First bell
8.45 a.m.	Morning registration with Form Tutors
8.55 - 9.10 a.m.	Pupils attend Act of Worship
9.10 - 10.00 a.m.	Period 1
10.00 - 10.50 a.m.	Period 2
10.50 - 11.05 a.m.	Morning Break
11.05 - 11.55 a.m.	Period 3
11.55 - 12.45 p.m.	Period 4
12.45 - 1.30 p.m.	Lunch-break
1.30 - 2.20 p.m.	Period 5
2.30 - 3.05 p.m.	Period 6

Behaviour and Discipline

We believe in firm and fair discipline and that both teachers and pupils have the right to work and learn without disruption. We aim to reward and encourage pupils who do well, with praise, with our merit system and with certificates of achievement.

A very small minority of pupils, for many reasons, might show poor behaviour, which stops them and others achieving well. We keep the behaviour of all our pupils under constant review and act quickly if there are problems. Where problems persist a system of daily report cards and supervised detentions is used. In these difficulties we always remember that parents are essential partners in our effort to deal with persistent problems, and we make regular contact with the home. We encourage pupils to respect their parents and expect parents to be whole-hearted in their support of school rules and the staff who teach their children.

The Home-School contract outlines the responsibilities of parents, pupils and school on matters of discipline and standards of behaviour.

Bus Travel

About 35% of Ripley pupils travel to school by bus, either a public service which drops off and picks up by the school gates or a contract bus to and from school. Pupils up to the age of 16 receive a free pass if they live outside the 3 mile limit and have been admitted on denominational grounds. We work with the bus contractors to make sure pupils are transported safely and efficiently. At the end of the day we supervise the pupils onto the buses. We ensure that pupils who miss a bus get home safely.

Attendance

Good attendance continues to be a hallmark of Ripley St. Thomas pupils. It is our policy to contact parents within 3 days absence (often on the first day) if the reason for it is unknown and unauthorised. So we ask parents to phone school to let us know if their child is to be absent. This should be followed up on their return with a note. After 5 days, the Educational Welfare Officer will be notified of the continued absence. Parents are asked to work closely with the school to ensure pupils miss as little school time as possible. Pupils who have difficulties with health are well supported by our Health Service partners.

TERM DATES 2009/10

AUTUMN TERM 2009

School opens	Wednesday 2 September 2009 (Years 7, 12 & 13 only)
All years return	Thursday 3 September 2009
Training day/school closed	Monday 14 September 2009
Mid term closure after school on	Tuesday 20 October 2009
Re-open	Monday 2 November 2009
Closure after school on	Friday 18 December 2009

SPRING TERM 2010

Re-open on	Tuesday 5 January 2010
Mid Term Closure	Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2010 (inclusive)
Closure after school on	Thursday 1 April 2010

SUMMER TERM 2010

Re-open on	Monday 19 April 2010
May Day Closure	Monday 3 May 2010
Mid Term Closure	Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2010 (inclusive)
Closure after school	Thursday 22 July 2010

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The basic requirements on uniform are:

<p>Girls Blue blazer (available from Mike's Sportsworld) School tie + Trutex grey skirt <i>Compulsory Item</i> * Trutex Black trousers <i>Compulsory Item</i> * White blouse Black tights or White/Black socks (with skirt) or black socks (with trousers) Black shoes (heel no higher than 6cms), not boots or trainers) Top coat to be plain and dark coloured (preferably the navy blue school top coat with badge and child's initials Δ) Black, Blue or Red hair bands / bobbles</p>	<p>Boys Blue blazer (available from Mike's Sportsworld) School tie + Black or Charcoal grey trousers (not jeans or patch pockets) White shirt Grey or Black socks Black shoes, (not boots or trainers) Top coat to be plain and dark coloured (preferably the navy blue school top coat with badge and child's initials) Δ</p>
<p>Girls P.E. and Games Equipment Fleece * Red polo shirt * Navy Blue P.E. Skirt Navy track suit bottoms and top * Navy shorts * Red hockey socks Predominantly white trainers Swimsuit Swimming hat + Towel</p>	<p>Boys P.E. and Games Equipment Reversible rugby shirt * White polo shirt with school crest * Navy shorts * Red football socks Football or rugby boots Predominantly white trainers Swimming trunks Towel</p>
<p>There is a new range of PE kit for 2009/10 please check before purchase if you are unsure. (This range is only available from Mike's Sportsworld - see below for details)</p>	

School clothing and sportswear marked * can only be purchased through our supplier Trutex Direct (Trutex Direct Code: LEA00491SC) or Mike's Sportsworld (01995 605010). All items are embroidered with the school crest or logo. Items marked Δ & + can only be ordered through school.

Hooded tops and sweatshirts must not be worn in place of a coat.

We do not allow number one hair cuts, extreme hair colours or coloured hair wraps.

No jewellery apart from a wrist watch is allowed for either boys or girls. Plasters over earrings are not acceptable. Pupils wishing to have their ears pierced should do so at the beginning of the summer holiday period to allow piercings to heal.

We expect all pupils to wear the uniform properly; for examples we do not allow pupils to wear their shirts/blouses outside their trousers/skirts. Shirts and blouses must have proper collar which has been designed to be worn with a tie and the top button must be fastened.

Breaches of school uniform will result in detention; additionally pupils may be sent home to change or educated in the Independent Learning Centre until the uniform is properly worn.

The school is the final arbiter in all matters relating to uniform.

MOBILE PHONES : Mobile phones may not be used in school. They must be switched off between 08:45 and 15:05 and kept out of sight. Any breach of this policy will result in sanctions. The school policy can be viewed on the school website. (www.ripley.lancs.sch.uk)

SUPPORT FOR LEARNING

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is part of the co-ordinated health education programme we provide within PSHE and is also taught in National Curriculum Science at KS3 and KS4. In providing sex and relationship education we see our role as supporting and complementing the role of parents. We deliver Sex and Relationship education within a context of Christian family life and work to help our pupils develop a sense of personal responsibility and personal values. In this area we also work closely with nurses from the Area Health Authority, recognising that for the good of their adult health, young people need to develop confidence in the local health services and its practitioners.

By law, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the Sex and Relationship Education given in PSHE. Parents wishing to exercise this right need to contact the Headteacher.

Careers Guidance and Counselling

Careers Education forms parts of the core curriculum for all pupils, and is co-ordinated by the Head of Careers working closely with Connexions (Careers Officers), local and national employers and higher education institutions.

Pupils have access to a careers library with computer facilities and up-to-date careers literature. Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are offered careers guidance through Connexions. All Year 12 students also have a careers interview, following the completion of a computer-aided programme.

During the summer term, all Year 10 pupils take part in work experience, which involves them in decision-making, writing applications and evaluating their experience. Students studying a vocational course will, in addition, enjoy frequent and close contact with a range of employers.

Gifted and Talented

Our Gifted and Talented programme caters for the increasing number of Gifted and Talented pupils at Ripley. Ripley is a Gifted and Talented Lead School.

A range of provision exists from within and beyond the curriculum and Gifted and Talented pupils receive mentoring in vertical tutor groups on a regular basis. The school is one of eight Gifted and talented outreach centres in the North of England.

Learning Support

Our Learning Support team, led by the Learning Support Co-ordinator, provides advice on specific teaching requirements, develops Individual Education Plans in close liaison with pupils, and provides a programme of support both within and outside normal timetable provision.

The Governors of the school have a plan in place to improve accessibility at the school as resources allow.

Homework and Independent Study

Homework is an opportunity for all pupils to learn to work on their own, to plan their time and to accept responsibility for their own progress. To help them maximise their potential, homework is set regularly, marked and followed up. The amount set, the time and nature of the work will vary, but in general increases in degree of difficulty and length of time as pupils advance up the school. Parents receive a homework timetable and pupils a homework Journal in which they are expected to record all work set. In this way, we encourage parents to monitor their child's work assignments and require them to sign the entries in the Journal each week.

We also hold a Homework Club after school on one night a week. At the club pupils may do homework or coursework with the support of Post-16 students and staff.

Examination Results

2008 GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS ACHIEVED BY PUPILS AGED 15+

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	A*-A	A*-C	A*-G
Applied Business	43	6	16	11	6	3	1	0	0	0	51.2%	90.7%	100.0%
Art & Design	67	6	19	13	16	7	4	2	0	0	37.3%	80.6%	100.0%
BACS	16	2	5	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	43.8%	68.8%	100.0%
Biology	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Business Studies	50	0	11	12	22	4	1	0	0	0	22.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Child Development	38	7	8	7	7	6	2	1	0	0	39.5%	76.3%	100.0%
D&T Food Technology	104	22	37	25	18	2	0	0	0	0	56.7%	98.1%	100.0%
D&T Product Design	39	2	23	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	64.1%	100.0%	100.0%
D&T Resistant Materials	53	3	21	21	7	1	0	0	0	0	45.3%	98.1%	100.0%
D&T Systems & Control	37	1	15	11	8	2	0	0	0	0	43.2%	94.6%	100.0%
D&T Textiles Technology	16	2	5	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	43.8%	93.8%	100.0%
Drama	19	1	5	9	2	1	0	1	0	0	31.6%	89.5%	100.0%
English Language & Literature	260	10	38	86	85	32	8	1	0	0	18.5%	84.2%	100.0%
English Literature	258	5	19	67	93	53	14	5	1	1	9.3%	71.3%	99.6%
Environmental Science	31	0	0	7	11	6	7	0	0	0	0.0%	58.1%	100.0%
French	121	2	10	25	24	32	16	5	7	0	9.9%	50.4%	100.0%
Geography	51	7	11	10	10	9	2	1	0	1	35.3%	74.5%	98.0%
German	142	11	16	30	44	24	11	4	2	0	19.0%	71.1%	100.0%
Health & Social Care	18	0	7	5	4	2	0	0	0	0	38.9%	88.9%	100.0%
History	84	3	18	16	22	12	13	0	0	0	25.0%	70.2%	100.0%
Information Technology	46	1	10	13	7	5	8	1	1	0	23.9%	67.4%	100.0%
Mathematics	260	12	38	90	73	24	18	3	2	0	19.2%	81.9%	100.0%
Music	8	0	0	1	2	4	0	1	0	0	0.0%	37.5%	100.0%
Religious Education	258	25	56	64	61	32	12	8	0	0	31.4%	79.8%	100.0%
Science Double Award	242	7	52	54	77	40	11	0	0	1	24.4%	78.5%	99.6%
Science Single Award	260	9	56	64	65	43	14	6	2	1	25.0%	74.6%	99.6%
Sociology	20	3	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	55.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Spanish	30	11	6	4	7	1	1	0	0	0	56.7%	93.3%	100.0%
Totals	2572	158	510	668	684	347	145	40	16	4			
Pass Rate 5+ A*-C grades: 83%													
Pass Rate 5+ A*-C grades including English & Maths: 75%													
Pass Rate 5+ A*-G grades: 99%													
Percentage A* and A grades: 26%													

HISTORIC GCSE PERFORMANCE

Ripley St. Thomas % of 15 year olds achieving 5 or more A*- C grades	Ripley St. Thomas % of 15 year olds achieving 5 or more A*-G grades
2000: 63%	2000: 100%
2001: 65%	2001: 100%
2002: 70%	2002: 100%
2003: 80%	2003: 100%
2004: 79%	2004: 99%
2005: 79%	2005: 99%
2006: 79%	2006: 98%
2007: 87%	2007: 97%
2008: 83%	2008: 99%