



Thursday, 3rd September 2026

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family had a wonderful summer break. Whether you spent your holiday enjoying the beautiful and consistent sunshine here in the UK or making special memories further afield, I hope it was a time filled with happiness and precious moments together.

As we begin a new school year, our staff are excited to welcome all of our pupils back tomorrow. We are also delighted to extend a particularly warm welcome to the many new children and families joining our community.

Our impressive facilities continue to develop and over the summer the new Nursery playground was completed and is ready for our youngest pupils to enjoy. We also began updating our Theatre which has included heating/air conditioning, new sound and lighting equipment with further additions to be installed in due course. Our swimming pool changing rooms also had a refurbishment and the front of our beautiful white house had a facelift and a new coat of paint. We will now begin focusing on other parts of the site, which include the library and an additional outdoor learning area (pond).

This academic year your child will continue to receive an outstanding education, and we look forward to working alongside you as part of our warm community. To address any matters regarding your child, please approach their form teacher in the first instance. They genuinely are the best person to speak with. If you need further assistance, please do get in contact with members of the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and they are: Mrs Harriet Western-Kaye (Deputy Head Academic), Miss Charlotte Chapman (Deputy Head Pastoral), Mrs Sophie Dudley (Assistant Head Coccurricular), Mr Jason McKinlay (Bursar and Director of Operations) and me. Work on the implementation of our 5-year strategic plan has already begun and we have earmarked key targets for this academic year which will become apparent soon.

In terms of staffing, I would like to introduce the following new staff: Miss Katie Smee joins us as the new Science Lead and will also teach Maths and be a Year 6 Form teacher, Mr Chris Abplanalp will be a Year 5 Form Teacher and will teach a variety of subjects. Miss Lizzie Maddin will be the second Year 1 Form Teacher as we continue to grow our numbers with this cohort. We have also added to our Nursery team with Miss Gina Marsh joining on a full-time basis. Other additional staff include a new Teaching Assistant, Miss Megan Butler, who will work predominantly in Year 3 and in Year 4, Mrs Jennifer Smillie and Mrs Daniela Tamburrini who will be Teaching Assistants in Little Court and Mrs Joanna Cunnew who will be a Learning Support Assistant for Little Court. We also have two Sports and Classroom Assistants, and their names are Miss Tamar Cooper and Mr James Bridge. As you can see, with growing pupil numbers we have added to our staff provision across the school to ensure our outstanding staff continue to be properly resourced and supported.

I would like to mention another key element of what makes our community so special here at Ripley Court and that is our RCPTA (Ripley Court Parent Teacher Association). Mrs Holly Sugars and her team have some exciting events planned for this term, starting with the Back-to-School picnic tomorrow after school, and I look forward to seeing you at this event and many other whole school events.

The Autumn term begins on Friday 4th September 2026 and I look forward to seeing all our pupils return in their summer uniform.

Please see Mrs Tipping's email which will follow shortly, for some useful reminders at the start of the academic year.

I look forward to seeing you around our school.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Ryan', written in a cursive style.

Mr Gavin Ryan
Headmaster