

## Welcoming Letter from the School Council

Dear Applicant

The Student Council at Ribblesdale High School plays a key role in being the voice of the school. We provide a feedback link between staff and pupils, and act on it accordingly to create a better environment within the school, thus making Ribblesdale an amazing place to learn, at the same time as meeting and making some wonderful friends.

At Ribblesdale, the Student Council meet regularly in order to discuss/raise issues and feed back on many positive changes, which can be made to various aspects of school life. These range from the House Points system and its relevance to classwork, to other features such as the new dining facility in school, the 'wet break' system and changes to school uniform such as the 'house tie'. We feel that it is very important that the council embraces the ethos of the school and works on improving standards.

Although Ribblesdale is one of the largest 11-16 high schools in Lancashire, with over 1200 pupils aged 11-16, not only do we have great facilities, but we also have very strong links within the community which play an integral part in school life. Pupils constantly interact with members of the local public, and some units of work involve surveys or visits to local businesses and care homes. Many pupils take part in the Employability Skills Programme, by going to local establishments for weekly, one day work placements, in order to build up employability skills and gain experience within a working environment.

Our school is constantly forward thinking in building a better learning environment here at Ribblesdale; our curriculum is exciting and dynamic, with optional GCSEs such as Astronomy and Psychology. All of the teachers at the school ensure all pupils achieve their greatest potential, and pupils respect their teachers in turn. We feel that it is important to ensure that all the teachers at Ribblesdale remain consistent in the highest quality of teaching. Many extra-curricular activities are available such as sport, choir, cheerleading and Duke of Edinburgh. Furthermore, Ribblesdale has recently upgraded to a one to one device scheme with Wi-Fi connectivity across the site. Pupils can use this to store important files and create a link between home and school. We are also a Microsoft Showcase School.

We are very fortunate at Ribblesdale to have an excellent pastoral care system, with a Pastoral Coordinator assigned to the care of each individual year group, thus working towards a better school environment for all. As well as this, our form group structure means that pupils from KS3 and KS4 have a staggered lunchtime. We understand that it can be very intimidating for younger pupils to be in the same lunch queue as Year 10s and 11s, and not only do we try to improve relations between the different years, but also work towards breaking the boundaries between older pupils and younger.

Stephen Cox • Headteacher • BSc MA(Ed) NPQH

Of course no school will ever be entirely perfect, however, at Ribblesdale we pride ourselves on resolving issues and problems in a way that works for all concerned by following the 'Ribblesdale Way', which underpins our school ethos and climate.

We are proud to be a part of this fantastic school; we look forward to a future where Ribblesdale can move from Good by Ofsted, to an Outstanding School.

Yours sincerely

**Ribblesdale School Council**

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