

16 September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

### **Car Free Day: Friday 20 September 2019**

As students at The Ruth Gorse Academy, we care about the air quality around our school. Last academic year in our science lessons, we spent some time researching the effect of air pollution on our health. We found that students who attend city centre schools are much more at risk of developing asthma, lung disease and other health related issues. Studies also found that children who live and go to schools that are located in city centres have smaller lungs than children who live in rural areas. This is a huge concern to us.

As a school, we are committed to improving the quality of the air we are exposed to and we recently met with a local MP to share our concerns and see what the local council can do to help. We are also looking at how we can make the air we breathe in our lessons and on the playground cleaner and hope to make changes to the school in the future.

Because of this, we are asking all parents /carers and staff to support us this year on **Friday 20 September with Car Free Day.**

There is a 'World Car Free Day' on Sunday 22 September and streets in Otley, Headingley and Hunslet will be closed during this day. However, as this is not a school day we would ideally like everyone to walk or bike to school on Friday 20 September, we know this is not always possible but if you could come on the bus or share a car it really would make a difference.

It is our hope that if even a small number of families make this change a regular part of their commute, we will have had a positive impact on the air that we breathe.

Yours sincerely,

Holly Dickinson, Mya Thornton, Riley Pugh and Berenice Kakutya (Year 9)