

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com
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11 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the end of our first full week back in school, which seems to have gone very quickly! We are getting used to our new routines and I have been very impressed with how quickly our young people are adjusting. It has been great to see them settling well into lessons and coping with all the changes. The new colourful lanyards have been a helpful addition, which ensures we're able to identify the different year group bubbles easily.

This week, Michael Reynolds, our new chaplain, has delivered his first virtual worship on the theme of 'hope'. He told us that the words 'do not be afraid' appear many times in the Bible, reassuring us that we should put our trust in God during difficult times. Our verse for this half term may be of particular comfort at this time:

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13

Absence

If you are telephoning to report your child's absence, it would be helpful for us if you could be specific about the reason for absence, rather than just stating 'unwell'. In the current climate, we need to track pupils' symptoms and therefore specific information is required.

Face masks

In the event of 'Tier 1' local restrictions, children will be expected to wear face masks in communal spaces. Please can you ensure you have purchased a blue or black face mask ready for this event, just in case. These are widely available in town and online.

Face coverings in town

We are receiving a number of complaints from shops in town. Some Ripley pupils have reportedly been going into shops without face masks and then refusing to put one on when challenged. If your child is going into town after school, please ensure they have a face covering with them. We all have a social responsibility to follow these guidelines.

School Synergy

You will have received an email from Mr Gomersall this week regarding School Synergy and the Parent Portal. Please make sure you activate your new account so that you are able to access useful information such as Ripples, Clicks and your child's grades reports.

IT provision survey

Pupils in Y8 – Y13 will have been set a task on Firefly to answer a survey regarding access to IT provision at home. Parents of Y7 will have received this via email. Please do complete these surveys to let us know whether your child has access to a computer or a laptop at home. This is to help us plan for remote learning provision in the event of another lockdown.

Believe.....

Acting Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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Parents' evenings

We have some parents' evenings approaching in October. These events will obviously not be able to happen in person, however we are looking into options of how to manage this differently. We will keep you updated.

Virtual Open Evening

Sadly we are not able to open our gates for our usual open evening this year. On Thursday next week, our virtual open evening goes live on Facebook and Twitter and on the school website. Please do tell any friends and family with primary aged children who may be interested in looking round virtually.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Catherine Walmsley
Acting Principal