

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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12 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back to their classrooms this week. I have been really impressed with how they have conducted themselves and how well they have settled back in. I am also grateful that they have adapted to the need to wear their face coverings in class so readily.

Testing

The lateral flow testing has gone very smoothly this week. We have conducted 500 – 600 tests per day and I am pleased to say we have had no positive results. We will continue testing next week to ensure all pupils have received their 2nd and 3rd tests.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fabulous staff team for setting up our very professional testing centre in the gym. Thank you also to all the colleagues and helpers who have ensured the whole process runs smoothly. One of our testers has emailed me to comment on how polite our pupils are and how attentive they are to what is being said, which is really wonderful to hear.

Lateral Flow Tests for parents

Further to my message last week regarding test kits for parents, I have been contacted by Lancaster University COVID-19 test centre who have informed me they are open in the afternoons and evenings as a distribution centre for lateral flow test kits for parents/carers/bubbles of school children. The opening hours for collection are 1pm - 8pm. The test centre is signposted and is at the rear of the University sports centre, in the new sports hall. There is free parking and apparently their site is quiet, so collection is very quick. You do not need to register – just turn up. Each parent/carer is eligible to collect two free boxes (14 tests) at a time.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring our pupils come to school looking smart. A reminder that jewellery is not allowed in school, apart from a wristwatch. Hoodys and trainers must also not be worn.

Year 11 and Year 13

We continue to await information from the exam boards regarding assessments and guidance about the Teacher Assessed Grades process. When we receive further information, we will of course share this with parents.

Believe.....

In the meantime, the focus is on returning positively to the classroom and encouraging students complete all the work their teachers set to the best of their abilities. We will not be running the mock exam weeks which were due to take place before lockdown in the same format. Instead, teachers will be working with students over the coming months to produce a portfolio of work which will contain a range of evidence and assessed pieces. In the run up to Easter, students will be given some broad guidance on revision and some key pieces of work they can be working on over Easter.

A number of you have been asking about leaving dates for Year 11 and Year 13. Again, we are still awaiting full details from the exam boards, but I can tell you at this stage that the latest date students will be with us is 18 June 2021.

Reading Books

A reminder that a reading book is part of our essential equipment at school. Pupils may be asked to read in form time or during lesson changeovers. Please remind your child to check they have a book with them every day. Books can still be borrowed from the school library using our 'click and collect' system. Pupils should email reading@ripley.lancs.sch.uk with their chosen book which will then be delivered to their form.

To choose a book, pupils can search the Library Catalogue called 'Oliver'. From Home, this can be accessed via the School Website > Curriculum > Libraries. You can search by Author, Title or Genre.

Operation Gratitude

You may have recently come across reference to Operation Gratitude on our various social media platforms.

Operation Gratitude is an initiative headed up by Mrs Taylor (Yr10 Progress Leader) and ably supported by a willing group of staff members in their quest to show appreciation and support for RLI staff as they continue to work tirelessly to save lives.

The Team are gathering in donations and ideas (big or small) in order for contributions to be shared amongst RLI staff. If you feel you would like to help and be a part of this initiative, maybe you know or are a part of a business who could donate or can offer your services in some other way, then please send an email to : operationgratitude@ripley.lancs.sch.uk and let us know what you would like to donate, or share your idea with us.

The Team look forward to hearing from you.

Could I take this opportunity to thank you again for all your support and also the messages of thanks and encouragement which have been sent in for staff in recent weeks. They are much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Walmsley

Principal