

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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26 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe we have completed the spring term! And what an unusual one it has been. I have been very proud of our school community – staff and pupils – for how well we have coped with everything that has been thrown at us: the uncertainty around the return to school in January; the challenges and isolation of another lockdown; a return to remote learning and hours spent on screen; getting to grips with live lessons; a return to school with lateral flow tests and masks in classrooms. Who would ever have thought it?

It has been so good to welcome everyone back, to see the classrooms full of life and to see our young people enjoying being with their friends again. I am feeling very optimistic about the future and look forward the summer term and continuing to get back to normal.

## Notifying school about COVID over Easter

Over Easter, parents only need to inform the school of a positive case where your child **developed symptoms** within 48 hours of being in school. Please contact us using [positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk) if your child develops symptoms and urgently book a test to confirm that the symptoms are coronavirus (COVID-19). We will then contact you to assist us in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as your child may have been infectious whilst in school. Please note the Lateral Flow Testing kits we have provided for home use are **not** suitable for confirming symptomatic cases. A PCR test is the only way of confirming symptoms are coronavirus (COVID-19).

Where pupils test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the holidays, having **developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school**, you are not required to notify the school. Parents should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

## Lateral Flow Tests

Pupils should continue to test themselves twice weekly throughout the holidays with their home testing kits. Remember to register the results online and inform us if they receive a positive or a void test using [positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk).

## Year 11 and Year 13

I have written to parents of Y11 and Y13 separately regarding assessment during the summer term.

## RSE policy

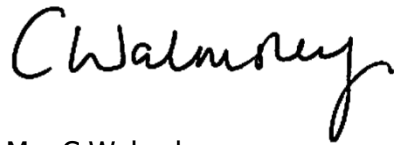
Many thanks to those parents/carers who submitted responses to our Relationships and Sex Education policy consultation. All the responses were discussed by a working party made up of staff, governors, clergy and parents, and the policy was revised accordingly. On Tuesday the governors approved the final version of the policy and it is now available to download from the school website. The next step in the process will be to review and rewrite the PSHE/RSE curriculum, and an outline of this will be made available in due course.

*Believe.....*

**And finally...**

I hope you will enjoy the slight easing of restrictions over Easter and will benefit from seeing some friends or family in the garden once again. Whilst we couldn't attend church for our usual Easter Eucharist services, we did share in a virtual online Easter worship which can be accessed via Firefly and on the school website. Thank you to Michael and all our pupils who volunteered to be involved. I am also grateful to Jon Scamman, Vicar at St Thomas' Church, for his Easter message and for reminding us that, at a time of uncertainty and 'unplans', we can be confident in Jesus as our guide to show us the way. I wish you a blessed and hope-filled Easter.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal