

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



ripleystthomas.com  
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS

01524 64496  
admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

28 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Year 11 and Year 13

Today we said goodbye to our Y11 and Y13 pupils. We are very proud of how they have managed their final weeks with us. Whilst we are unable to do our usual celebrations this year, we were able to share a final leavers' service with them and wish them well for their futures. They will always be members of our Ripley family and we look forward to seeing how they continue to flourish in the future.

## Ripley +

### 'Serve one another with whatever gift you have received' 1 Peter 4:10

Well done to our Y11 pupils who were awarded their Ripley + medals in recognition of their leadership and service this week. It was a privilege to reward our pupils who have gone above and beyond and demonstrated their leadership and service to their community throughout their time here. A special well done to our four gold medal winners - Fergus, Victoria, Isaac and Bella - who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and service during their time with us.

## PSHE day

On Friday 11th June we will be suspending the timetable to have a PSHE day. The topics being covered are outlined below:

**Year 7** will be focusing on values for life, being a good friend and issues surrounding bullying. The day will also include sessions led by the Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union on what it means to be a good neighbour.

**Years 8 and 9** will be focusing on personal identity, with work on stereotypes, personal brand, micro-aggressions and cyberbullying. Year 9 will also be completing an NHS health survey.

**Year 10** will be considering the characteristics of positive and healthy relationships, as well as looking at the legal status of marriage and civil partnerships, alongside exploring relationships through a distinctly Christian lens. The day will also include a session on body image and issues surrounding pornography.

**Year 12** will be spending part of their day looking at next steps, including university options and degree apprenticeships. They will also have sessions on sexual health and drugs & alcohol, delivered by outside agencies.

If you have any questions about PSHE provision, please do contact Mr Gillthorpe via ParentLine.

## COVID update

### Face Coverings

After half term, we will be continuing to follow the local guidance from Lancashire regarding face coverings. This means we will be continuing to wear them in school until at least 21 June, which is 2 weeks after we return. On this date, it will be reviewed. Please make sure your child comes with their face covering after half term and is ready to wear these in corridors, communal areas and classrooms. We are all trying to do our bit to keep each other safe, so thank you in advance for your support with this.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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## **COVID testing**

Please find below some guidance from the DFE regarding COVID testing in half term:

*As lockdown eases, taking a rapid COVID-19 test twice a week, even if you do not have symptoms, will help us stay ahead of the spread of the virus, particularly as new strains appear. Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms and are spreading the virus without knowing. This includes those who have had their vaccine.*

*We want to thank you for your continued support in testing. Over 40 million tests with staff and students have now been conducted as part of the education testing programme.*

*Please continue to test twice-weekly over half-term and test before returning to school or college after the holiday.*

*The result of a rapid test could be positive, negative or even void. But whatever it is, it should be reported straight away, every time. Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond.*

*Reporting results is easy. Go to report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.*

## **Attachments**

Please find attached to this letter two documents from Lancashire which give further information about testing, vaccinations and face coverings.

## **Track and Trace**

Over half term, schools are asked to continue to track and trace. If your child receives a positive lateral flow test result or a positive PCR test result and they have been in school during the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting or to testing positive if asymptomatic, please report this to us using the [positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk) email address.

If they test positive but they have **not** been in school during the past 48 hours, please just follow the normal NHS track and trace advice.

## **Operation Gratitude**

Please find attached a copy of a letter we have received from the RLI thanking everyone for their support of colleagues.

I wish all members of our community a well-deserved half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal