

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



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11 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been good to welcome pupils back after half term and to continue to benefit from the lovely weather we have been having.

COVID update

I have reattached the letter from Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health Lancashire, which I sent before half term for your information. This letter is in response to the concerns over the Delta variant of COVID in Lancashire. Please note the following paragraph regarding close contacts:

Around 1 in 5 people who have been in close contact with a person with Covid-19 will go on to have Covid-19 themselves, and around 1 in 3 of those will have no symptoms but can still spread the virus. Getting a test when you are a contact helps to find if you are one of those people and, if so, ensures they self-isolate. This is how we break the chains of transmission.

People who have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive with Covid-19 can now get a PCR test during their 10-day self-isolation period, whether or not they have symptoms. It is important to isolate for 10 days even if the PCR test is negative.

If we do have a case in school going forward, we will ask that you book your child in for a PCR test which is more sensitive in picking up the virus. This will help us identify any further possible close contacts and hopefully break transmission.

Open evening

Due to the continued uncertainty around the virus and the wider opening of society, we have decided to postpone our Open Evening which is in the diary for Thursday 1 July. School will finish at the normal time on this date.

We have booked a provisional rearranged date of Thursday 16 September for our Open Evening for current Year 5 pupils and will confirm this date as soon as possible.

PSHE

Our pupils have taken part in a PSHE day today. Please do talk to them about what they have been learning. Here's a reminder of the topics we covered today which were shared with you before half term:

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.

Believe.....

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, Drugs & Alcohol, delivered by outside agencies.

Punctuality

Punctuality is very important and we want to maintain our high standards and expectations in this area. Could I remind you that we expect our pupils and students to be inside the school gates by 8.40am and present at their form room bases by 8.45am.

From this Monday 14 June, if our pupils in Y7-10 arrive after 8.40am they will be expected to report to a designated room at the start of their lunchtime to explain their lateness to a member of the pastoral team and a late 'click' will be given if there is no valid reason. In Year 12, our attendance officer will contact parents via text message where students are late and sanction points will also be issued.

Expectations and Values

This week Mr Wilson, Assistant Principal, and I spoke to all pupils in Years 7-10 about our expectations around conduct and how we treat each other in our community. We talked about our school history as well as our Christian values of Hope, Service, Love and Respect and how they should underpin all we do. Over the coming weeks, we will be doing some more work as a school on our vision and our Christian values and we will be engaging our pupils in this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs C Walmsley
Principal