

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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2 July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

COVID update

Positive cases

I can confirm that we have had notification of a further three positive tests in the last two days: one in Y9, one in Y10 and one in Y12. The Y9 and 10 cases have been confirmed by a PCR test and we await the results of the test for the Year 12 student. We hope all who are affected remain well and don't suffer with symptoms too much. We have made contact with the close contacts who need to self-isolate already, so there is no further action needed if you have not heard from us.

We continue to follow our measures set out in the risk assessment including our enhanced cleaning processes.

Lateral Flow Tests and Symptoms

Please continue to take your lateral flow tests at home twice a week and keep your child off if they are experiencing any symptoms. Recently some of the confirmed cases have had sore throats, a headache and been extremely tired. Please watch out for these symptoms and keep your child off until they have had a PCR test as a precaution.

Figures

Despite the rising cases in Lancaster and the surrounding area, I would like to reassure parents that the number of pupils who have tested positive for COVID-19 at Ripley remains very low, especially in comparison to other schools in the county. Since May half term, we have had the following confirmed cases: 5 in Year 8, 2 in Year 9, 2 in Year 10 and 2 in Year 12.

We are aware that the impact of a small number of cases is felt by many due to the need for us to track and trace and ask other children who may have been in contact on the bus or in school to self-isolate. There is currently lots of media coverage regarding track and trace and isolations in schools. We are equally frustrated about the impact this has on schools and on our young people, especially those who have had to isolate more than once. However we will continue to follow government guidance as we have done throughout the pandemic.

We thank you for your understanding and support in these final weeks of term.

PSHE day – Tuesday 6 July

On Tuesday 6th July we will be suspending the timetable to have another PSHE day. The topics being covered are outlined below:

Year 7 will be focusing on safety, looking at how we keep ourselves safe in the physical world and online. Pupils will also look at rules and laws and the role they play in keeping us safe. **Pupils in 7Barton, 7Harman and 7Tailyour should bring their PE kit and trainers on Tuesday.**

Year 8 will be working with friends from local churches to complete the final strand of their Youth Alpha course, focusing on the Holy Spirit. Alongside this, they will also have some sessions on safety in the physical world and online.

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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Year 9 will be having a careers day, looking at topics ranging from the importance of public sector jobs to aligning our personal values with career choices. They will also begin to set up a profile on the SMART careers platform to inform future careers work.

Year 10 will be looking at the effects of drugs and alcohol on our bodies; they will explore this from a scientific point of view, as well as the wider implications of drug use, and managing peer influences. They will also begin to set up a profile on the SMART careers platform to inform future careers work and will have an active session with representatives from the armed forces. **All pupils in Year 10 should bring their PE kit and trainers on Tuesday.**

Year 12 will be spending the day looking at career planning, writing personal statements and following a carousel of talks from different industries.

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

Cadets

It was a privilege to be able to present some of our cadets with their leadership awards and promotions on Tuesday this week. These students have done incredibly well to earn these leadership awards whilst restrictions have been in place. Well done to them all – they are excellent role models for our younger pupils. Photos from the event can be seen on our social media platforms.

Also congratulations to Ms Atkinson, our school nurse, who volunteers for the cadets and has been officially commissioned as Acting Pilot Officer.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We have been contacted by the DofE to let us know that our students have clocked up 273 hours of volunteering this year, with a social value of £1242.15. This is particularly impressive during a pandemic which has put great restrictions on what students have been able to do. We look forward to being able to return to our full programme of activities in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal