

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear Parents / Carers,

COVID update for September

I write with some information for parents ahead of September. As you may be aware, schools have been asked to test pupils on site on their return to school in September to pick up any cases following increased mixing over the summer period. In order to facilitate this, schools are able to stagger the return of pupils. The proposed format for this is as follows:

- Parents will be sent a consent form, once completed you will be allocated an appointment time. Pupils will not be tested without prior parental permission.
- Pupils will arrive at school for their first test and will leave immediately afterwards.
- Pupils will be able to return to school the following day, if they have received a negative test result.
- If you do not hear from us, you can assume your child's test is negative.

| Date | Test and leave | Return to school |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Wed 1 September | Y7, Y12 and Y13 | - |
| Thursday 2 September | Y10 and Y11 | Y7 and Y12 |
| Friday 3 September | Y8 and Y9 | Y10 , Y11 and Y13 |
| Monday 6 September | - | Y8 and Y9 |

Please note, the return date for Y8 and Y9 is one day later than calendared. This is to enable us to test our very large cohort of pupils. All pupils will receive a 2nd test within 3 to 5 days of their first.

Thank you for your understanding and support with this – we pray this is the last time we will need to roll out our testing site!

Track and Trace

From September, schools will no longer need to track and trace close contacts. Children will not need to isolate if they have been in contact with a person who has tested positive. This should lead to less disruption to education in the new academic year. Any pupil or staff member testing positive will still need to complete their 10-day isolation.

Face coverings

According to the guidance, face coverings will no longer be required in schools in September, however this is very much subject to the number of cases locally. If cases continue to rise, face coverings may still be needed. We will review the situation later in the summer once we see how the pandemic progresses and I will write to parents again before the return in September to confirm the situation.

Believe.....

Bubbles

Schools will no longer need to operate bubbles. We will therefore be reverting to 'normal' in terms of rooms and social times. This will be kept under review if cases in school rise.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and understanding through a very challenging year. I know that repeated close contact isolations in recent weeks have been a source of frustration for some of you. I am very hopeful that we will be able to begin to return to our 'normal' school in September with all the wonderful and enriching co-curricular activities, concerts, sports fixtures and trips and visits that we have all missed so much.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Walmsley

Principal

