

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com  
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



01524 64496  
admin@ripley.lancs.sch.uk

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Dear Parents / Guardians

## Asymptomatic Testing in September 2021

The Government has announced that all secondary school students should have the opportunity to receive 2 on-site LFD tests, on their return in September 2021. This letter explains how we shall be conducting these tests at Ripley.

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. When done as part of a testing regime, the LFD is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are the most contagious).

Parental/carer consent is required before a student can be offered a test. Even if consent has been previously given for testing last year we require the consent section to be completed again when booking your child's test – please see instructions below. The testing site privacy notice can be found on the school website at <https://ripleystthomas.com/app/uploads/2021/01/BLT-Privacy-Notice-school-and-college-testing-Jan-2021.docx.pdf>.

## Test and leave and phased return to school

We are phasing the return of pupils to school to allow for the testing of all pupils the day before they start school – please see table below. Pupils will come into school on their test day, complete their test (around ten minutes) and then leave the site. This will enable us to notify any pupil identified as positive to isolate to ensure the safety of all. For their test, pupils do not need to attend in their uniform. To facilitate testing we are asking parents to book an appointment slot for their child on their testing day.

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

## How do I book my test and leave appointment?

To book your timeslot, please use the link overleaf.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

The Bay Learning Trust. Company Number: 07588464  
Registered in England & Wales



Date of "test and leave"	URL of booking system
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September (Y7, Y12 and Y13)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEHP">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEHP</a>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September (Y10 & Y11)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEUJ">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEUJ</a>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September (Y8 & Y9)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEUK">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BEUK</a>

We appreciate that families with children in multiple year groups may have difficulty with testing on different days. The booking system will permit the booking of pupils in different year groups together so they can all be tested at the same time.

### **Why do pupils and students need to do 2 tests on site when they return in Autumn?**

Testing on return is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. Identifying positive cases on return in the autumn is important, given that most students will not be testing over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing.

Testing on site on return will also give new pupils and students the opportunity to get used to swabbing in a supervised environment before moving to twice weekly testing at home. For example, primary pupils in Year 6 transitioning into Year 7 in secondary school who do not have experience of the education testing programme.

### **Is testing compulsory?**

Testing is voluntary, however, we would strongly encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

### **Positive Cases**

Staff and students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to take a confirmatory PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the student can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Close Contacts**

From September, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace rather than the school. Contacts will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. Children will no longer be required to self-isolate, if they are contacted as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead they will be advised to take a PCR test.

### **Home Testing**

Following the two initial tests on site, students will collect their test at home kits and start testing at home, twice weekly.

Kind regards

Gavin Gomersall  
Director of Operations