

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

ripleystthomas.com
Ashton Road Lancaster LA1 4RS



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1 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have enjoyed the summer break. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and sixth formers back to Ripley in the coming days and we are especially excited to meet our new Y7s and Y12s.

Following their lateral flow tests on site, pupils will be returning on the following days:

Thursday 2 September: Y7 & Y12 start
Friday 3 September: Y10, Y11 & Y13 return
Monday 4 September: Y8 & Y9 return

Punctuality

Please ensure your child arrives on time; pupils must be on site for 8.40am and in their form rooms for 8.45am. Pupils will be sent a Firefly link giving details of their new form rooms.

Y7 and Y12 pupils will be given this information on their arrival.

Attendance

As well as being a statutory requirement, high levels of attendance are key to pupils achieving well at school. Our normal attendance procedures will be in place, including support and intervention where necessary. If your child does need to be off school for a very genuine reason, please inform the school office as soon as possible in the morning on 01524 64496.

Uniform

Please refer to Mr Wilson's email earlier this week regarding uniform. We are always proud that pupils look incredibly smart at Ripley and we will be monitoring this to ensure we all have a positive start over the coming days.

Lanyards

For pupils in Y8 to 11 and Y13, please ensure they bring their lanyards and their ID badges with them on their first day. If your child wishes to purchase food in the canteen, please ensure you have charged their account via Scopay.

Replacement cards and lanyards can also be purchased via Scopay or by putting £3.00 in an envelope (labelled with your child's name and form) and placing this in the blue box outside learning support.

New Y7 and Y12 students will be given a sticker and a code which will link to their online account, whilst they are waiting for their cards to be made.

For the first day and whilst we get their accounts set up, new starters in Y7 and Y12 will need to bring £2.50 in cash if they wish to purchase a school meal.

COVID guidance

We now move into the next phase of COVID guidance and the updated risk assessment will be uploaded on the website tomorrow morning. We continue to follow government guidance in all matters. In the short term the main changes are as follows:

Believe.....

Principal Mrs C Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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1. Face masks will now be **optional**. If pupils wish to continue to wear these in communal areas and classrooms, this is allowed.
2. On public and school transport, face masks are **recommended**.
3. We will no longer be operating the bubble system in school.
4. Breaks and lunchtimes will no longer be staggered and we will revert to the normal timings of the school day.
5. NHS track and trace will be taking over contact tracing in the event of a positive case in school. Close contacts will no longer need to isolate, but will be recommended to take a PCR test. They do not need to isolate whilst they wait for their results.
6. If your child has one of the COVID symptoms, please keep them off school and book a PCR test. Please inform school of their absence via the absence line.
7. Please inform us of any positive COVID results via positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk
8. Schools are no longer required to routinely inform parents of every positive COVID case unless there is an outbreak, at which point we will be taking advice from Public Health and the DFE.

We will continue to keep the situation under review and will of course keep you updated about any changes.

We will be continuing with our hygiene measures and we ask that you reiterate to your children the importance of:

1. Regular handwashing and sanitising.
2. Bringing tissues to school and following the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' advice for coughs and sneezes.
3. Telling you or us if they experience any of the main symptoms of COVID and staying off school if they do.
4. Testing twice a week using the lateral flow tests. Replacement tests can be collected from the main school General Office, the medical room or the Sixth Form Centre.

Remote education

If your child is unable to attend school for reasons relating to COVID-19, we will provide work on Firefly. Work will be set by class teachers as a Firefly task - this will appear on the main dashboard when pupils log into their Firefly account.

Year 7 and new Year 12 pupils will be given access to Firefly (our Virtual Learning Platform) at the start of term. If your child has any questions about the work set, they will be able to contact their class teachers using school email.

Communication with school

I will shortly be sending out our communication policy to remind parents of communication channels in our large school. For now, please ensure you contact your child's **Progress Tutor** in the first instance for queries or to inform us of any information we need to be aware of, such as wellbeing or health issues. This can be done via your child's journal or using our Parentline system which can be accessed via the school website under the 'contact' tab. Your message will be passed on to the relevant member of staff promptly for their attention.

Let us pray that we are able to return to a sense of normality over the coming weeks and that we can get back to all the wonderful and rich co-curricular activities, trips and visits that make Ripley the special place it is.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal