

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## COVID-19 update

We have been monitoring the number of positive test results from both lateral flow and PCR tests and discussing our findings regularly with the Lancashire and Cumbria Public Health team. Over the course of the week, we have seen an increase in cases in Year 11 and Year 8 in particular.

Due to a number of positive tests in Year 11 coming through this morning, we have now met the threshold of 10% of the year group with a positive result in the last 10 days. On the advice of Public Health Lancashire, we had recommended that all of Year 11 take a precautionary PCR test so this was perhaps to be expected. It is encouraging that a number of asymptomatic cases have been picked up in this way.

We will now therefore move to the next stage in our contingency plan which is to introduce some further temporary measures to prevent the spread of the virus.

- **From Monday, face coverings must be worn in communal areas and corridors, unless someone is medically exempt.** Please ensure your child brings a mask from Monday.
- **We will not be holding assemblies or worship in person next week - these will all take place via Zoom.**

These measures will be for next week only whilst we continue to monitor cases and we will review the situation towards the end of the week.

The other measures in our risk assessment, including ventilation, hand sanitising and frequent cleaning, will continue.

## Precautionary PCR

On the advice of the Public Health team, we are recommending that all pupils in Year 8 now book a precautionary PCR test. This has proved helpful in identifying asymptomatic cases in Year 11 where children had actually tested negative on their lateral flow tests. Please could any pupils in Year 11 who have not already taken a test this week book one.

We ask that you book your child in this weekend and inform us if there is a positive result via [positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:positivetest@ripley.lancs.sch.uk)

We are also recommending that if your child is in regular contact with someone who is now absent from school, they should also book them a PCR test as a precaution.

Please note however, that if your child has tested positive in the last 90 days they should not take a PCR test as it may return a false positive.

*Believe.....*

Principal Mrs C Walmsley  
Chair of Governors Mrs J Garnett

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## **Illness**

If your child is feeling unwell (sick, sore throat, a cough), please keep them off school and book a PCR test. Increasingly these are the symptoms being experienced by those who have tested positive. Please do not rely on a Lateral Flow test if they are unwell as they are not as sensitive as PCR tests.

If your child is going to be off school due to illness, please inform us via the absence line.

We wish all those who have tested positive for COVID a speedy recovery. It is reassuring that most appear to have no or only very mild symptoms such as a sore throat.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Walmsley', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Walmsley  
Principal