

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers

It seems incredible that we have come to the end of term already. There has been plenty going on and it has been wonderful to get back to sports, music, worship and assemblies and a sense of normality.

COVID testing

Attached is a letter from the Secretary of State regarding LFT COVID testing and vaccinations. The advice is to continue testing throughout the half term break and especially before returning to school on **Thursday 4 November**.

Exercise books

Please encourage your child to spend some time over the holidays ensuring their books are looking smart. All dates and titles should be underlined, sheets should be stuck in and any incomplete work should be finished off. Also, where a teacher has added feedback or corrections, these should be responded to in green pen. It's a good opportunity to get everything in order ready for next half term.

Uniform

Please can I draw your attention to a separate letter from Mr Wilson this week regarding uniform. We are proud of our high standards at Ripley and we will be checking our pupils' uniform on our return from half term. A few reminders:

1. Lanyards must be worn at all times. New ones can be purchased via Scopay.
2. Please ensure half term haircuts have had time to grow to the required length before your return. Guidance is given in our uniform policy which can be found on the website.
3. Skirts should be worn on or just above the knee. If your child has grown too tall for their current skirt please ensure they are equipped with a new one for their return. We are assured there is now more stock available, however if you are struggling to get hold of a new skirt over half term, please do let us know. We have a small stock of new skirts in school that we are able to help out with.

If your child has grown out of any uniform that is still in good condition, please consider donating it to us. We would like to build up a stock that we could use to provide a 'swap shop' service to our families. Please ask your child to bring any items to 'the bench' near Mr Wilson's office. If you find yourself in need of support with purchasing uniform, do get in touch with your child's progress tutor or with Mr Wilson and we will be able to assist.

Year 7 Concert

We were really pleased to see so many pupils taking part in our Year 7 concerts this week. Across the two nights, 172 pupils performed a musical version of David and Goliath to appreciative audiences made up of family members. After a disrupted two years, it was wonderful to see these pupils enjoying being part of a live performance again, something which they were unable to experience during the pandemic. During the concert, Dr Allcock spoke to parents about the benefits of musical training and we are already beginning to receive additional sign-ups for instrumental lessons in school as a result. Please do encourage your child to get involved in the vast array of co-curricular opportunities here at Ripley - there is loads to choose from and we want every pupil to benefit from this rich and varied programme.

Believe.....

Co-Curriculum

We are very proud of the huge range of co-curricular opportunities we have on offer here at Ripley. These clubs are a brilliant way for our pupils to develop new skills, to grow in confidence and they are also great fun. I am very grateful to our staff for providing these opportunities. Please do take a look at the timetable online and encourage your child to give something new a try after half term: <https://ripleystthomas.com/curriculumoverview/co-curriculum/>

PSHE day

On Wednesday this week, we had our first PSHE day of the year. Year 7 pupils spent the day looking at values for life, being a good friend and issues surrounding bullying; all pupils in Year 7 also had a session led by the Northern Inter-Schools Christian Union on what it means to be a good neighbour. Year 8 focused on personal identity, with work on stereotypes, personal brand, micro-aggressions and cyberbullying, whilst Year 9 pupils spent the day looking at their relationship with society and topics relating to crime and punishment. Year 10 considered the characteristics of positive and healthy relationships, as well as looking at the legal status of marriage and civil partnerships, alongside exploring relationships through a distinctly Christian lens, body image and issues surrounding pornography. Year 11 pupils spent the day in the Sixth Form, receiving taster lessons in a range of A level subjects and hearing presentations about other opportunities for post-16 study.

Consultation

We are currently consulting on our admissions policy for 2023 intake. There are very few changes, but the new policy contains information on sixth form admissions, as well as main school.

Worship

During October in worship, we have addressed Black History month and had an input looking at the relationship between science and faith. This week, Chapel Worship has encouraged us to consider what makes up our identities and how the Christian faith of who God says we are can be important to our sense of value. At Ripley we are keen for everyone to know their unique significance and we pray that all will flourish in body, mind and spirit.

I wish all our families a safe and restful half term break. We look forward to seeing our pupils again on Thursday 4 November.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal