

# RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Dear Parents / Guardians

## Asymptomatic Testing in January 2022

The Government has just announced that all secondary school students should have the opportunity to receive an on-site LFD test on their return to schools in January 2022. This letter explains how we shall be conducting these tests at Ripley.

As you will no doubt be aware, 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 in September, 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. I understand that this may cause inconvenience for parents but I hope you will appreciate that this situation is not of our making. We will be providing online learning for pupils on the days that they are not in school. 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.

Date	Test and leave	Return to school
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Y11, Y12 and Y13	No pupils in school
Wednesday 5 January 2022	Y9 and Y10	Year 11 and Sixth Form
Thursday 6 January 2022	Y7 and Y8	Year 9, 10, 11 and Sixth Form
Friday 7 January 2022	-	All years back in school

To facilitate testing we are asking parents to book an appointment slot for their child.

*Believe.....*

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

To book your timeslot, please use the link below

Date of "test and leave"	URL of booking system
Tuesday 4 January (Y11, Y12 and Y13)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUE">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUE</a>
Wednesday 5 January (Y9 & Y10)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUN">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUN</a>
Thursday 6 January (Y7 & Y8)	<a href="https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUO">https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BJUO</a>

We appreciate that families with children in multiple year groups may have difficulty with testing on different days. The booking system will, therefore, permit the booking of pupils in different year groups together so they can all be tested at the same time. Testing will start at 8.30am and will continue until 3pm each day. We can test ten pupils every 5 minutes so we should have plenty of appointments, but we would advise booking at your earliest convenience.

The booking systems will close at midnight on 28 December and no further bookings will be possible after this date. Please do not telephone after this date to request an appointment as we will not be able to facilitate late requests.

### 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 who 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. Since September, close contacts have been identified via NHS Test and Trace rather than the school.

### Home Testing

We strongly urge everyone to continue with twice weekly testing. Pupils can collect test kits from school or they can be obtained from various places in our locality. To see the list of local places, please go to <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Kind regards

Gavin Gomersall  
Director of Operations