

RIPLEY ST THOMAS

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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2 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Pupils and staff alike are beginning to feel festive as we approach the end of another busy term. The Ripley Friends have been busy decorating the school in preparation for a number of events and celebrations in the run up to the Christmas holidays.

Christmas Charities and Non-uniform Day

We are very mindful of cost-of-living pressures that all of our community are feeling at the moment, however we would still like to support our four chosen charities this year if we can. We are encouraging pupils and staff to join, where they can, to support our fundraising efforts and any contributions that you can offer will be gratefully received.

Non-uniform Day

On **Friday 9th December** we will have a non-uniform day for all staff and pupils; Christmas jumpers and festive accessories are encouraged!

We are asking for donations of £1 per pupil or 50p if there are siblings at school, and all proceeds will go to the **Save the Children**.

Progress Tutors will collect monies during registration time. For more information on how our donations help please visit: <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/how-you-help>

The Olive Branch

Over the next two weeks, pupils in **Years 7 to 11** are also being invited to support the **Olive Branch**, a local charity based in Lancaster.

Year 7 pupils are doing this through their Reverse Advent calendar, whilst pupils in Y8 to Y11 are asked to donate items from the list shown before Tuesday 13th December.

Donations can be taken to the Chaplaincy each day. You can find out more about this local charity here [The Olive Branch \(the-olivebranch.org.uk\)](http://The Olive Branch (the-olivebranch.org.uk))



An education for life

Principal Mrs C. Walmsley
Chair of Governors Mrs S. Farrimond

The Bay Learning Trust. Company number: 07588464
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Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service

Sixth Form students will be supporting Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service, through a variety of fundraising events, where money will be raised to buy sleeping bags, and through collections of the following items: **coffee, tea bags, long life milk, men's jeans and coats**. Find out more about this charity here [Welcome to LDHAS](#).

Mental Elf Run 2022

The PE Department are hosting an Inter-House festive Mental ELF Run in support of Lancashire Mind – encouraging all pupils and staff to talk about their mental wellbeing.

Location: Meet at the sports hall and the run will take place around the school site.

What to wear: Fancy dress is encouraged - there will be some prizes for the best dressed! Reindeer antlers and Santa hats will be provided.

Entry cost: There is a £1 'entry fee' which will be donated to Lancashire Mind.

How does a House 'win'?: The House with the best attendance will get the most points!



There will also be a festive hot chocolate after the run/walk/jog, served in the canteen.

Year 9 Health Needs Questionnaire

Pupils in Year 9 will have the opportunity to complete the Y9 Health Needs Assessment Questionnaire on the morning of Friday 9th December. Colleagues from the school nursing team came into school yesterday to talk to pupils regarding this assessment.

As a school, we will receive a summary report about the health needs of our pupils, which can inform our PSHE curriculum and the pastoral support offered to our pupils.

Individual reports for each pupil, only accessed by school nurses, may identify and address individual health needs that can then be supported.

Cost of Living Support

A summary of support available to families is enclosed in the second attachment to this email.

Please do contact your child's Progress Leader, or myself, via Parentline, if you are experiencing financial difficulties and we will work with you in order to support your child at school.

Bus Travel – Costs

We are aware of the changes that Stagecoach have made to the ticket prices for some of their services for pupils who travel from south of Galgate. We are in the process of raising our concerns with both Stagecoach and with Lancashire County Council. Please see the link to our website if you need to access support with the cost of transport to and from school.

<https://ripleystthomas.com/school-life/transport-travel/>

End of Term Services

In Ripley tradition, we will end the term with our Christmas Communion services:

Year 7	Ripley Chapel
Year 8	St Paul's, Scotforth
Year 9	St Tees
Years 10 & 11	Lancaster Priory
Sixth Form	Christ Church

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 should meet directly at the Priory at 8.45am. All other year groups will register at Ripley at 8.45am before walking to church. Further details to follow.

End of Term dates for your diary:

Tuesday 6th December Christmas Concert 7pm in the School Hall
Tickets can be booked here:
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAFB>

Thursday 8th December Y8 Parents' Evening - 5pm onwards (online)

Friday 9th December Non-uniform Day – with a festive twist!

Tuesday 13th December Carol Service - 7pm in the Chapel
Tickets can be booked here:
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAJO>

Thursday 15th December Elf Run 3.20pm at the Sport Hall – open to pupils and staff.
House Points available for each participant and a hot drink too

Friday 16th December End of Term. School closes at 12.30pm (end of term school transport information to follow)

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Walmsley
Principal