



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

COVID-19 - Important Update

Dear Parents

Having only emailed you last night to update you on the situation regarding COVID-19 testing, we have now received additional information from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) via the Local Authority which I think is important to share with you:

"The NHS Test and Trace Service has suspended testing operations provided by Immensa Health Clinic Ltd at its laboratory in Wolverhampton, following an investigation into reports of people receiving negative PCR test results after they have previously tested positive on a Lateral Flow Device. Investigations continue into the precise cause but NHS Test and Trace estimate that around 400,000 samples have been processed through the lab, the vast majority of which will have been negative results, but an estimated 43,000 people may have been given incorrect negative PCR test results between 8 September and 12 October, mostly in the South West of England, including Gloucestershire.

UKHSA has stated that this is an isolated incident linked to one laboratory and that there is no evidence of any faults with LFD or PCR test kits themselves and the public should remain confident in using them and in other laboratory services currently provided - all samples are now being redirected to other laboratories.

Test and Trace is in the process of contacting the people that could still be infectious to advise them to take another test. Close contacts who are symptomatic will also be advised to take a test in line with normal practice. We would advise anyone who had a negative PCR test result between 5 and 12 October from any of the DHSC run testing facilities in the county to book a new test as a precaution."

Therefore, we continue to advise students to remain at home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms following a positive lateral flow test and a negative PCR test.

Information on how you can get a [PCR test](#) is available on Gloucestershire's website. The Government's website provides further information and advice on [how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of covid-19](#)

As we get more information or guidance from UKHSA or the Local Authority, we will update you.

Reporting a positive COVID-19 test result

A reminder to report a positive test result through Parent Gateway rather than emailing subject teachers or Heads of Year directly. We have a centralised system in school so we can ensure that all teachers are made aware that your child is self-isolating and which enables us to keep our records up-to-date. Work will be available on Satchel One and lessons will be live-streamed where possible.

Once again, my thanks go to all parents, staff and students for your continued support and efforts to keep the School community safe. I am also grateful for your forbearance as we deal with what has been a rapidly unfolding situation.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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