



# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

## COVID-19 - Important Update

Dear Parents

Unfortunately, cases of COVID-19 in the school community have continued to rise over the weekend. It is important that we try to manage the rate of infection in school and we are mindful that many families will have made plans for the forthcoming half-term break. Therefore, from Monday 18 October, we will advise the use of face coverings for all staff and students in corridors and in communal areas in line with our COVID-19 contingency plan. There is no statutory requirement for us to insist that face coverings are worn and, unless the advice changes, pupils will not be advised to wear face coverings in lessons but, as always, they may do so if they wish.

This measure is temporary in order to try to reduce the number of cases. We have informed Public Health England, as we are bound to, of the number of pupils and staff who have recently reported a positive result and we await further guidance.

Alongside the re-introduction of face coverings, we will continue to:

- facilitate good ventilation by opening windows and doors where possible (students may wear a coat over their school uniform if they feel cold);
- encourage regular hand washing for 20 seconds with running water and soap throughout the day;
- ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach;
- clean frequently to remove the virus on frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, handrails, tabletops, etc.

Finally, a reminder that if your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms following a positive lateral flow test, please keep them at home and report the positive result through Parent Gateway rather than emailing staff directly.

Information on how you can access 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](#). Work will be available on Satchel One and lessons will be live-streamed where possible.

Once again, we are grateful for your support and for your forbearance whilst we try to manage the increase in COVID-19 cases in school. We will update you as we receive further guidance.

Matthew Morgan  
HEADMASTER

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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