



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

We arrive at half-term astride the pandemic like the Colossus of Rhodes – one foot firmly in a return to normal, the other stuck in the mire of COVID-19 with the largest number of cases in school since the beginning of the pandemic, the return of face coverings in communal areas and the temporary cancellation this week of our extracurricular activities.

I am sure that most of the school community remain as frustrated as I do by the stop-start nature of this recovery and the repeated interruptions to our daily lives. However, all we can practically do is follow Public Health England and DfE guidance and continue to navigate our way through these choppy waters with resilience and as much good humour as we can muster. If there is one thing we have learned in the last 18 months, it is that if we pull together as a community of Richians, we can endeavour to stay as safe as we possibly can and support each other through these testing times.

COVID-19 Measures

I will write to parents again towards the end of the half-term break if this guidance changes, but for now, please assume that we will continue to advise the use of face coverings in School after half-term. There is no statutory requirement for us to insist that face coverings are worn and, unless the advice changes, pupils will not be asked to wear face coverings in lessons but, as always, they may do so if they wish.

We will also 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.

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.

Testing

Please do encourage your child to test through the half-term break, and most importantly on the evening of Tuesday 2 November before term starts again on Wednesday 3 November.

Finally

I hope you manage to enjoy some down-time with your families over the next few days, and I wish you all a relaxing half-term break.

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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