



# SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

## Update regarding arrangements for the start of term

Following the Secretary of State's announcement yesterday that it is recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms where pupils in Year 7 and above are educated, I thought I ought to write to you regarding the updated arrangements for the start of term.

### Staggered Start

A reminder that in order to facilitate the on-site testing of pupils, students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 should return as planned on Wednesday 5 January. All other pupils should return on 6 January. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be provided with remote education on 5 January, with work set on Satchel One for each lesson.

### Lateral flow testing

We have been asked to encourage all students and staff to continue testing twice weekly at home and to [report all results to NHS Test and Trace](#) and to the school via Parent Gateway: <https://parentgateway2.strschool.co.uk/login>

### Close Contacts testing

There has been a further change to the national approach to testing for contacts of those with COVID-19; people who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

### Updated guidance on the use of face coverings

It is now recommended that face coverings are worn in classrooms in secondary schools. The advice is short term only. This advice will be in place until Wednesday 26 January, when Plan B regulations are currently scheduled to expire, at which point it will be reviewed.

We will continue to undertake detailed risk assessments of all our activities that take place in school and implement the [system of controls](#) set out in the actions for schools during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

We will keep our plans under constant review. As ever, I am grateful for your continued support.

Happy New Year

Matthew Morgan  
HEADMASTER

## SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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