



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

The Spring Term has started with a busy, if short, week – thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard to administer the COVID -19 Lateral Flow Tests this week on students' return to school. Thank you also to all those who tested before returning to school; this has resulted in very few on-site positive results. Regular, twice-a-week testing at home means that extracurricular activities are more likely to go ahead as planned. Students have been issued with test kits but if they require any more they should see Mrs Ball or Mrs Cooper.

As you know, secondary school students are currently required to wear face coverings in classrooms unless exempt, and I would like to thank pupils for so conscientiously following the rules and participating in lessons with their usual levels of enthusiasm this week.

Confirmatory PCR tests temporarily suspended

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow device (LFD) test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Self-isolation period now 7 days

A reminder that the self-isolation period for those who test positive changed on 22 December, decreasing from 10 days to seven days, if those with COVID-19 obtain two negative lateral flow test results on days six and seven.

Testing close contacts

A reminder that there has been a change to the national approach to testing for contacts of those with COVID-19, effective from 14 December. Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, staff and students should take a lateral flow device (LFD) each day for seven days and report the results through the [NHS Online Reporting System](#) and to the School via [Parent Gateway](#). If they test negative, they can continue to attend school.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our annual Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 3 February at 6.30pm. Year 11 pupils and their parents are warmly invited to attend to find out more about studying A Levels at Sir Thomas Rich's. I am pleased to inform you that Head of Religious Studies, Dr Kyle Scott is adding Philosophy A Level to the courses on offer, and our updated Sixth Form prospectus will be published later this month. At the moment, we are intending to run the Open Evening as a face-to-face event on the school site, but we may need to take the decision to switch to a virtual event closer to the date.

[Register to attend](#)

Jazz Night

Our popular Jazz Night is back on the evening of Friday 5 February, restrictions allowing, and tickets will be available to buy online soon – please keep an eye on our social media channels for updates.

Business Networking Event

Following the success of our first Rich's Partnership breakfast on 10 December, we have fixed Friday 1 April for the next event. Any parents who run their own business or who work for a company that would be interested in exploring ways to partner with Sir Thomas Rich's would be very welcome to attend, email Development Director Vicki Lynn on vn@strs.org.uk to express your interest.

Netball success

Congratulations to Meg Vickery in Year 12, who is a Nova Academy netball athlete. Each of the 10 Nova Academies spread across seven counties were recently invited to select players to attend trials for the Severn Stars U17 NPL squad. The trials were held over a full weekend in November and out of a total of more than 60 girls, Meg was selected into the long squad of 20. Meg has already started her training sessions which are held at Worcester University and her next target is to get selected into the match team squad, where she has the opportunity to play teams such as Bath, London Pulse and Surrey. Well done Meg.

Finally

My Oxford Dictionary of Quotations has very little to offer on the subject of January, a month which suffers from a reputation as cold, dark and miserable following the Christmas festivities. The two-faced Roman god Janus looks back to the old year and ahead to the new one simultaneously; unusual in that he has no Greek counterpart, Janus was one of the earliest Roman deities, and is the god of doorways both literal and figurative. We certainly step into 2022 unsure of how the pandemic will continue to affect us as individuals and as a school, while continuing to draw

on the reserves of good humour, resilience and pragmatism which have served us so well as Richians over the last two years.



Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

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