



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

From the Headmaster

Face Coverings

Having carried out a full review of our current control measures, I can now confirm that from Thursday this week, in line with the latest government guidance, face coverings will no longer be required in communal areas.

Regular Testing

The number of positive cases remains low in school, but please do encourage your children to continue with twice a week testing.

School Admission Appeal Panel Members Needed

Gloucestershire County Council is looking for volunteers to join its School Admission Appeal Panel. The role is unpaid, although volunteers will receive travel expenses and full training. To find out more, contact Democratic Services at Gloucestershire County Council for more information and to request an application form on democratic.services@gloucestershire.gov.uk or call 01452 324205.

Free Train to Teach Event 27 January

A free Train to Teach event takes place at Pate's Grammar School this Thursday. Starting at 4.30pm, it offers an excellent opportunity to find out more about training to be a teacher in Gloucestershire and to meet experts, teachers and current trainees. To register email jwiles@odysseytsh.org or for more information call Jane Wiles on 01242 538276 or see www.odysseytsh.org.

The event is primarily aimed at those who already hold a degree, whether you are a recent graduate or someone who is considering a career change. STRS students interested in a career in teaching should contact Mrs Manning or Mrs Morris to discuss their study options.

Jazz Night 4 February – Tickets On Sale Now

Our popular Jazz Night is back on Friday 4 February at 7.30pm. One of the highlights of the school calendar, it promises to be an excellent evening of entertainment featuring a packed programme and a bar kindly run by the Parent Teachers and Friends Association. Tickets are on sale now for £3 or £2 for under 18s.

[Buy Jazz Night tickets.](#)

Finally

It may just be that we're feeling the first signs of emerging from the worst of the pandemic, in the UK at least. While we must remain cautious, there is real hope now that the pandemic phase is giving way to the endemic – where levels of COVID-19 become consistent and predictable, unlike the 'boom and bust' waves so far. Although, of course, it is important to remember that endemic does not automatically mean mild; smallpox was endemic for thousands of years and killed a third of people who were infected. Malaria is endemic and causes around 600,000 deaths a year. Nevertheless, we are already seeing the signs that COVID-19 is becoming less deadly as our bodies become more familiar with fighting it. Two years ago we had no idea of the testing times ahead of us, but here we are, almost on the other side and it's worth taking a moment to reflect on the strength of character and resilience we have needed to develop and draw on.

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do."

(Eleanor Roosevelt)

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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