



SIR THOMAS RICH'S SCHOOL

Oakleaze, Gloucester

COVID-19 Update

Dear Parents

As you are aware, earlier this week the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response, '[Living with Covid-19](#)'. From today, Thursday 24 February, the government has removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. However, adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least five full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received two negative test results on consecutive days. We expect all members of the school community to follow this guidance. Routine contact tracing has also now ended. Fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 will no longer be asked to test daily for seven days, and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will no longer be required to self-isolate.

The government has also removed the recommendation for students to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing and the School will only be able to order tests if advised to do so in the event of an outbreak at school.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should still take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if they test positive. Pupils who test positive should use any test kits they already have at home to undertake testing on days five and six, before returning to school. We will endeavour to distribute any remaining test kits that we have over the next week or so. After this period, additional test kits may be ordered online via gov.uk

Where a child is self-isolating at home because they have tested positive for COVID-19, teachers will set work on Satchel One and live stream lessons were possible.

In order to help prevent the spread of the virus, 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.

It is worth noting that with the weather hopefully turning warmer as spring approaches, we will increasingly revert to our usual high expectations regarding school uniform.

With my best wishes for the remainder of the half-term break

M. S. Morgan

Matthew Morgan
HEADMASTER

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

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