

11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the continuation of lateral flow testing for students following the completion of the three tests that are being carried out in school. Before I explain the arrangements and procedures for this, I would like to thank all of you who have agreed to your children being tested in school this week, we have tested almost 1200 students this week and ensured that the school is a safer environment as a consequence. I am particularly grateful to those parents who transported their children to school, taking time out of their day to do so. Your children have been brilliant this week; the vast majority have not experienced a COVID test before and I have been very proud of how they have responded.

Students will be given a home testing kit next week and will be asked to do their fourth test themselves at home. Additional tests will be provided for students to carry out two tests a week at home, as staff are currently doing. The testing process is exactly the same as that carried out in school this week and, with the experience of having three tests in school, students should be confident about testing at home. Of course, you will need to assist them with the registration of these tests and also supervise your child as they do the swabbing, if they are under 16 years old.

The test kits have instructions that are very easy to follow, including how to report test results to NHS Test and Trace; this can be done either online or by telephone. A guide from NHS Test and Trace on home testing is attached to this letter. Please ensure that all results, whether negative or positive are recorded. I would recommend doing this online and registering your child's details as this will save time when recording results.

Test kits are also available for other members of your household, although these will not be supplied via the school. You can obtain testing kits for the wider household members either from a local test site or by ordering online. The test kit will provide enough tests for 7 weeks of testing (14 tests to be done twice weekly). These tests are the same as those that your child will be supplied with by the school.

The procedure for home testing is as follows:

- Take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart).
- Report the results to NHS Test and Trace on the day that you take the test.



- If anyone tests positive:
  - self-isolate immediately
  - get a PCR test to confirm the result (this does not need to be done for ones carried out in school as they have been performed by trained processors)
  - follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection
  - If your child tests positive, you should also inform the school.

Please be aware that a negative result does not guarantee that the person does not have coronavirus, so they should keep on following all coronavirus advice regarding social distancing, handwashing and wearing face coverings.

I would strongly advise that your child participates in the home testing programme, as by doing so it will contribute to our COVID-secure measures in school by helping to prevent transmission by asymptomatic people in school.

Could I also remind you that if you or anyone in your household has coronavirus symptoms then they should arrange a PCR test and stay at home while awaiting the test result. The lateral flow tests are for asymptomatic testing only so should not be used in these circumstances

Yours sincerely

Steven Mackay  
**Headteacher**