

17th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Home testing kits

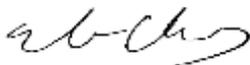
You will recall that I wrote to you on 11th March about the home testing arrangements, how to carry out these tests and how to report the results. The tests for students have arrived at the school and we will be distributing these this week to students; sixth formers on Wednesday 17th March and the rest of the school on Friday 19th March. We will be giving these to students in tutor time to take home, they will have two test kits each; with three tests in each kit. The letter sent last week with instructions and additional information from NHS Test and trace can be found in the parents' area of the school website www.oldfieldschool.com/parent-area/covid-19/letters-to-parents/.

We would suggest that home tests are carried out on Wednesday and Sunday each week (so that they are 3 or 4 days apart). Therefore could you carry out the first home test on Sunday 21st March and then follow this testing cycle for the remainder of this term. We have been informed that additional kits will be provided to allow children to continue to be tested over Easter and we will distribute these before the holiday. Results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace, either by phone or online. Could you please forward the results to the school when you have received notification of them back from NHS Test and Trace. Any positive result must be confirmed by a PCR test for tests taken at home.

We have received some enquiries from parents about whether these tests can be used if their children have COVID-19 symptoms and if the test is then negative can children return to school. The answer to this is no, as these tests are to pick up asymptomatic cases only. It remains the case that if your child has symptoms they should self-isolate and you should arrange a PCR test for them. They can only return to school if the PCR test result is negative.

Thank you for your ongoing support in what continues to be challenging time for us all.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Mackay
Headteacher

