

16 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Covid-19 Home Testing Programme

This letter has further details for those students taking part in the Covid-19 Lateral Flow Home Testing Programme from week commencing Monday 22 March 2021. If you chose not to take part in the in school testing, although it is voluntary, we do encourage you to take part in the home testing.

These tests help to make sure the school environment is safer for everyone.

When you will get your home test kits and when you should take the tests.

- Initially the test kits will be handed out after the third lateral flow test in school.
- Students will be given further test kits when the previous one has run out.
- Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 2 packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.
- We would like them to take their tests before school on Monday and Thursday.
- The first test of this testing programme should be taken before school on Monday 22 March 2021.
- Make sure you have enough time to do the test before coming to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school. (e.g. Sunday and Wednesday evenings).
- Students should continue to test through the Easter holidays.

Taking the test

- A video showing how to take the test can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1>
- General guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>
- There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).
- This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines. You can order your PCR test here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

What should you do after the home test?

- If the home test result is **positive: you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You also need to order a confirmatory PCR test using this link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- You need to report all results, whether **negative, void or positive**, to both NHS Test and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> and school using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/NpeMNPufad>
- If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

- A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.
- If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Why take part?

- Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.
- I am strongly encouraging all students to take part.

Please contact your key stage office if you have any questions or concerns about home testing or would like to join the testing programme despite not testing in school.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Woods', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Richard Woods
Headteacher