



3 March 2021

Dear Parent

Home-Testing for Covid-19 from 14 March 2021 onwards

The Department for Education has recently announced that it will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing in secondary schools.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further steps to help our students and staff members to work in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms so could be transmitting the virus unknowingly. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in schools.

Students will receive the test kit in school the **week commencing Monday 8th March** and additional kits will automatically be given to students. If additional tests are needed earlier these can be requested through the Recording Form below. Students will conduct **two tests at home 3 to 4 days apart** on either a Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday Morning. Year 7 are to complete the LFD test at home from **Thursday 18th March** with years 8-11 completing home testing from **Sunday 14th March**.

Reopening From Tuesday 9th March

When students return to lessons, uniform expectations will remain as normal. Our uniform suppliers are open for online orders and are operating a full service. As ever, our rules around make-up, hair dye and piercings remain as they always have been and we ask that students do not come to school with visible make up, including nail varnish or false nails and that piercings are studs only, to a maximum of one in each ear. We will challenge any breaches of our school uniform in the normal way. Thank you for your support with this.

How the LFD test works

Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which will be given to you with the test kits – please ignore the booklet found inside the test kits as it contains errors. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test:

<https://qr.go.page.link/NvkHc> . Please find attached the Privacy Notice for your information.

Once the test has been conducted you will log the test result online using the Recording Form <https://qr.go.page.link/uW3fn> and need to also, separately, inform Test and Trace of the test result using this link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> .



Please note that pupils aged 11 should have the test administered by an adult and pupils aged between 12-17 should take the test under adult supervision. **Students that have received a positive PCR test result will not need to complete any LFD home testing for 90 days.**

Any pupil returning a positive LFD result must immediately isolate and you will need to book a PCR test at a local centre to confirm the result. You will be contacted by the school to confirm details and further information on possible contacts as this may result in further isolations. Any void test will need to be retaken, if this also shows a void result then a PCR test will also need to be booked at a local test centre.

Please note that the key contacts in school for home testing are:

Covid Test Coordinator: Miss S Lovett

Covid Test Assistants: Mrs J Storey & Mrs T Pavier

Yours Sincerely,

Miss S Lovett

Assistant Headteacher