

12th March 2021

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Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start by thanking all our students who have been taking the lateral flow test in school over the last few months; they have all been conscientious about this procedure and supported the school in keeping each other safe. I would also like to thank the staff volunteers who have given up their time to train and have enabled the test centre to run as efficiently and smoothly as it has.

The last 'on site' test will be Monday 15th March 2021. From that date on the Government has provided home test kits for you to test your children at home. It is recommended that you test your child twice a week using the Lateral Flow home test kits. If any child tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, you should inform us immediately and make sure the child and the household self isolate immediately. Please get a PCR test to confirm the result and subsequently inform us of those results too.

If you and your family want further advice please call 119 for support. Do not use the Lateral Flow test if you have symptoms, you should <u>Order a test for people with symptoms</u> online or call 119.

Secondary school pupils and college students

From 8th March 2021 and upon returning to school or college, pupils and students will have taken their:

• first 3 tests at school under the supervision of a trained operator. (Last test date in school 15th March 2021.)

Pupils and students will then be asked to continue taking twice-weekly tests using a home test kit provided by the school. They should report all results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the

test is completed, either online or by telephone, as set out in the home test kit instructions.

• Students should take their fourth test themselves using a home test kit (during the week

commencing 15th March).

How rapid lateral flow tests work

Around 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms.

Rapid lateral flow tests help to find cases in people who may have no symptoms but are still

infectious and can give the virus to others.

The test usually involves taking a sample from your tonsils (or where they would have been)

and from your nose, using a swab. You can get a result in 30 minutes.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Antonia Jackson

Headteacher