



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Update Covid-19: Lateral Flow Tests and Home Testing

I am writing to let you know that our first week back of reopening has gone extremely well – we are delighted that our pupils and students are back in school, having the opportunity to see friends and classmates and settling into routines once again; usual lessons resumed for all year groups from 11.20am this morning. I am aware that some parents and carers still have concerns regarding COVID-19 and the reopening of school and this is reflected in our whole school attendance by year group:

Year 7 – 92.7%  
Year 8 – 94.45%  
Year 9 – 92.34%  
Year 10 – 93.8%  
Year 11 – 94.3%

Whole school week-to-date (Y7-11) – 92.87%

## Lateral Flow Tests

Although there has been some apprehension amongst parents, carers and pupils regarding taking a Lateral Flow Test and the implications of a positive test, I am delighted to report:

### Monday 8 March 2021

We completed 187 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 11 and all recorded a negative test result

We completed 166 Lateral Flow Tests with Year Sixth Form and only 1 recorded a positive test result. The student had returned to school, with no symptoms, following a ten-day self-isolation period with their household as one of their parents had tested positive for COVID-19 in February 2021. I contacted Public Health England and discussed with them the implications and they were clear:

1. The parent completed the ten-day self-isolation period and is okay to return to work on day eleven
2. The household, showing no symptoms are also able to return to usual activities on day eleven
3. The Lateral Flow Test on the student clearly picked up viral load and showed a positive result – a PCR test is not required when a LFT is completed at a recognised Asymptomatic Testing Site. The test detected an asymptomatic student who now needs to self-isolate for a ten-day period but no one else does currently as they have all completed a ten-day self-isolation
4. The younger sibling was able to come into school for a Lateral Flow Test as they had no symptoms currently
5. Even though pupils and students are wearing facemasks, the proximity rules still apply i.e., when in close proximity to another child for a sustained period of time, wearing a facemask and in a ventilated room, if one tests positive then the children either side of them, other close contact and social contacts for the previous forty-eight-hours would need to self-isolate for a period of ten days. It is not possible to do LFTs on close proximity children as the law currently is for anyone in contact with a positive case must self-isolate for a period of ten days
6. The wearing of a facemask is a recommendation and is strongly advised; the wearing of a facemask in the classroom is to be reviewed by Government over the Easter break. Therefore, we have asked that all pupils wear facemasks whilst in lessons and we provide comfort breaks

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from wearing a facemask during the day (pupils by Year Group are allowed in Curriculum Gardens to be outside in fresh air without a facemask)

**Tuesday 9 March 2021**

We completed 176 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 10 and all recorded a negative result  
We completed a further 10 tests on Sixth Form and a further 2 tests on Year 11 and all recorded a negative result

**Wednesday 10 March 2021**

We completed 182 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 7 and all recorded a negative result

**Thursday 11 March 2021**

We completed 188 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 8 and all recorded a negative test result  
We completed 184 second Lateral Flow Tests with Year 11 and all recorded a negative test result.

**Friday 12 March 2021**

We completed 186 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 9 and all recorded a negative test result  
We completed 175 Lateral Flow Tests with Sixth Form and all recorded a negative result

**Home Testing**

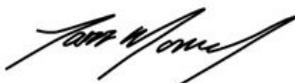
The guidance on Home Testing has changed and revised; school leaders are required to provide parents and carers with the revised information which is sent as a set of separate documents with this letter; unfortunately, it is lengthy and not an easy read. As we began testing vulnerable and children of critical workers last week, some pupils now have had their third school-based Lateral Flow Test and are eligible to begin Home Testing. The rules on issuing the Home Testing Kits is that they cannot be given out until after Monday 15 March 2021. There are some key requirements that must be in place for Home Testing – the following is a list of the key points from the 'How to Guide' Rapid Testing of Education Staff and Secondary Age Pupils at Home (Self-Test):

1. Tell parents/carers what rapid testing is and direct them to the YouTube and video content available on the Document Sharing Platform.
2. Draw attention to the section 'Participation and Data Protection'
3. Inform parents/carers who is acting as the Covid Coordinator and Registration Assistant – these roles are myself and my PA Heather Riley
4. Explain that pupils will need to sign for their test kits and the school will record the LOT number that is printed on the box of their test kits against their name.
5. Make sure parents/carers know it is a requirement for them to report their test result, whether positive, negative or void, please refer to the "Reporting your test result online section.
6. Remind parents/carers that anyone aged 11 must ensure the test is administered by an adult, and anyone aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can swab themselves.
7. Make sure parents/carers know to contact the NHS if they have an incident while testing at home, please refer to the "incident reporting" section.

I appreciate there is a lot of information in this letter and in the additional pack but as always, I want to ensure you have as much up-to-date information as we do.

Once again, I wish to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we respond to the advice and guidance published to school. It has been a pleasure to be Headteacher this week as our pupils have returned in good spirits and they continue to take everything in their stride.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel  
Headteacher