



19 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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

I am writing to let you know that our second week back of reopening, like the first week, has gone extremely well; our children continue to keep their focus on reengaging with school routines and expectations – we are proud of their conduct and I wish to thank them for working together with their friends, peers and members of staff; they have shown great resilience and care. It continues to be a challenging time we are living through but despite this, everyone continues to focus on making progress and there is a clear desire to get things back to usual and reengage in learning.

Asymptomatic Testing

We have this week continued with the second and third wave of Lateral Flow Tests in school:

Monday 15 March 2021

We successfully completed 162 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 10 and all recorded a negative result
We successfully completed 199 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 8 and all recorded a negative result

Tuesday 16 March 2021

We successfully completed 183 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 7 and all recorded a negative result

Wednesday 10 March 2021

We successfully completed 185 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 9 and all recorded a negative result
We successfully completed 186 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 11 and all recorded a negative result

Thursday 11 March 2021

We completed 175 Lateral Flow Tests with Sixth Form and all recorded a negative result

Friday 12 March 2021

We completed 169 Lateral Flow Tests with Year 10 with 8 pupils already Home Testing and all recorded a negative test result

As we complete the third session of asymptomatic testing, we will be issuing Home Testing Kits so our children can begin to carry out Lateral Flow Tests at home.

Home Testing

I wrote to you last Friday with the lengthy and detailed advice and guidance regarding Home Testing and I appreciate the documents are not the easiest to read. In summary:

- Children we have previously received consent for testing in school, and have completed their third test will receive a Home Testing Kit from school on Monday 22 March 2021
- The packs will be distributed during their Lifetracks lesson, period 1 on Monday 22 March 2021 by their Form Tutor
- It is a requirement that each child must sign for receipt of their Home Testing Kits and the separate step-by-step guide
- Your child will receive three boxes of Home Testing Kits – there are three tests in each box
- Your child should complete two tests each week at least three days but no more than five days apart
- The number of tests received will cover a four-week period as Government has issued a statement that Lateral Flow Tests should be completed over the Easter Break and into the summer term

- The results from each test must be recorded on the NHS website www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result – the information is included in the booklet your child will receive with their test kits
- In addition, school must be informed on pupillfresult@titussaltschool.co.uk using the following format: surname, first name, form class, result e.g. Smith, John, 9R8/BET, negative

Assessments for Years 11 and 13

I have previously written regarding the award of grades for Years 11 and 13 for the summer 2021 examination series. As you know, the examinations for this summer have been cancelled. The following link is to the guidance from the Department for Education (DfE):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

In place of examinations the award of grades is to be based on the following, which is an extract from the guidance:

Assessment evidence

Teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade they are performing at. Students should only be assessed on what they have been taught, ensuring enough coverage of the curriculum to enable progression. When determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential.

Teachers should use the time remaining to balance continued teaching with any assessments they want to undertake. Work done at home can be included as evidence to support a teacher's judgement if it cannot be produced in the school or college environment because of the pandemic, and where teachers are confident that it is a student's own work.

Types of assessment evidence

Teachers can use evidence to determine grades from across the duration of the student's course.

We recommend the following range of evidence is used, where available:

- student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers
- non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed
- student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes - this can include:
 - substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)
 - internal tests taken by pupils
 - mock exams taken over the course of study
- records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE
- records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study

Assessment at TSS

The approach to assessment will take the form of a series of end of unit tests, coursework assessments, past papers and non-examination assessments plus the results from any vocational examinations. Faculty Leaders are working with Subject Leaders and class teachers to ensure all evidence for assessments made has been standardised in school and moderated where possible. During next half-term, after the Easter break, a series of assessments will be in place for pupils and students in Years 11 and 13; we are working together to ensure that we do not overwhelm our children and put them under undue pressure. Where there is already evidence of high standards that reflect their ability, we will not complete unnecessary assessments but where grades need to be validated, further assessments will be made. I wish to stress that completing end of unit tests, past papers and non-

examination assessments for Years 11 and 13, is usual practice especially during the first half of the summer term. It has been agreed with Faculty Leaders that pupils and students will be told in advance, the topics to be covered by any assessment.

All work for grade assessment has to be completed by May half-term 2021 as after the half-term break, the grades from assessed work will be put into our data analysis software and analysed to ensure it is in line with the upward trend over the last three years and grades awarded reflect pupils' and students' abilities. The national deadline date for grades to be submitted to all examination boards is Friday 18 June 2021 for both Year 11 and Year 13.

I appreciate that many will wonder what happens around this date regarding continuing with study and preparation for next steps. At present, Government and the Department for Education have not announced any advice and guidance on end dates for Years 11 and 13. We intend to consider a programme of work for the two-week period when submission of marks to examination boards takes place. We will continue with our next steps programme of careers advice and guidance with support work for applications to education, employment and training. As I am provided with any information from Government and DfE, I will let you know.

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 another demanding week but again it has been a pleasure to be Headteacher as our pupils have returned in good spirits and they continue to take everything in their stride.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morrel', written in a cursive style.

Ian Morrel
Headteacher