24 March 2021

Dear parent/carer

Thank you to all our students and parents/carers for your support while we carried out regular Covid-19 testing at school in the last couple of weeks. Everyone’s involvement has been fantastic and we are so proud of the many students that have taken part.

In line with recent government guidance, the testing programme has moved to twice-weekly testing for students at home, including during the Easter holidays. This is so we can continue to stop the spread of the virus in our school.

Along with the other protective measures we have put in place to keep our school safe, regular testing will help to protect your child(ren) and the whole school community.

Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 do not show any symptoms and can spread the virus without knowing. This is why it’s so important to take a test even if you feel fine.

Please see below more information about the home-testing process. While testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage every student, and adults who live with them, to test at home, where possible.

Thank you for your support.

**Taking the test**

* All secondary school students will be offered Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests to take home.
* Students will need to take a test twice a week at home, every 3 or 4 days apart.
* Children aged 12 to 17 years of age can test themselves. Children 11 years and under must be tested by an adult.
* Instructions on how to self-swab and report the result is included with the test kit.
* Testing is voluntary and students will be able to attend school (if they have no symptoms) whether they take part in testing or not.
* LFD home tests should not be used if students have symptoms of coronavirus. These students should self- isolate immediately, get a PCR test, and follow national guidelines.

**Reporting the result**

* It takes 30 minutes to wait for a result once the test is completed.
* Students must [report the result online to NHS Test and Trace](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) right away. This needs to be done whether the result is negative, positive, or void (unclear).
* Results can also be given over the phone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines) - lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.
* Students will also need to report a positive result to the school.

**What if my child tests positive?**

* If your child’s LFD test at home is positive, they will need to self-isolate immediately and [get a PCR test](file:///\\fs1\staffhome$\njanes1.320\downloads\bit.ly\3cVqTAD) to confirm the result.
* At-home testing is very accurate, but a confirmatory PCR is still needed because, unlike in school, the test was done without supervision.
* If the PCR test result is also positive, students must continue to isolate for 10 days.
* Please let the school know if your child tests positive so we can record the absence, and make sure others are safe.

**What if my child tests negative?**

* If the LFD test is negative, students go back to school as usual but should still follow all coronavirus advice including regular handwashing and social distancing, and wearing a face covering where recommended.
* If the PCR test results is negative, students can stop self-isolating and go back to school.

**What if the result is not clear?**

* If the LFD test is unclear (void), students will need to do another test.

**What if my child is unable to take a test at home?**

* All students can choose to get tested at school under the supervision of a staff member if they are unable to test themselves.

**Twice-weekly testing for family members**

The home testing kits supplied by the school is for the use of students only. It is important that these are not used for anyone else.

Other family members, as well as those in their childcare or support bubble, can get twice-weekly testing in the following ways:

* [Get tested at a symptom-free testing site](file:///\\fs1\staffhome$\njanes1.320\downloads\bit.ly\3lBRfvo) across the borough - no need to book
* [Collect a home test kit](http://bit.ly/3qdquhE) from a test site (Community Collect)
* [Order a home test kit online](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) and have it delivered to your home

Please take advantage of this offer. Getting tested regularly helps to protect your family and keep schools open as safely as possible.

There is a step by step [video guide to Covid-19 self-testing](http://bit.ly/3toZbD0) and [instructions on how to self-test at home](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help) available on the government website.

You can also find more information on the [safety measures schools are putting place](file:///\\fs1\staffhome$\njanes1.320\downloads\bit.ly\2QwKDDg) to keep everyone safe on the council’s website.  
  
Students will receive a further home testing kit in the next few days which will cover the Easter holidays and beyond. If your child has not received her kit by next Wednesday 31st March, then she should collect one from the School Office.  
  
Thank you  
  
**Ms H Marriott  
Headteacher**