



15 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Testing and results using lateral flow device

Following the staggered return to school last week, I am pleased to confirm that all year groups are now back in school for face-to-face teaching, with each year group having completed two lateral flow tests and starting the third and final in-school testing round this week. Once again, I must acknowledge and thank the school testing and logistics teams who have been running the testing centre and ensuring that the process has been smooth. Particular thanks are due to our team of community volunteers who have freely given their time to support the school in this important work.

As a result of a positive test of a student in year 10, we have had to ask a number of students to self-isolate. Given that we have only just returned to school, I understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home, either after testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or because of being in close contact with someone who has tested positive. As ever, our decision making and action are in line with government and public health guidance which can be found [here](#).

Government guidance is that self-isolation is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and help protect our friends, family and our community. Around one in three people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms, and so finding and isolating these hidden cases quickly will help to stop outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

If your child has tested positive having been tested using a lateral flow device (LFD) test at school, they do not need a PCR confirmation because these tests are done in a supervised environment. Lateral flow device tests are at least 99.9% specific, meaning the likelihood of a false positive is extremely low – less than 1 in every 1,000. PCR testing will always carry a risk of producing false negatives. At the moment, carrying out LFD tests in supervised conditions and not carrying out confirmatory PCR testing means we capture the maximum possible number of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections during the initial return to school period.

Following their third in-school test, students will be given home testing kits. Mrs Foster has outlined the arrangements for home and recording tests [here](#). Please note, once your child starts testing at home using lateral flow tests, positive results must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment).

The progress of the national vaccination programme continues apace, and we can be optimistic that our communities are bearing down on the virus. However, we cannot be complacent. COVID continues to be a risk, especially in a busy place like a school. We will continue to take every possible measure to protect our student and staff, whilst continuing to provide the invaluable face to face support that our children need.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher