

Dear Parent/Carers

Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at college.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We are sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child from w/c March 15. Please make sure your child tests themselves twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before. **We are asking that students undertake tests Monday morning (or Sunday night if preferred) and Thursday morning (or Wednesday night if preferred).**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with school or college as well. This will be completed by clicking on the link <https://forms.gle/H3GJqvDCyKQ71fod6> and completing the Google Form, the data is restricted to college as we have a responsibility to track all results in line with government guidance.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) (www.gov.uk)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

After we break for the Easter holidays we need to continue reporting for the following six days. If your child **has symptoms and tests positive** you will need to inform us by ringing 07934429874. We will put a reminder of this number in the Newsflash.

Yours faithfully,



Lee Kilgour
Principal