

12th March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

Covid Testing

It has been fantastic this week to see our students return and we were doing very well with 87% of the student population having a first test and all negative results. Unfortunately a Year 10 student tested positive on the second test and I have therefore had to ask a number of Year 10s to self-isolate as a result. All the parents and carers of those students affected have been contacted separately. I am very grateful to the whole testing team for the smooth and efficient way the process has been run, to staff who have supervised students during the process and to the students themselves who have been patient and good humoured through the testing process.

Years 11 and 10 have now had 2 tests while the rest have had one. We will continue next week until all those who have consented have been tested 3 times. As students have their third test we will issue them with a pack of testing kits to take home and there are a number of resources attached with this letter which will hopefully help the home testing process. Students should do a test at home, supervised by yourselves, twice a week. The test needs to be registered with the NHS and the result recorded with them. We would also ask you to inform school of the result and we will send out a quick Forms link twice a week to upload results. I have suggested to school staff that they do the home tests on a Sunday and a Wednesday and think that might be a useful pattern for students – we will then send out the Forms links on the same days.

There is a video link to explain home testing at [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#)

Please see the following DfE guidance:

*“LFD tests taken on test sites, such as on school and college grounds, do not need a confirmatory PCR test. This is because these tests are done in a controlled environment and trained staff read the results. If a pupil or student receives a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it is positive, then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised following a positive result from an LFD test at a school or college test site. **If a parent was to do this and it returned a negative result, the policy remains that the pupil or student, their close contacts, and other members of their household must still self-isolate.**”*

All positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test. This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the pupil or student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (at home only) and a child can return to school.”

While there are a lot of logistical arrangements around the testing, students are now back in their normal classes and we want to focus on learning, identifying where we need to address any gaps from lockdown and moving forward in a way which is supportive and encouraging.

Year 11

Please remember to book your appointments for Year 11 Parents' Eve which will be next Thursday, March 18th from 4pm till 7pm on the school cloud system. The link to book is <https://carrhill.schoolcloud.co.uk>

Year 11 will begin a programme of assessments to provide evidence for their grades from as early as next week and all these assessments will be finished by the end of next half term.

We have still been given no guidance from the DfE on the date when Year 11 can finish school. I do sadly think it highly unlikely that we will be able to have a traditional prom this summer with the country only provisionally due to end restrictions on June 21st but we will look at other ways of marking the end of compulsory schooling and will consult with Year 11 about how we might do this.

Mobile Phones

Now that all students are back, normal school rules are in operation. All students are very aware that school policy is to confiscate mobile phones if these are seen and, during this time of pandemic, will be returned to the student at the end of school on Friday. It is very simple – if they don't want to lose their phones for a time, don't let them be seen.

Free School Meals over the Easter holiday

We will be ordering vouchers to the value of £30 for each student in receipt of free school meals and these will be sent out for the Easter holidays in the same way as they operated during lockdown.

With best wishes



Andrew Waller
Headteacher