



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

Thursday, 15th July 2021

Dear families,

RE: Summer and Autumn Lateral Flow Test (LFT) Arrangements

As you know, secondary schools have strongly encouraged engagement with lateral flow testing as an important way of reducing the risk of transmission.

We would like to thank those students who have participated in the programme and recommend that twice weekly testing goes on until the end of the summer term.

As part of the roadmap, UK Government recently announced the testing programme would be paused in secondary schools over the summer holiday and restarted when we re-open for the new academic year. During the summer, families can still order test kits at www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests or by collecting test kits from your local pharmacy. If you have difficulty accessing a test, please speak to reception in the College.

We are unsure about the coronavirus situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Current public health advice is for all secondary schools to restart testing on return in the autumn. Therefore, we expect to offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home. If your child is joining us in September, we strongly recommend for them to start testing on arrival in the autumn.

We are planning for students in new Year 7 and Year 11 to be tested for the first time on Thursday, 2nd September for return to college on Friday, 3rd September at 9am. The second test will take place during the course of Monday, 6th September.

Students in new Year 8, 9 and 10 will be tested for the first time on Friday, 3rd September for return to college on Monday, 6th September at 9am. The second test will take place during the course of Tuesday, 7th September.

Remote education will be provided on the days that students are not in school.

As with our previous testing arrangements, we will be asking families to consent and book their child's first test via our website and online booking system. This system is simple to use – more information will shortly be available at www.ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace.

Given positive cases look likely to continue rising, lateral flow testing is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

your child's mental wellbeing. UK Government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Testing twice weekly significantly helps us to stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and planning our response. The preparations we are currently undertaking are subject to further public health advice and the prevalence of coronavirus in the autumn. Whilst testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage participation - **all testing is free of charge.**

We will write to you soon with further information on how to consent and book your child's first test. We strongly encourage your child's participation.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College

