



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School ACHS: Graham Scott

Head of School WMS: Jonathan Souter



March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Home COVID tests

As I am sure you are aware, the [Government has recently announced](#) that all secondary aged students will be offered home tests to make the return to school as safe as possible. This is in addition to the 3 tests which have been offered to students 'on site'. We have now had the delivery of 'home test' kits and outline the details for their distribution and use below.

Testing students at home

Students will receive 2 boxes, each containing 3 tests, with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. This will provide enough tests for 3 weeks in the first instance (2 tests per week).

Test kits have been given to those students whose parents/carers indicated they were willing to test their son/daughter at home. If you did not reply to the original form and wish to receive a home test kit, please contact the School Office.

We would like students to take their tests on Sunday and Wednesday at a time convenient for you, we suggest in the evening. You will need to allow approximately 40 minutes to complete and report the test result. Students are not expected to take the test during the holiday, but will need to take a test on Sunday 11 April, prior to the returning to school on Tuesday 13 April. A second set of tests will be distributed after Easter.

Taking the test

Students should take the test as outlined above and in accordance with the information leaflet distributed with the home test pack. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). [Help and support is available](#), should it be needed.

This process does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive then you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately**, in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance, for 10 days. You need to report your result to both the [NHS Test and Trace](#) and to school and [order a confirmatory PCR test](#). You should continue to self-isolate until the result of the PCR test is returned. If the result is positive then you should continue to self-isolate for 10 days. If the result is negative, this overrides the LFD test taken at home and your child can return to school.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

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A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing and other reassures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the [NHS Test & Trace self-report website](#). You only need to inform school of a positive result.

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will still be able to attend school whether they take part in the testing or not. All staff and students (Year 7 and upwards) who attend a school setting are being strongly encouraged to take part, but this is entirely a parent/carer decision.

Please contact the School Office if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Barnes
Executive Headteacher

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