



Tuesday 16th March 2021

Dear Parents,

Parent Update Letter – Home Testing

You will be aware that all students have now completed their three COVID Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests in school. In line with Government guidelines, all our students will now be asked to test for coronavirus at home using testing kits provided by the school. The guidelines recommend that your child carries out twice weekly testing at home (3 to 4 days apart) before coming into school in the morning.

To support these timings, we are asking all students to test themselves at home every week on **Sunday evening** in preparation for attending school on Monday morning and **Wednesday evening**, in preparation for attending school on Thursday morning. All parents will receive a text on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons as a gentle reminder to ensure the tests are taken by students in good time. Please also bear in mind the requirement to **wait 30 minutes** for the test result, so it is suggested you make an allowance of 40 minutes to complete the test in full.

Students will receive two testing kits, each containing three tests. Please note, these tests are only for the use of the student, they should not be used by anyone else. Students will receive their first two testing kits in school on Tuesday 16th March.

Our asymptomatic testing programme does not replace current guidance for those with symptoms or those identified as a close contact of a positive case. Anyone with symptoms within the household whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS PCR test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their PCR test are known. Testing also does not replace basic preventative measures such as regular handwashing and social distancing.

You may find this YouTube clip useful to support your child in how to take the test: [YouTube clip](#)

Guidance on Results

Once your son/daughter has collected their test kit, ensure the instructions that come with the kit are closely followed. After 30 minutes, check the result. Please note that after 30 -minutes, the results are invalid.

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In the event of a **positive** LFD result, your child should self-isolate immediately and take a PCR test, following the current public health guidance. Please also let the school know immediately using enquiries@tarletonacademy.org .

You should then book a confirmatory PCR test and we would advise visiting a community or drive through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested. It is important that your child self-isolates until the result of the PCR test.

In the event of a **negative** LFD result, there is no need for your son/daughter to self-isolate. They can attend school as normal.

In the event of a **void** result, you will be required to take another LFD test. If you receive 2 void results in a row you should book a PCR test and self-isolate accordingly until the result of the PCR test has been confirmed.

Guidance on Reporting Results

There is a requirement that all results, whether negative, positive or void are reported to NHS Test and Trace. Parents are to use the link here: Report a [COVID-19 test result - GOV.UK](#) to do so.

We require students to share results, either void, positive or negative, with school to help with contact tracing. Please support them to do this. Students need to access the 'Tarleton Academy Student Portal' to report their results to school. We ask that parents ensure that they do this after each and every test. The student portal can be accessed [here](#) and students are familiar with accessing this platform regularly on their Chromebooks.

If positive, as already mentioned, please also let school know immediately using enquiries@tarletonacademy.org .

If you did not previously give consent for your son/daughter to be tested in school, but would like to supervise the taking of a test at home, please complete the school's consent form and your child will be provided with the testing kits. You can use the consent form link [here](#)

In the event of a **positive case**, the school will conduct robust track and trace procedures to identify any close contacts. Parents of close contact students will be contacted and asked to collect their child and isolate for 10 days accordingly.

If you have any further questions regarding the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us at enquiries@tarletonacademy.org .

Thank you in advance for your support in helping to keep everyone in school as safe as we can.

Yours sincerely,

M Cunniffe
Mr M Cunniffe
Head of School