



THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL
Aspiring & Achieving Together

HEADTEACHER: MR CARLTON BRAMWELL *BEd (Hons), MSc, NPQH*



12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware we have been offering all students up to 3 Lateral Flow Covid tests over the past 2 weeks, this was completed today. Can I take the opportunity to thank those who consented to their child being tested, this has helped them become more comfortable with the process and be able to confidently test at home.

As per Government guidelines, from Monday 15th March 2021, testing for all secondary students and staff will take place at home using self-testing equipment. We are aware and respectful that not all parents have consented to their child being tested in school but we have been asked to provide equipment to all children so they can test at home.

Each box will contain 3 individual testing kits which will replicate those used in school and will come with full instructions in the form of a separate booklet. The first 2 boxes will be issued next week, commencing Monday 15th March to cover weeks commencing 15th and 22nd March before Easter and week commencing 19th April after Easter. Further kits will be available when students return to school.

Please note, guidance states that students aged 11 should have their test administered by an adult, children 12 and above should self administer with adult supervision.

There is further supporting material available detailed below

- Youtube videos from the Department of Health and Social Care :
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>
- A Step by Step guide: Provided with your kits

Important: There are some actions you will need to take when administering tests at home:

- **You are legally obliged to report the result to NHS track and trace following instructions in the guide**
- **We request that you also share the result of your child's test with school using this google form link so that we can provide information requested to NHS track and Trace :**
<https://forms.gle/4yu6Gu8ENQvwq6zm7>

Additionally, previously if a pupil or student received a supervised school-based LFD test, as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it was positive then they and other members of their household must self-isolate. PCR testing is not advised if you have received 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.

However, 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 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.

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I would also like to make you aware that as a member of a household, childcare bubble of a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, you can get a twice-weekly test, full information on how to access these tests is available at the following link: **<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>**

I have been delighted with the levels of attendance and engagement we have seen in our first week back and your support with testing at home will help us keep as many students as possible at school by identifying potential positive cases and ensuring effective track, trace and isolation to protect our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Headteacher