



**THE WESTLEIGH SCHOOL**  
Aspiring & Achieving Together

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



25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Dear Parent/Carer**

You will probably be aware that we have experienced a number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within The Westleigh School over the past 2 weeks. Please be reassured that we have carried out a full risk assessment and identified all those who have been in close contact with the affected cases and have instructed that they stay at home and self-isolate until 10 days after their last contact and we appreciate your support in making this happen. Our Year 7 bubble is also currently closed as part of our controls. The majority of students **have not** been identified as a close contact and therefore you do not need to make any change to your child's usual routine, including them coming to The Westleigh School, unless you have received a communication from school advising otherwise.

### **Supervised Self-Test Project**

In addition to our current controls, and to minimise risk of transmission in school, we are taking part in a project run by the Department for Education and NHS Test and Trace to encourage participation in regular rapid testing amongst secondary school and college students.

Testing has been playing a vital role in the response to COVID-19. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country. That is why we would like all students at our school to take part in the project

Currently, we ask all students and those living with them or in their support bubble to take lateral flow device tests twice a week at home to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 and report the results themselves, with the assistance of their parents or carers. We also currently have the option for students to test on-site at school should they be unable to do so at home.

As part of this project, we are now going to ask students to take their next two tests at school. Students will be asked to self-swab and process the test (as they have been doing at home) in a designated area. A trained staff member will then monitor the test result as it develops (allowing the student to return to class). They will then read and report the result on the students' behalf. This is different to the previous Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) model where students self-swabbed and trained staff processed the test, as well as reading and reporting the result.

Testing in this way should make the process faster and easier for students compared to when they test and report themselves at home. It should also make it easier for trained staff to oversee the testing compared to the previous ATS model. This quicker process will encourage and support more students to participate in testing and report results, and continue to do so at home afterwards.

### **When will supervised self-testing start?**

We plan to start testing in this way from next week.

**If parents have already given consent for testing they don't need to do so again. If parents haven't previously given consent, they can do so now by completing the form via this link:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KA6k2TETM3CHbPoxc6b6DeI-aWxFy4erUPDv8S3Oyl/edit>

From next week students will be tested twice in school, and then provided with a new kit of tests to continue testing and reporting at home in line with the latest Government guidance: (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>)

### **What will happen if a student tests positive?**

As before, if a student has a positive test result, they will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the [stay-at-home guidance until they receive their confirmatory PCR test](#). They should inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts. Anyone who lives with them and anyone in their support bubble, should [self-isolate in accordance with current national and local guidance](#) and arrange to have a PCR test as soon as possible.

We will continue to manage and notify any close contacts of students with positive results. As a reminder, the most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If anyone in your household develops these symptoms, you whole household must remain at home and not go to work, school or public areas. You should arrange testing for the person who has developed symptoms. When the result is known further advice will be available.

Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

There are things we can all do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds;
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home;
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze;
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards;
- maintain an appropriate social distance with non-household members of over 2 metres.

Further information is available at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus).

We thank you for continued support as we work together to keep our community safe

Yours sincerely,



**Carlton Bramwell**  
Headteacher