

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to congratulate our students on the superb manner with which they have engaged with the Lateral Flow Testing which has been running in school. Students have been patient, mature and respectful when completing their tests and waiting in the test unit area. This positive attitude and high level of participation will have a significant impact on our ability to keep both our school and the wider local community safe.

Following on from in-school testing, all students will be sent home with a home testing kit. Home test kits will be issued to each and every student to ensure all families have the opportunity to access home testing for their son/daughter regardless of consent for in-school testing.

As you may be aware, the Government have shared their plans for all family members of school aged children to have the opportunity to perform a Lateral Flow Test twice a week at home. The rationale for this is to ensure as many people as possible, who may be asymptomatic, are testing for Covid-19. If a person tests positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days, even if they do not present with symptoms. This is a proactive measure to keep Covid-19 prevalence down and keep our local communities safe. As a school, we are providing home testing kits to all students for their personal use at home. If you wish to test other members of your family, please see the link below containing Government information on how to obtain a testing kit.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ca1c659b-95d6-490e-87c6-d6c09e85ecfb&utm_content=daily

Home test kits will be issued to students on the dates as outlined below:

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| Students who attended school/ completed testing during lockdown | Friday 12 March |
| Students who have completed 3 in school tests by Friday 12 March | Friday 12 March |
| All other Year 11 and 10 students | Tuesday 16 March |
| All other Year 9 and 8 students | Wednesday 17 March |
| All other Year 7 students | Thursday 18 March |

Students will also be issued with leaflets giving full details of how to complete and record home tests, digital copies of this information including a step by step guide have also been sent with this Parentmail. The timing of the home testing routine may be different for each family, however completing one of the two weekly tests prior to the return to school after the weekend will be particularly helpful in maximising the safety of our community. Any positive student test results should be reported to the school via the school portal link.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f3cbf08219cb4385ac5ac44fbfd066e1>

Should you have any questions regarding home testing or any other aspect of your son/daughter's school experience please contact their Tutor in the first instance. For the remainder of the Lent term Miss Whayman will be leading in school Tutor support for 7 Thurne and Mr Higgins for 9 Orwell.

With thanks for your continued support,

Pia Parker
Head of School