



**Where Pupils Achieve and Excel**  
Headteacher: Mrs T Price BA (Hons) MA Ed

TP/DM

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

In accordance with the latest DFE guidance and in response to the rising number of cases, we will be again be carrying out lateral flow tests when we return on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This will include all Y7 and Y8.

### **Symptomatic Testing in September**

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. When done as part of a testing regime, the LFD is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are the most contagious).

All secondary school students and staff should have the opportunity to receive 1 on-site LFD tests, on their return in January 2022. Parent consent is required and is available on ParentPay. If you have previously consented you do not need to re-consent, your previous permission will be carried forward. If you wish to give your consent and have not done so previously you will need to do so via parent pay. Please see the privacy notice on the school website.

**Testing will be carried out from 8.15am on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 please arrive in good time to get tested before registration.**

### **Why do pupils and students need to do 1 tests on site when they return in January ?**

Testing on return is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. Identifying positive cases on return in the autumn is important, given that most students will not be testing over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing.

Testing on site on return will also give new pupils and students the opportunity to get used to swabbing in a supervised environment before moving to twice weekly testing at home.

### **Is testing compulsory?**

Testing is voluntary, however, we would strongly encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. We have done amazingly well this year and this has been very much as a result of the co-operation between schools and families.

### **Positive Cases**

Staff and students with a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance. They will also need to take a confirmatory PCR test to check if they have COVID19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the student can return to school, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Close Contacts**

From September 2021, close contacts are identified via NHS Test and Trace rather than the school. Contacts will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. Children will no longer be required to self-isolate, if they are contacted as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead they will be advised to take a PCR test.

### **Home Testing**

Following the initial test on site, students will continue to collect their test at home kits and start testing at home, twice weekly throughout January.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Price  
Headteacher