

12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted to inform you that by the end of Monday 15th March 2021 all boys will have had had three lateral flow tests at school. I would like to thank you for your support as the boys returned and the boys themselves who have been hugely co-operative throughout the whole process, which means we were able to get boys back sooner than anticipated and complete the tests quicker than anticipated.

On Monday, all out-boarders will be given a home testing kit to take home and all weekly boarders will be given a home testing kit on Friday 19th March 2021. Full-time boarders will be given their home testing kit the first time that they return home.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in school, with the co-operation and support of you carrying out tests at home twice a week, every week for the foreseeable future, 3-4 days apart.

## Testing students at home

We would like all out-boarders to take their tests on Monday and Thursday mornings, so please make sure you have enough time to do the test before they come to school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You are required to tell the school office the result of each test by completing the Google form accessed using this link <https://forms.gle/eJd3M8WFZw55t5998>

Boarders will be tested at Brymore on a Wednesday evening and we ask that they are tested again on a Sunday evening or Monday morning **before** they return to Brymore. In all cases, if a result is positive then boys must be kept at home.

Tests are free of charge and students will receive two packs of three tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

## Taking the test

We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYlVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=1).

[Help and support is available](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results, and a video showing you how to take the test. To access this support please click on the link highlighted.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a [PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test%22%20/t%20%22_blank) and follow [national guidelines](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/%22%20/t%20%22_blank).

## What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive - you, your household and any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. Help can be found by clicking on the following link [national guidelines](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/) on self-isolation and testing

You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and ourselves by completing the Google form accessed using this link <https://forms.gle/eJd3M8WFZw55t5998>

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) if you are testing at home. Confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

**Negative and void results** should be reported to both [NHS Test & Trace](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and ourselves by completing the Google form accessed using this link <https://forms.gle/eJd3M8WFZw55t5998>

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

## Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all boys will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part as testing at home will allow your son and other boys to attend school as safely as possible. This is also a key strategy that allows us to offer all of the extra-curricular activities that we continue to put on for the boys.

We are also sending home a document produced by the Government (Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)) and a letter from the Assistant Director of Education, Partnerships and Skills at Somerset County Council, that I received this week, which explains how households are able to get free rapid lateral flow tests. I appreciate there is a lot of information within these documents so if you have questions or concerns about home testing, please contact our COVID Co-ordinator, Alison Wilkinson, in the school office 01278 652369, Option 0.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

MARK THOMAS

Headteacher