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Ref: AGi/LT

15 March 2021

Dear parents,

Thank you for completing the Lateral Flow Test Mass Testing survey. If you are one of the 95% of parents who provided your consent to get involved in the government's home testing programme via Lateral Flow Test (LFT) devices, this letter provides further information for the next steps, as we near the end of the in-school testing.

The home test kits have now arrived in school and will be distributed to students during form tutor period this week, following their final in-school tests. Years 10 & 11 will be issued on Wednesday, Years 7 & 9 on Thursday and Year 8 on Friday. There is a Test Kit register that students will sign to confirm receipt of the kit and a guidance booklet, which we are required on request to upload to the Department for Health and Social Care.

The first home test kit will include 3 tests and the first test should be carried out 3-5 days following the final ATS test in school and thereafter twice-weekly, 3-5 days apart, **including during the Easter holidays**. At least one additional kit will be issued to students before the Easter holidays

Make sure you have enough time to carry out the test and check the results before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going to school; however we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore tests can be taken the evening before school if needed.

By collecting and opening the test at home test kits you, as the parent, give medical consent and are legally committed to reporting your child's results via the NHS Test and Trace reporting system. This includes all test outcomes - Positive, Negative or Void.

- **Every test must be reported to the NHS** via <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or calling 119.
- **Every test must also be reported to the school**. This can be done via the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/pEy8pF1J9CBbzwjj8> (or calling Mrs Cummings, Attendance Officer on 01485 536123, if you are struggling with the online form)

These links are also available on the school website, under the Covid-19 Information area for your ease of access.

In the event of a positive test result:

- **In addition to completing the online forms, please telephone the absence line IMMEDIATELY**, on 01485 536123, so that we can begin the immediate work of contact-tracing any students and staff who have been in close contact with your child, and inform them of the need to isolate.
- If your child's LFT result is positive, you should book a PCR test at a local testing centre and your child and your household must isolate until the result is confirmed.

If the LFT result is void, a second test should be carried out. If the second test is also void, you should treat it like a positive result and a PCR test at a local test centre must be booked and your household must isolate while awaiting the results.

Following a positive PCR result, you must inform school immediately and your child must stay home and follow the NHS guidance, along with the rest of the household. If the PCR result is negative, your child may return to school as normal.



Help and support

An instructional video for completing the LFT and reporting the results can be found on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pXEOriDBJ4>

A copy of the 'Instructions for Use' booklet you will be issued when you collect your kit, is also enclosed with this letter. (You will need to ensure the correct version - with a plain blue cover, and dated 15 January 2021 v 1.3.2 on the last page of the printed instructions is used and NOT the old instructions inside the box of test kits. The new document replaces the instructions inside the box)



For ease, I have also attached an 'easy read' guide for quick reference and a 4-stage single page sheet to support during the process of testing.

The Covid Coordinator is Mrs Amanda Gibbins, Head of School.
The Covid Registration Assistant is Mrs Vanessa Cummings, Attendance Officer.

If you have an incident while testing at home (please see the 'How to Self-test at home' leaflet) please ensure that you contact Mrs Cummings directly to inform her (either attendance@smithdonhigh.org.uk or via her direct dial absence line phone number 01485 536123).

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Cummings.

The government has asked schools to share the following information:

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test kits to take at home, twice-weekly:

- *through your employer, if they offer testing to employees*
- *by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests*
- *by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most*

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Please note that the school can only supply test kits to the students and employees of the school, and not other family members. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

Some FAQs, regarding testing, are attached to this letter.

Thank you for taking the time to complete regular testing with your child, in so doing keeping your family safer, and continuing to support the school and the local community in our fight against this national pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Amanda Gibbins
Head of School

Some frequently asked questions - provided by the DHSC

What type of tests will be used?

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus.

The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms>

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The speed and convenience of the tests supports the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested.

The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives (less than 1 in 1000). They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance such as on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are 2 main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab
- Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests detect proteins called 'antigens' produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test

How will personal information and test results be shared?

When students take a Lateral Flow test, they need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that they need to share some information about the student.

They need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

- their name
- their test result
- the reference number on the test Kit

They will also need to tell the school their test result.

Under UK law, a child's school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the 'public interest'.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again.

When a person reports test results online, they are sharing information with DHSC, who may then share the information with a GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person's name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please see the detailed privacy notice attached.