

TLA / GPA

18th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Lateral Flow Device Tests and Moving to Home Testing

I am pleased to confirm that phase three of our in-school Lateral Flow Device testing is now complete and the vast majority of our students have undertaken three tests on site. We will be using tomorrow, Friday 19th March 2021, to finish off any remaining tests for students who have missed their allocated slot due to absence. At the time of writing, I am happy to report that all tests thus far have delivered a negative result, giving us the reassurance that we have been able to facilitate a safe and successful return to school for all students and staff.

However, this does not mean that we should become complacent. We continue to receive reports of positive cases within the wider community, and it is therefore important that safety measures and Covid rules continue to be followed at all times, both on and off site. Indeed, I am aware of more than one local school where significant numbers of Year 11 students have had to self-isolate following positive cases and this is absolutely the last thing that anyone needs, but this year group in particular, at this crucial time.

Regular testing of students and staff will be an ongoing part of the measures to protect our school community, and we have now received the first delivery of home testing kits for distribution. Students will only be issued with home testing kits if (1) they have completed three supervised LFD tests (in school or at a community test centre, and we have been informed) within a 14-day period and (2) we have your consent, which includes data sharing with NHS Test and Trace.

Students who meet the necessary criteria will be issued with two boxes, each containing 3 testing kits, (i.e. a total of six tests) to be used over the three weeks from when they begin home testing. Tests need to be taken twice a week, at 3 to 5-day intervals, so we will be issuing further kits during the last week of term to ensure that pupils have sufficient for the Easter break, as per Government guidance. We will be aiming to distribute these testing kits to Year 11 and Year 10 on Friday 19th March, and to other year groups from Monday 22nd March.

Please note the following important points:

- The instructions in the test kit are to be discarded and you are asked to follow the instructions in the leaflet handed out separately with the test kit.
- It is essential that both you and your son or daughter find time to watch the following short (8min) video clip to understand the process: [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#).
- Please avoid eating or drinking in the 30 minutes prior to testing. We recommend getting into the habit of taking the test before your evening meal.

Once you have completed the lateral flow test and have your result please upload to *TestRegister* by first following this link: www.TestRegister.co.uk/login and then entering your email address into the box shown on screen. It is important that you use the same email address as the one used to receive correspondence from the school.

This will then trigger an email to your email inbox, however we also recommend checking your 'junk' or 'spam' email folders, where there will be a time limited (two minutes) link to the test register account associated with your email address. You will then be able to input the lateral flow test result.

It is therefore important to have access to a device from which you can access your email. In addition, if the device has a camera this will enable fast scanning of the test kit QR code on the NHS system, although this is not essential as the code can be typed in.

The *TestRegister* has been introduced by many local authorities, including Essex, to ease the significant administrative burden of processing in excess of 2000 emails each week with details of test results for individual students. There are additional useful advantages, such as email reminders when your child(ren) are due to take their next test, the facility to monitor and distribute replacement testing kits, and automatic alerts in the event of a positive result.

Once you have submitted your child's test result via the *TestRegister*, the system will automatically direct you to the relevant NHS page where you are legally obliged to record the test results. If you experience any difficulties with the test kit, or have any queries regarding the home testing process, please email admin@alechunter.com.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our school community for your ongoing support with the testing process and I would like to pay tribute to all the students who have undertaken the in-school testing in a calm, mature and sensible manner. The volunteers who have supported this huge undertaking have not only done an amazing job themselves, but they have remarked to me how impressed they have been with the politeness and compliant attitudes of our young people, which is an absolute pleasure to hear.

Please stay safe and do contact us if we can assist in any way with the home testing arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T. Lawn
Headteacher