

To: all parents & carers

5 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We are so pleased to be able to welcome the students back to school next week. We have really missed having all the students in school and all the staff will be excited to see them again and support them in trying to ensure the knowledge and skills that they require for their next steps are secure and understood. Apologies if this repeats the comments from Mr Yassin and Ms Ricketts but we cannot emphasise how empty our school has felt without the majority of the students.

It will be a very crucial term for the exam groups in Years 11 and 13, and will give them an opportunity to complete valuable assessment pieces which will be used as part of the 'Teacher Assessed Grades' in the summer. Mr Yassin will be in touch soon with the details of how those grades will be calculated and which assessments will be used. We are also hoping to put in place some bridging modules to provide that valuable link between Year 11 and Sixth Form and to organise some intervention for other year groups as and when required.

As you may be aware, we have on our calendar a scheduled 'Year 10 and 11 revision event' next week on 11 March. Given the unexpected and disrupted start to the year, and the recent announcements regarding the awarding of Year 11 qualifications, we have decided that it would be best to separate this into two events, one for Year 11 focused on the next half term of schooling, and one for Year 10s looking at how best to prepare for Year 11. For this reason, we have decided to postpone the event until we have received more information from examination boards. Mr Yassin will advise you of the new dates for these events.

Please could Year 9 parents/carers ensure that option choices are made by next Friday, using this link https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=A4OLxq6_vUKwzakrubGI7PJU-7JXGr1NlpnAN5zltFnFUMDA0TVZVR1BRM0hNUk5ISk9HMUJJWE8zTy4u .

We will be in touch, if required, to arrange meetings with the students on their return to school.

I would like to thank the staff that have volunteered to complete the testing in school as this has been critical to ensure that we could return all year groups promptly on 8 March 2021. I would also like to thank you as parents/carers and the students who have supported this vital testing regime to try to keep our community safe. I have attached a letter from Norfolk County Council regarding this matter. They have also provided this video link for you to watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKUVVqVuUg>.

Both students and staff in secondary schools will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week at home following three tests in school. Staff and students must report their results to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and students should also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with the school to help with contact-tracing. We will be setting up a Forms link which will be sent out for you to complete and this will ensure we can use our track-and-trace process and, once a positive PCR is received, will ask students to self-isolate.

Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Adolescents aged 12 - 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary. Home testing children aged 11 attending a secondary school should be tested by an adult.

Staff or students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use protective measures. The home test kits will include instructions for testing and reporting results. Schools and colleges will retain their own small testing sites so that students who are unable to test themselves at home can still participate. The home test kits will be issued to students after their third test in school. They will need to sign for them and will then be expected to test themselves twice a week.

If your child tests positive, they will need to:

- self-isolate in line with the [stay at home guidance](#);
- [book a further test](#) (a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test) to confirm the result, if the test was done at home.

Testing is voluntary, and your child will not be tested unless they (if they are aged over 18) or you (or another parent or carer) have given informed consent. We strongly encourage you and your child to take part, to help us break chains of transmission and manage the virus. Your child will not be stopped from returning to school or college if you or they choose not to be tested and will return to face-to-face education in line with our arrangements. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should [book a free NHS test](#) and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

The following video explains how to complete the tests.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

The link below is a booklet with instructions for testing in a simple diagram format:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/956190/COVID-19-self-test-instructions-easy-read.pdf

The kits also contain an instruction leaflet for you to use.

We have had a very high response to our consent letters and are pleased to say that over 90% of the students have agreed to be tested and will receive testing kits.

Thank you again for your support at this challenging time. Please keep us informed if your child is struggling as we come out of lockdown, so we can be sensitive to their needs and provide the vital support necessary.

Yours faithfully



Ms C Dallas
Headteacher



4 March 2021

REGULAR TESTING OF HOUSEHOLDS OF SCHOOL PUPILS

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to you with information about a new national scheme which will enable households with a school-age child to access regular asymptomatic Covid-19 testing, and to encourage you to participate in this initiative. Any adults living in households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including their childcare and support bubbles, are now able to access free Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to take twice a week at home.

One in three people who test positive for Covid-19 do not have symptoms and so regular asymptomatic testing continues to be a vital part of our response to managing the virus. This new approach to household testing will also help to support the easing of restrictions set out by the Prime Minister last week, starting with the re-opening of schools and colleges from next week.

As children and young people return to the classroom, we need to be sure that potential Covid-19 cases are found as quickly as possible and that measures are put in place to prevent them from spreading throughout the school community. Although cases are declining generally, we all need to continue to play our part to keep the virus under control and ensure children and young people can remain in education.

LFTs (sometimes called Lateral Flow Device or LFD tests) detect cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning anyone who tests positive but who is not showing Covid-19 symptoms will be able to self-isolate immediately and reduce the likelihood of unknowingly spreading the virus further. You can access a free LFT in a number of ways, including through your employer if they offer testing to employees, at the District Asymptomatic Test Sites, by collecting a home LFT kit from a test site, or by ordering a home test kit online. More information about these options can be found here:

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

[Getting tested for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - Norfolk County Council](#)

[Symptom-free coronavirus testing - Norfolk County Council](#)



If you test positive following an LFT, you must inform your child's school or college and self-isolate along with the rest of your household. You will also be required to take a PCR Covid-19 test to confirm the result. If this happens, your child must remain at home with you during the isolation period and their school/college will provide access to remote education for them. There is support available if you are required to self-isolate, including financial support if you are unable to go out to work or work from home: [Support for those self-isolating](#)

If your LFT is negative, this means the test did not find signs of Covid-19. It is vital that, even in this instance, you continue to follow all Covid-19 guidance around handwashing, social-distancing and wearing a face covering if you can, where recommended.

This new regular testing approach for households is designed to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and support the successful return of more learners to face-to-face education. Testing is an additional measure, working in combination with other protective measures that are in place in schools and colleges to help protect students and staff. These measures together will help to support settings to remain a safe place to learn and work and ensure the learning of children and young people is not disrupted.

This new approach is for adults **only** and this includes a child's support bubble and childcare bubble. In addition to it, primary, secondary school and college staff are continuing to undertake regular testing. Secondary school and college pupils will also undertake regular testing which will be provided via their school or college. Primary school students are not being offered LFTs at this time, but parents and carers should access a PCR Covid-19 test for them via the national booking system if they develop symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support to our schools and colleges and the wider community.

Best wishes

Dr Louise Smith
Chief Officer of Health and Wellbeing
Public Health

Chris Snudden
Director of Learning and Inclusion
Children's Services