



Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Lateral Flow Device: Home Testing**

As you are aware, since your child's return to the academy during the week commencing the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, we have been testing those that have consented, in our asymptomatic testing centre using Lateral Flow Device tests. I would like to take this opportunity to express how impressed I have been with the maturity that they have approached, what must have been quite an anxious situation for many of them without you by their side. We are incredibly proud of them.

At the time that this letter will be sent out, all seven year groups will have been assessed at least twice, with Key Stage 4 and 5 having received their third and final test. Therefore, we are now able to refocus our attention on enabling our students to carry on testing but this time at home.

Thank you to those of you who were able to join me at the parents' forum yesterday evening which focused on home testing; I hope you found it informative. For those of you who were unable to join us I have outlined the key information below:

**What testing are we asking students to do?**

Students should conduct a test twice a week, 3-5 days apart.

**When and where will students get their test kits?**

We will start to issue home test kits directly to students on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 to begin testing from this date. Students should take their test on a Wednesday and Sunday morning. Testing should continue throughout the Easter holidays.

**How is a test taken?**

Before a test is taken you are required to read the privacy notice enclosed with this letter. Instructions on how to undertake a test are provided with the test kit. However, should you prefer a visual guide, a link to a series of short YouTube videos is provided below:

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

Testing and processing is very simple, all the equipment is provided and there is no mixing of chemicals. Students who are aged 11 should be tested by an adult. Students between 12-17 years may swab themselves but they should be supervised to ensure they conduct the test correctly.

Remember students will have already completed the swab part of the test three times, in school and will be well practised at doing this.

### **What do I need to do once my child has taken a test?**

By taking a test, you are obliged to report ALL results to both the NHS and the school. Please use the following links to report ALL results.

Once you have the result, you must record it as follows:

To the NHS:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

You need to do this, even if the result is negative.

To the academy:

We would appreciate it if you could also inform us for Track and Trace purposes, via email as follows:

- **Negative result:** [ParkerNegativeTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:ParkerNegativeTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk)

Simply put negative result, the date you tested and your DOB in the subject bar. There is no need for a full message.

- **Positive result:** [ParkerPositiveTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:ParkerPositiveTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk)

If your child tests positive, please also inform:

[Karen.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:Karen.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk)

[absent@e-act.org.uk](mailto:absent@e-act.org.uk)

### **What happens if my child tests positive?**

You must report the result as outlined above.

You will also need to book a PCR test.

If this comes back as **negative** your child can return to school.

If they are **positive** the family will need to self isolate at home, for the time stipulated in the Government guidance (currently 10 days).

You will also need to update [ParkerPositiveTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:ParkerPositiveTestResult@pkr.e-act.org.uk) and [Karen.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:Karen.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk) and [absent@e-act.org.uk](mailto:absent@e-act.org.uk)

### **Incident Reporting**

You should report any clinical incidents with testing to <https://coronavirusyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> Examples of clinical issues could include swab breaking in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reactions etc.

### **Is home testing compulsory?**

No. We will provide home test kits to all students that have returned consent forms. Those who are not participating in home testing must follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation and get tested if they show symptoms. You must still inform school so we are able to implement track and trace protocols to protect others.

### **Can other family members use the test kits?**

No. These kits are solely for use by the students.

### **Can these tests be used for symptomatic cases?**

No. These tests can only be used for asymptomatic purposes.

We would strongly encourage all students to participate in the home testing programme to enable us to take early action and to prevent further mass disruption of the education provision.

Should you have any further questions around home testing please do not hesitate to get in touch ([andrea.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk](mailto:andrea.white@pkr.e-act.org.uk)).

Yours sincerely

Andrea White

Deputy Head