

11 March 2021

Dear Parent

COVID-19 Home Testing for Pupils

Many thanks indeed for your support with the three LFTs that your son is undergoing. The boys have been brilliant. Once your son has completed his third LFT he will be issued with Lateral Flow Device home testing kits.

We will be looking to test all students using Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow students to work in as safe an environment as possible. By testing we will help to reduce the spread of the virus in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those in our setting to be tested. It is not mandatory.

Testing using lateral flow device (LFD) tests

LFD tests have been widely and successfully used to detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals. No test is perfect, but the speed and convenience of LFD tests supports detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals who would not otherwise be tested. They are clinically approved and are crucial in the fight against the virus. As the tests are more sensitive with higher viral loads, there is a risk of returning a negative result when viral loads are low (for example, in the early stages of infection). This is why Public Health England recommends two LFD tests 3 to 5 days apart, to enhance detection by picking up any cases which were not detected during the first test and to catch any new infections.

If you test positive using an LFD, it is likely that you are infectious at that moment, whereas people testing positive on a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or lab-processed test could be in the less infectious early or late stages of disease. This means that by using the lateral flow test we can identify people with a high viral load who are the most likely to spread the virus further. A negative LFD result should not be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – LFD is an additional tool that contributes to reducing risk.

Testing of students

Once pupils have completed their third test they will now be able to conduct their tests at home and will be asked to continue testing every week.

Your son will be issued with LFD test kits from his Form Tutor, which enables self-testing at home. He will need to sign for the packs. He should conduct the test twice a week on a **Sunday and Wednesday before 6pm**. This timing will allow the school to take action before the following day. The LFDs supplied do not require laboratory processing and provide a quick result in around 30 minutes. Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is contained in the 'Instructions for Use' leaflet which comes with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to administer the test [here](#).

Due to the timing of in school tests for **Year 13** they will do their home testing on Tuesday and Saturday next week and will then join the usual whole school testing days on Wednesday (24 March) and Sunday (28 March) moving forward.

Reporting results

Your son will need to report his result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online [here](#) or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. **He will also need to report the test result on the School's register [here](#).**

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Registered No.

- If it is a positive result:
 - please contact attendance@rgshw.com
 - self-isolate, including household members, and book a PCR test. Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
 - School will commence close contact tracing
- If it is a void result
 - repeat the test
 - **if the repeat test is void, then treat and record as a positive result** and follow the instructions above
 - if the repeat test is negative, then treat and record as a negative result
- If it is a negative result:
 - continue as usual, provided you remain asymptomatic

Tests are free of charge and will be provided by the School. **It is important that tests assigned to you are not used by anyone else.**

Consent/Privacy

Once you/your son have/has understood the testing process and have/has read the [privacy notice](#), if he chooses to participate, he is committing to self-administer the test and report his results (whether positive, negative, or void) via the NHS Test & Trace digital platform and to School.

Testing is voluntary. Students who decline to participate can still attend school if not symptomatic. If they begin to show symptoms, they should get tested and follow the usual national guidelines on self-isolation.

Please always refer to the Coronavirus page of the School website [here](#) for the most up-to-date information and the link to the form to record your son's Lateral Flow test.

We will support our students throughout this process but do let us know if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Alex Wallace
Deputy Headmaster