

12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: KS3 Students [Y7 & Y8]

Early next week, your child will have completed the 3 Lateral Flow tests with us and the home testing kits will be distributed so they can continue testing at home.

Your child has been exceptionally mature in how they have approached testing and is now confident with the process. The home testing kits give parents the opportunity to test and receive a result at home, as explained in the step-by-step guide accompanying the pack. As staff, we are using the same testing kits, so if you have a question please contact the school office for advice.

How often will students need to test?

The Government has requested they test twice weekly and with a 3 – 5 day interval between tests. Staff at school test on the weekend and on a Wednesday and we would recommend following this pattern. However, we are aware this may not fit with your home arrangements.

What do I do with the results?

Please log your results with the Government – **Page 15** of the guidance explains that you need to visit www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Any problems, please contact the school office for advice.

What if it is a positive test?

Page 16 explains what happens in detail if you get a positive result. You will be required to self-isolate as a family, seek a test at an official Covid-19 testing centre and inform the school. Please use the dedicated email: covid@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk or telephone the school office 01763 271446. We will then contact Public Health England to seek their advice about how to respond and whether other children need to self-isolate.

What if I choose not to do this?

This is your choice it is not compulsory, however, so far almost all children have participated and their feedback is that once getting used to it, they feel they are helping and it makes them feel a little safer. We would like to encourage you to continue.

We have received enough tests for the next three weeks and although we anticipate further deliveries, this has not yet been confirmed.

What will the students be told when we distribute the tests?

We will explain that they are now in charge of their testing, with a parent or carer to support with the processing of the test. We will remind them that this equipment is not a toy, and we expect them to wait until they get home to look at the pack with their family. Opening the testing kit on the journey home could lead to the kit being invalidated or parts being lost. We will make it clear that you will expect to receive an unopened pack.

Thank for your support in helping to manage such an unusual time, your children have shown phenomenal resilience throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

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