

22.03.21

Dear Parents/Carers

By the end of this week we will have offered three lateral flow tests to all students at Westfield Academy. This fulfils the government request to assist a safe return to school for all children. The government guidance recommends that, following the school administered tests, all students should be tested twice a week at home, and we have received a sufficient supply of home test kits to facilitate this.

Testing students at home

All students will be given home test kits (enough to cover the Easter holidays) from school during their third test. (Students who haven't done the tests will also be given home test kits.)

We would like them to take their tests before school on Mondays and Thursdays. Please note that if you have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) and have received confirmation of this via a PCR test, you should recommence home testing 90 days after your PCR test was taken. You will need to be responsible for tracking the date at which the retesting should start.

Tests are free of charge

Students will receive the allocated packs of 3 tests in a box after they are tested this week. Each pack includes a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to school. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed.

Taking the test

We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test here. [Click link](#)

Help and support is available , including instructions in different languages on how to test and

report the results and a video showing you how to take the test. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste). This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate **immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.**

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests positive; you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both the NHS Test and Trace and us here at Westfield. You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home. If the result of the test is unclear (void) you should do another test. Negative and void results should be reported to both the NHS Test & Trace and Westfield. A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

Why take part

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. However, I would strongly encourage all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Tim Body

Headteacher