

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Covid 19 – Home Testing**

Thank you for all of your support to date in helping us get students ready to return to school. Those students that have taken part in the mass testing have demonstrated a maturity level beyond their years.

As you will be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) are providing schools with Coronavirus home testing kits to pass on to all students who would like to use these tests at home. Whilst the DfE has outlined to us their preference for students to complete three tests at school prior to home testing, any student is able to collect a home testing kit, should you wish for them to be part of this next phase of testing.

Participation in the testing by staff and pupils is entirely voluntary, but we consider it to be an important tool in helping to keep our school community safe.

Useful information about what the tests involve can be found here:

[Youtube video](#)

We have also attached a privacy notice with this letter, which explains how the data provided by participants and their families will be used.

If you wish your son/daughter to take part in home testing, please say Yes via this link <http://bit.ly/HomeCovidTesting> before 5pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, and we will arrange for them to be issued with their first set of tests on **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. They will need to sign for their tests when they collect them.

**Testing should then be carried out every Monday and Thursday morning before school, starting from 15<sup>th</sup> March.**

Please note that all test results **must** be reported to NHS Test and Trace (following the instructions that will be issued with the kit) without delay, even if the result is negative or void. We will send regular reminders to those who opt in to testing, to report their results.

We are unable to access the online service to view the results that have been uploaded, so would ask that, in the event of a positive result, you alert us immediately by emailing [covidpositive@watling.academy](mailto:covidpositive@watling.academy) and /or calling 01908 794094. This will enable us to carry out contact tracing within school, as necessary.

The DfE and Public Health England have given schools clear guidelines regarding home testing and these instructions are on an additional sheet which will be distributed with the kits. This includes firm guidance that parents must carry out the test on their child if they are aged 11 years or younger (they must not self-administer). We appreciate that this difference between school and home testing may cause some confusion.

You may have read in the news that family members of school aged children are eligible to participate in home testing. Please note that these kits are issued via a separate process, which you can find out more about here:

[Schools and colleges testing: Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-and-colleges-testing-order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-home-test-kits)

The kits issued to pupils are tightly controlled and should not be used to test family members.

If you have any questions or concerns about this next phase of the testing process, please do not hesitate to contact us via [admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy)

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr I Bacon  
Head of School