Dear [Parent],

Over the past two months we have encouraged staff and students to take the opportunity to test twice weekly at home for Covid-19. This is one of the numerous safety measures that have contributed to the school being as safe and low risk as possible over this time. It has been encouraging to see that a large portion of the college community have continued to opt into completing the home tests twice weekly and as restrictions ease we continue to highly encourage students to complete these tests and report their results to keep reducing risk.

Please find below some key reminders and information about the distribution of further test kits prior to half-term.

## Testing students at home

* Please note that home testing is voluntary and the taking of the test itself is giving consent.
* Further home test kits will be distributed over the next fortnight during tutor time.
* We continue to suggest that students complete their twice weekly tests on a Sunday and Wednesday evening.
* You must communicate the result of each test by reporting to both [NHS Test & Trace](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) and [school.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6RhkhoHBGky_bXW7Pm1P5RFRh3rbTC9Coh3TB37rRwZURFNCNUJEWlJRQzJIMTNRNDM0RUNRRjkxTS4u)
* Tests are free of charge. Students will receive **two packs of 7 tests** and this should support students up until the end of the school year.
* If your child requires a new instructions leaflet on how to take the test and report the results then please ask them to head to reception. Likewise if your child runs out of test kits then please ask them to head to reception.
* This **does not replace** symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a [PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test%22%20/t%20%22_blank) and follow current [national guidelines](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/%22%20/t%20%22_blank).
* Find below a reminder about the process if your child were to test positive and a reminder regarding how data is handled.

We appreciate your continued support and diligence to ensure that Witchford remains a safe and low risk environment for all members of the community.

Many thanks,

Nick Harrison

Assistant Headteacher

## 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 should [order a confirmatory PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). If this returns negative then this would override the initial LFD negative result and your child would be permitted to return to college after confirmation of a negative test.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

**Negative and void results** should be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and school.

## How will personal information and test results be shared?

When your child takes a Lateral Flow test, you need to report the result. This is so that their test result can be traced, which means that you need to share some information about your child.

You need to tell the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC):

● your child’s name

● your child’s test result

● the reference number on the test Kit

You will also need to tell your child’s school or college their test result.

Under UK law, your child’s school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the ‘public interest’. This means that your child’s data helps us to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep your children in school. For example, we will tell your child to self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

Schools and colleges will only share information with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) if the test kits used are found to be faulty. If this happens, DHSC will use our information to contact people who used the faulty tests, so that they can be tested again. This will ensure that testing is accurate and helps keep us all safe.

When you report test results online, you are sharing information with DHSC. They may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer your family health services and guidance if your child needs to self-isolate. They might also use your child’s data anonymously (without their name or contact information) to research COVID-19, and improve our understanding of the virus.

For more information on how personal data is used for testing please find the detailed privacy notice on the college website under the re-opening tab.