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Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Voluntary Lateral Flow Testing – At Home

The next phase of the Government's Lateral Flow Testing programme is for secondary age students to be tested at home. These tests are completely voluntary. Currently, the advice is that those aged 11 should be tested by their parent or carer and those aged 12 and over can test themselves with parental guidance. Below are the guidelines from the Government.

### Students Testing at Home

The test kits have been delivered and will be labelled and sent home via your child/children next Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Each student will receive two boxes with 3 tests in each. This is enough for 3 weeks of testing, after this another batch of test kits will be issued to your child/children on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April so there are sufficient supplies for the Easter holidays. The Government recommendation is that students test before school two days a week, we would suggest Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday morning. Please remember to allow enough time to report the results to the Government website and also the school recording system – via an Edulink survey (more details below)

### Taking the Test

An NHS Track & Trace information leaflet about how to take the tests will also be sent home, however, information on how to test can also be found on the attached information sheet that we have put together along with a link to set of NHS Track & Trace YouTube videos. We hope the information supplied will answer any questions that you may have. We are advising that the home tests are performed as per the instructions including the throat swab & one nostril. For those that can't or don't want to throat swab the guidance is to then swab both nostrils.

**For anyone that has had Covid-19 in the past three months the Government guidance is that Lateral Flow testing is not required. However, we will be distributing them to every student for ease. If your child has had Covid-19 in the last few months, please check the Government guidance and keep hold of the kits for future use.**

### 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 [NHS Test and Trace](#) and your school.

You should [order a confirmatory PCR test](#) if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at School/college).





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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](#) & the school.

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.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

### How to report the test results

Once the test has been performed the results need to be uploaded as follows:

- To the Government website – as per the instructions in the box
- To the school results database via Edulink survey as follows:

Login to Edulink using your parent login details, do not use your child/children's login details. If you don't know your Edulink login details, please email [IT@downlands.org](mailto:IT@downlands.org) who will send them to you.

- Login to Edulink – using Parent login details
- Click on 'Surveys'
- Two surveys will be released weekly e.g.
  - w/c 22 March – Test One
  - w/c 22 March – Test Two
- Please click on 'Test One' to report the first test and 'Test Two' to report the second test.
- Scroll down to complete the form
- We will release two surveys each week using the same format.

The first set of test kits that are sent home have been labelled by the school. This is so we can keep track of any 'lost' boxes. Going forward, we propose that students will name their own testing kits when they are given them in tutor time.

Students will be given the responsibility to bring the kits home and to behave responsibly with them once they are given the kit.





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We thank all our students, parents & carers for their patience at this time, as you can understand we are still learning and guidance changes quickly. Our guidance is up to date at the time of writing.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Davies'.

**Rob Davies**  
Deputy Headteacher

**Documents included**

How to Guide for Lateral Flow Testing

Privacy Notice

