



Our reference: CTALET2/LH

14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Re: TWICE WEEKLY LATERAL FLOW TESTING**

Following on from my letter sent to you last Friday, I wanted to take a further opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of twice weekly testing for students at home using the free Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing kits.

LFD testing is a very important tool in keeping the school community safe and ensuring that attendance remains high for the majority of students. The test kit is very effective in identifying any asymptomatic cases and therefore mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As always, we follow the advice sent out by the Department for Education and Public Health England. Thankfully, most restrictions have been lifted, but we should all continue to do whatever we can to keep each other safe. Testing on Wednesdays and Sundays has already successfully identified a very small number of asymptomatic students, which in turn has allowed the students to self-isolate and therefore protect others.

In school, we are still encouraging students to sanitise/wash their hands as often possible, not to share equipment, we are keeping classroom doors and windows open to ensure good ventilation and we have been fortunate enough, so far, with the weather that students have been able to spend their social times outside in the fresh air. These have all been important contributing factors in keeping cases within school to a minimum.

If your child does show any of the main symptoms, please organise a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if they have coronavirus and they should stay at home until the result is received, even if the symptoms are mild. The main symptoms are below, but these are just three of the possible symptoms, and you should be vigilant to other possible signs and always follow up with a test if you have any concerns:

- a high temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (there is no need to measure the temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if a cough is usual, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this may mean unable to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

As ever, keeping the school community safe is only possible with your support and I would like to thank you for continuing to persevere with the twice weekly home testing and recording the results via Test Register.

Yours sincerely

*Chris Taylor*

C TAYLOR  
Head of School