

16th March 2021

Dear parent/carers,

First of all, a huge thank you for your support with the lateral flow testing process. At the end of today, we will be two thirds of the way through the three test per student process, and as a result will have completed around 2350 lateral flow tests. The students have been highly mature, responsible and shown a great deal of respect to the staff overseeing the process; please pass on my sincere thanks to them for their attitude.

From tomorrow (Wednesday 17th March), we will be beginning the third and final round of in school testing. The students will have their tests on the following days:

- Wednesday – Year 11 (morning) and Sixth Form (afternoon)
- Thursday – Year 10
- Friday – Year 9

Upon completion of their third test, student will be given their home testing kit. Each kit contains **three** tests. We believe this has been done so there are two for the week, plus a spare in case a test returns void. At present, we have only had delivery of one home kit per student, and are awaiting more arriving. You are also able to order your own home test kits at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

For students whose parents did not consent to in school testing, but did consent to at home testing, kits can be collected at the following times on Friday:

- Year 9 – break time in bubble social areas
- Year 10 – lunchtime at the pastoral office
- Year 11 – end of the school day at the pastoral office
- Sixth Form – any time from the Sixth Form building

There will be a leaflet with each home testing kit that gives a step-by-step guide for the home test process and how to record results, as well as a video that we will produce and post on our YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfVE59Hr65BE_cNWOaW9Pnw) on Friday.



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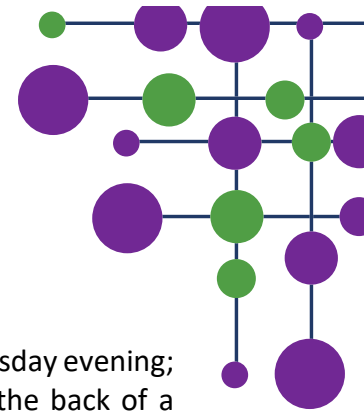
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Our guidance is for students to complete these tests on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening; we think this is a sensible approach, ensuring students arrive each Monday on the back of a negative test, and then test again mid-week after being in contact with their peers in school. Please ensure any Positive test results are emailed to us at shelley.covid19@sharemat.co.uk so that we can use this information to support our track and trace process in the event of any Positive results. Please simply put in the email subject header: **Student Name, Year Group, Form, test result**. There is then no need to type into the main body of the email. You do not need to inform us of a negative result. If the result is void, please use the spare test to retest your son/daughter.

Again, a huge thank you for your continued support. I don't think anyone (parents, students or staff) ever could have imagined what we would have had to deal with in the past 12 months, but the way everyone has helped each other has been an amazing effort.

Kind regards

Greg Wadsworth
Vice Principal