

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent,

### Lateral Flow Testing at home

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

I am pleased to tell you that the COVID-19 asymptomatic testing of secondary phase students in the first two weeks of our return to Hadley has gone very well.

My thanks to all those parents who gave consent for your children to take part. Your support has meant that hundreds of children engaged very responsibly with the COVID testing process, enabling Hadley to be an even safer place to learn and work.

As outlined in my previous letter, we have now reached the second stage of the testing where all secondary aged children are being supplied with Lateral Flow Test kits to take a test at home, twice a week.

Today your child will be supplied with test kits to self-swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Students must report their result at home to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit.

At Hadley we encourage staff and students to share any positive results with us as soon as possible to help with contact tracing.

- Students aged 11 attending a secondary school can take the test themselves or with the support of an adult.
- Students aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.
- Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed.

Studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, show that the tests are accurate in identifying a case. The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

As with the testing at school, testing at home is voluntary but strongly encouraged as it provides additional confidence to the whole school community.

If you have already consented to your young person taking lateral flow tests, you will not need to do so again. If you and your child did not consent previously but would now like to opt-in to taking flow tests at home, please let us know by contacting us [academyoffice@oasishadley.org](mailto:academyoffice@oasishadley.org). Please also visit <https://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/covid> to read the information on consent and our privacy notice.

### **A positive test**

Should a student receive a positive test at home:

1. Do not come to school. Report your test result to NHS Test and Trace as per instructions in the home test kit.
2. We would also strongly encourage you to share the result with us at school immediately so that we can conduct contact tracing. Please let us know by calling 0208 804 6946 or by emailing [academyoffice@oasishadley.org](mailto:academyoffice@oasishadley.org).
3. Begin self-isolation and arrange a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local testing sites) on the same day by calling 119 to book a follow-up test. Remember to minimise any contact with others.
4. Once you have had the further test, continue to self-isolate while you await your result.
5. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate for the full 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. If you receive a negative test, you may return to school as normal.

### **A negative test, or an inconclusive test**

Should a student receive a negative test they should attend school as normal. A small number may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at home is for people with no symptoms. If your young person develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

### **Households and bubbles of pupils and students**

The government has also announced that households and childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary-age students and college students are also eligible to request lateral flow tests at home.

Tests are available through employers, at a local test site, by collecting a home test kit from a test site, and by ordering a home test kit online. You can find out more by clicking here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff> or by searching 'Households of students flow tests.'

Thank you for your continued support of the academy, and for supporting your child to complete their lateral flow tests regularly at home, to minimise the risk for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Zoë Thompson  
Principal