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Dear parents, carers and students of years 10 to 13,

Further to Mr Evans' letter earlier today I would like to give you more details of how the testing will work.

### **What tests are we using?**

All secondary schools have been equipped with Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs – more information [here](#)), designed to pick up those people with the virus that do not have symptoms. They give a rapid result within 30 minutes and should be used 3-5 days apart.

They should not be used if you have had a positive test in the last 12 weeks. If that is the case then please do not book an appointment.

### **How do I book?**

Please log onto the [parent's evening booking system](#) to make your appointments as follows:

Test One **Thursday 4th** (from 12.00-19.00) **or Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** (from 9.00-15.00), open to all year groups

Test Two **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** (from 12.00 to 19.00) open mainly to years 10-13

Should you also have children in years 7, 8 or 9 in your household, you are welcome to make a Test Two appointment for them also on this day. This is to help families with transport issues. Key stage 3 students without older siblings will be tested on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Test three for your year groups will take place in school on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March during one of the timetabled lessons so there is no need to book in a time this test.

### **What happens once I'm in school?**

Students should put on their mask and make their way to the PE studio from the field end of the main car park. Any accompanying parent should wait in their car in the main car park.

We expect the process to take between 15 to 20 minutes.



### How will I get the results?

We will contact you via phone if the test result is positive or void, this may be up to an hour after the appointment time; beyond that time you can assume the test was negative.

**Positive** The student must self-isolate immediately, and for the next 10 full days to prevent further spread of the virus. Household members and other 'close contacts' must also self-isolate (more information [here](#)). Previous government guidance required a confirmatory PCR test; this is necessary for the home tests, but not for those tests done in school.

**Void** This is very unlikely, however the test will need to be completed again.

**Negative** A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. The student does not usually need to self-isolate; but this **does not guarantee** they do not have coronavirus, so must keep following all social distancing advice.

### Do I need to fill in any forms?

We do require parental consent before testing. By using our online system to book a test you are confirming your consent for your child to be tested and the results shared with track and trace, so please read the attached privacy notice carefully before booking your slot.

The testing process is not compulsory, students will still be allowed into school without being tested, but we advise and would hope all parents and students will see the benefits of taking the test before returning to lessons.

Normal lessons will resume for Y10-13 on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to welcoming students back into classrooms then.

Yours sincerely



Roger Eckersley

Assistant Headteacher