COVID 19 Testing in School

As you may be aware the Government is encouraging all secondary schools to initiate a programme of regular testing for those underline without coronavirus symptoms using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests.'

Along with the other protective measures we have in place, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. The test is voluntary and consent is required, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

Students will be offered three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) rapid tests spaced three to five days apart. Trained staff will supervise those taking the test. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Positive results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual test subjects or their parents / carers (for children under 16).

What if a student or member of staff tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually.

Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Staff and student will need to self-isolate as well as any close contacts.

Staff and students will **not** need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites).

What happens if the test is negative?

The member of staff or student will be able to return to school and resume their activities as normal. Test subjects will only be told if the result of a 'lateral flow' test is positive, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of individuals may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a member of staff or student develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If a member of staff or student 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**. Please advise the school if the test is positive.