18th March 2021

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parent/Carers

RE: Lateral Flow Testing – Home Tests

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Thank you for your support over the last few weeks with regards to getting students back into school and for your understanding and patience around the arrangements for the Lateral Flow Testing of students.

As you will be aware from the Government's announcements with regards to Lateral Flow Testing to support schools to reopen, the initial stage of the plan was for schools to test students 3 times on site. As of Friday 19th March, all students will have had access to those 3 tests in the Academy, and we will then be moving to students testing at home.

Following Government advice students should complete 2 tests per week. To support a routine with this at home, we **recommend that tests should be carried out on Sunday and Wednesday each week** to ensure the testing is as effective as possible.

In order for you to be able to support your children with this task while at home, we have included a link to a video below that takes you step-by-step through the testing process to ensure they are completed accurately. Alternatively, included in the test pack is also an instruction leaflet with clear guidance as well.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7IwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ

Test kits containing 3 home tests will be distributed to students on Thursday and Friday this week, and this will happen on a weekly basis to ensure a consistent flow of tests to enable students to complete regularly at home.

Also contained within the instruction booklet is the information regarding how to register your test at home; this is very important as this information will feed into the national efforts to track and trace cases. If the test you complete with your child at home results in a positive result, it is imperative you inform the Academy at the following email address so that we are able to inform close contacts who may need to isolate. This will be carried out confidentially without sharing the details of who the positive case is. Please communicate any positive results using the following email address:

bacovidreporting@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

- Any positive result from a home test means that the students and members of the household should begin a 10-day period of isolation from the date of the positive test.

- Following a positive Lateral Flow Test, you should seek to book your child a PCR test either online or by phoning 119.
- If this test results in a negative, then your child is free to return to the Academy; however, if this test results in a positive then your child and the household must continue to isolate.

During the Easter break it is also important for students to continue the testing schedule; following advice from the local authority staff, students, parents and carers only need to inform the Academy of a positive case where they developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. This means that we would urge parents and carers to inform us of any positive cases identified up until the end of Saturday 3rd April.

Please use the following email address to report and positive cases until this point:

bacovidreporting@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

Any positive results after this point should be communicated through the normal track and trace route only which will happen automatically when the test and result are registered.

Thank you for your cooperation with all of these matters, we appreciate this is a difficult time for families and your support is invaluable in keeping our Academy community as safe as we can.

Yours faithfully

Jennie Best

UKAT Executive Principal

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