

15 March 2021

Dear Parents

Home Tests

Today, Year 7 will complete their third lateral flow test with all other year groups completing the third test by Thursday. At the time of the third test we shall give students their home test kits, these contain enough equipment for three tests. The test should be completed twice a week and therefore in form time every Monday from next week, students will be issued a new test kit. Test kits will only be provided to those who have consented to the test procedure. Over Easter, providing we have been supplied with sufficient kits, we shall equip students with enough to last for the entire holiday.

May I ask that the tests, wherever possible, are completed twice a week on a **Thursday** and **Sunday** evening. This allows us to concentrate on checking emails for positive tests on just two days a week and allows us to timetable staff to deal with the consequences of positive results. Positive results at home on the Lateral Flow Test should be confirmed by a PCR test before full isolation begins, however please keep students off from school while awaiting the result of the PCR test. If the PCR test comes back negative the students will be fine to return to school, if positive, isolation should be for 10 days from the date of the Lateral Flow Test result.

We would appreciate if parents would inform us if they have a positive result or they choose to stop undertaking the tests. Emails should be sent to fyarnold@knoleacademy.org. We do not need to know of negative results, although all test results should be uploaded to NHS Test and Trace.

May I remind parents that they should still be observant of the common signs of Covid-19: high temperature, persistent cough, loss of smell or taste. Please do not be wholly reliant on the lateral flow tests for the detection, they are another tool for detection and do not replace the observant behaviour that we became accustomed to before Christmas.

Thursday 18 March, Free School Meals

With the early finish to school on Thursday to accommodate the Year 9 parents' evening, students on Free School Meals should pick up their lunch from the dining room at break time.

Finally

It was lovely to see the students back in school last week and it immediately felt like a level of normality had returned. I need to commend the way that students have adapted to the testing regimen and the wearing of masks in classrooms. I hope we shall soon be able to dispense with these measures and further normality may return.

Best wishes



David Collins
Headteacher