

19 March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Weekly update to parents and carers

We have reached a significant milestone this week. As I write this letter to you it is exactly one year since the first national lockdown was announced and the 'stay at home' order by the government was announced. It was near impossible to predict what the year would bring.

This week we have completed the on-site COVID-19 testing of all students three times since the staggered return to school starting on 8 March. We have had a fantastic testing team who have ensured that your child has completed the test safely and accurately. You will be able to see our public thanks to them on our Facebook page later today.

I want to commend the attitude of students in taking part so sensibly in the last two weeks of testing. It is highly reassuring that having completed nearly 2,000 tests in the last two weeks we have had no positive cases in school.

We now move to the next phase of home testing. Students are asked to complete testing at home twice each week – once on a Sunday and once on a Wednesday evening. The full details are given on the next page of this letter.

I appreciate your support in ensuring your child completes the tests and that the reporting of the outcome, whether positive or negative, is completed also. The full details are in this letter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

SELF-TESTING FOR COVID

When will my child receive their self-testing kit?

Students will be given a self-testing kit by their Form Tutor on Friday. The kit contains three lateral flow tests. The school will issue additional kits to students on a regular basis.

How will my child know how to use the kit?

The home testing kit contains all the guidance you need to complete the test. In addition, Science teachers have demonstrated the process to students in lessons this week. A helpful guide to the testing process can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo>

How often should my child self-test?

We are asking students to self-test each **Sunday** and **Wednesday** evening. You will be sent a text message at 5.00 pm each Sunday and Wednesday as a reminder to complete the test.

How do I report my child's result?

You must report the test result to the NHS and to school. See below on how to do this.

Reporting to the NHS

You must report the result through the online form that can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

Because tests taken at home are unsupervised, if a student gets a positive result at home they should report the result and arrange to have a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

You can do this by calling 119 or using the following link <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

In the event that the PCR test is negative – that they do not have COVID-19. This overrides the lateral flow test if it was taken at home and they should therefore return to school.

Reporting to school

If your child receives a **positive test result** you must report it immediately to school using the following email address testresult@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk.

Your child and your whole household must self-isolate immediately and book PCR test (see above).

If your child receives a **negative test result** they must report the result via Satchel One. Students will find a link to report their result on the **noticeboard** section of the Satchel One app. Students will be shown how to do this in form time on Friday.