



DEVONPORT HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

A SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE

16th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Since the students have returned to school, we have carried out lateral flow tests for Covid-19 on the students that have consented. The uptake of lateral flow testing has been very high and students have been amazing in the way they have engaged in this process, with impeccable behaviour and real maturity during the testing procedure.

Mass testing was introduced into schools in order to pick up individuals who are asymptomatic- they have the COVID-19 virus but exhibit no symptoms, so they can spread it unknowingly. The next stage is the testing of students at home, and if you have consented to your child being tested at school, we will issue them with a testing kit to bring home when they have received their third and final school-based test.

The home testing kit includes instructions on how to carry out the test, and we have further information produced by the DfE which we have included with this letter. Please note that the instructions explain how to do a throat and nose swab (in that order!). However, within school we have carried out nose swabs in both nostrils as the younger students, in particular, found this more comfortable than doing a throat swab. You can choose whether to do throat and nose swabs, or nose swabs in both nostrils as we have done. The tests should be carried out twice a week, 3-5 days apart. We recommend you test on a Sunday night and Wednesday night.

Staff have been home testing since we returned, and we would like to share the following useful tips with you;

- If you have not carried out a home test before, please watch the YouTube video – the link is in the guidance
- Do not eat or drink for 30 minutes before doing a test
- If your child is self-swabbing, please have a mirror nearby
- For the reporting of your test results, please set up an NHS login – this will save you entering the same information each time you need to report a test result

You are required to report the test results in two ways.

1. Report to NHS Test and Trace:

www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

2. Report to the school:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=fjDyFJKbRUmBukGB_06W2-ha3EXQyixHmYviaG1jnL9URDNOR0U0STkwOFpGRU5TMVFLRUVGWDm0V4u



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Should you have a positive lateral flow test result at home, the current guidance is that you will need to obtain a PCR test to confirm the positive lateral flow test:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

We would also appreciate it if you could call or email the school straight away at covid19@dhsg.co.uk to advise us of the positive test result.

If you are a member of a household or childcare bubble of a pupil, student or staff of a school, nursery or college, you can also get a twice-weekly test:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

There is no requirement for you to complete a further consent form for lateral flow testing at home, but we have included the privacy notice for data protection.

If you have not previously consented to lateral flow testing in school but would like to undertake home testing, please contact the main school office and we will organise this for you.

If you have any queries or concerns, please email dhsg@dhsg.co.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Beverley Bell
Acting Head Teacher