

21 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Lateral Flow testing for staff in Special Schools**

I am writing to alert you to the government's introduction of lateral flow testing for all staff working in Special Schools, which started on Monday 18th January.

As 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 do not show any symptoms, the DfE have introduced this testing regime in order to detect asymptomatic staff and so reduce the transmission of Covid-19 in schools.

Staff have the choice whether to take these tests or to continue to follow the normal guidance of isolating if they have symptoms. Staff will take a test on site once a week on either a Monday or Thursday, depending on their working days, and the results take up to 30 minutes. Due to the number of staff we have, it is not possible to complete the testing prior to the school day starting so I am writing to advise that:

- If a member of staff from your child's class or bubble tests positive, your child's class or bubble will therefore need to close at short notice that day, which could be at any point during the day.
- You will be contacted to arrange for your child to be collected from school as soon as possible. It will be your responsibility to arrange transport.
- Your child will need to self-isolate until the staff member takes a further COVID test off-site.
- If the second test result is positive then your child will need to self-isolate and we will confirm the duration of this period to you.
- If the second test is negative, your child's class will be re-opened.

Secondary school aged pupils are eligible for lateral flow testing and we are looking at how this can be rolled out to our students in the coming weeks.

I know that this has the potential to be very disruptive to your lives, as well as on ours and apologise for the impact that it may have on you.

Kind regards,



Mr Sam Bayliss

Headteacher