

18th March, 2021



Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus Update 52: Coronavirus testing

Following the successful roll-out of the first phase of our testing programme (where students were offered tests at school), we are now moving into the second phase (where students are tested at home).

Up to a third of people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms – and could be spreading the virus without knowing. Testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping all of us safer.

From today, we will be sending home Covid-19 testing kits with your child. From your consent form, we have assumed that you are content to undertake these tests at home; if not, please return the kits to Mr D'Arcy at school as soon as possible. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week, 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.** If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.** We are sending home enough kits for this to happen.

This testing does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. Results can also be reported by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Please keep a note of your child's results and share any positive results (only) with us immediately through admin@stmargaretsacademy.com. Positive notifications must come from parents/carers.

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit [this Government website](#).

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Brierley'.

Stephen Brierley
Principal.