

19th March 2021

Dear parents and carers

Testing Kits and Red Nose Day!

It has been a lovely day here with lots of laughter at the end of the day as students enjoyed fun activities in period 6. Many staff and students wore red, painted red noses on to their face masks and enjoyed the corny jokes displayed by staff around the school. You can see some of them together with some photos from the day on our social media and our website; together we have raised about £800 thanks to your generous donations.

We have finally completed our three tests for almost all students (except any absentees), meaning that in the last two weeks we have carried out over 1500 lateral flow tests! Staff are already testing at home and from now on students will be expected to do the same. They are all experts now and should not need much supervision; the tests have been sent home this afternoon and have an instruction booklet. Self-testing is VOLUNTARY and not compulsory; it should be done at least once a week.

A couple of things to look out for:

- You must open your mouth wide so that the swab does not touch your cheeks or tongue. You do not need to make yourself gag!
- The soft end of the swab needs to go right into the nose to ensure it has gone far enough. A mirror helps.

It would be helpful for us to know if your child has completed a test and if you would like to let us know then you can do so using this link to a very simple form:

<https://forms.gle/RVkJ7YkYpSiiABA7>

You do not have to let us know if you would prefer not to. The booklet gives details of how you can report your results to the NHS and also what to do if your child has a positive test result. We have not had any positive results so far and I am sure that if we all maintain our high standards and regular testing, we can keep this up until Easter and avoid having to send anyone home to isolate. We will have more tests available in school when required.

We have been so impressed with all our students in the past two weeks; it has not been easy to wear a face mask for most of the day or to be tested three times by your head teacher! but they have all been cheerful and positive, following our sanitising routines and generally being the delightful and mature young people we know they are.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Best wishes

Sue Gaston