



9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Lateral Flow Testing at Kimberley School

I am really proud that we are the only local secondary school or college that I am aware of that returned all students to school at the first available opportunity on March 8<sup>th</sup>. This only happened because, once again, school and home worked well together to act in the best interests of all students. I think we are all indebted to the staff who gave up their time on Sunday and for the exceptional leadership of this shown by our Academic Support Services Manager, Kirsty Andrews. Thank you for the part you played in helping us achieve this as well.

Now that we are open again, our next challenge is to stay open for all students. In the Autumn Term there were five instances where an infected individual attended school and on each occasion this led to between 20 and 40 students having to self-isolate for 10 days. The asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing is an important measure in helping us prevent a positive case coming in to the school. It is available to all students, staff and to their households and bubbles.

My priority is to keep school open and safe and so I would strongly urge all of you to participate in the testing if you can. At Kimberley School

1. all students are strongly encouraged to participate in the three tests in school and then twice weekly home testing thereafter. Where we have received consent, home test kits and full instructions for students will be distributed by the school.
2. all families and bubbles of school staff and students are strongly encouraged to participate in twice weekly home testing. However, these test kits are not distributed by the school.

## Student Testing:

For the students where consent has been given:

- the first test in school was conducted on Sunday, or for a very small number of students, on Monday morning.
- the second test in school will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March for Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March for Years 7,8 & 9
- the third test in school will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March for Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March for Years 7,8 & 9
- following this we will distribute home testing kits and instructions to all students where consent to take part has been received.

When the second and third test takes place in school we will immediately speak to the student and parent if their test is positive. For all other students who test negative we will send a confirmatory email at the

end of the school day. We are still experiencing difficulties with the NHS Test and Trace website and there may be a delay in the receipt of confirmation from them.

### **Household/bubble testing**

All families and bubbles of school staff and students are strongly encouraged to participate in [twice weekly home testing](#). Tests kits for households are not available from school but you can access tests by:

- attending a [rapid lateral flow test site](#) where you can conduct the test and will be assisted by trained supervisors
- collecting home test kits from a [collection point](#) which are open from 1:30pm to 7pm
- ordering home tests kits [online](#) if you are unable to attend a test centre or collection point.

### **Positive Results from Home Testing**

Individuals who record a positive test with a home test kit should:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result. If this test is negative then the student will be able to return to school when the school has seen appropriate evidence.
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

### **What does a Negative Test Result Mean?**

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing a face covering where recommended. Regular testing will ensure that if you do have the virus and then experience a higher viral load the virus is picked up and individuals can isolate to reduce transition.

### **What If I don't want to give consent or I don't want my household/bubble to participate in the home testing?**

My responsibility is to keep school open and to take all the steps I can to avoid the risk of the virus coming into school, transferring to other students and, therefore, being passed onto the community. The government expects me to strongly encourage participation and I am doing so because I think it is the right thing to do. The more people who do this, the safer the school is for students, parents and their families. The more we can reduce incidences of the virus coming into school, the less we will have to send students home for ten days and cause further disruption to their education and development.

Therefore, I am strongly encouraging as many students and their households as possible to participate in the testing. However, nobody is being forced to participate against their will. If you do not wish for you or your child to participate then the government have made it clear that you do not have to do so.

If you have not yet given consent for your child to participate in the testing and you would like to now do so then please email [office@kimberleyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@kimberleyschool.co.uk) clearly marking the subject heading 'LFD Testing Consent' and we will be in touch with you to make the appropriate arrangements.

**Finally, those of you who watched the government press conference last night may** have picked up some interesting observations made by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer who set out that:



# Kimberley School

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**Head Teacher:** Andrew George  
**Deputy Head Teacher:** Andy Park  
**Deputy Head Teacher:** Helen Frost-Briggs

*“there may be a very short period at the start of this programme where everybody gets used to it and a larger number of children come out of school and then it will settle down. So I think it’s really important that when observing this, people think through the next three to four weeks, not the first one to two.*

*I think the critical point is there are new interventions, so the testing for schools is in place starting from now and gradually for some senior pupils going forward.*

*What that’s likely to do is diminish the number of community transmission cases which could come into schools, so schools will be inherently safer places, but equally it will reach back into families. So I suspect we may see a rise at the start - with luck, as we go forward and people get used to using that testing, whole families will be protected as well.”*

As ever, thank you for your continued support. Your children have been a credit to you this week.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew George  
**Head Teacher**

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