

15th March 2021

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

Years 10 & 11 students have now completed their three on site Lateral Flow Covid tests. You may already be aware that the Government has recently announced that all secondary aged students will also be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 testing to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread of the virus.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this at The Axholme Academy by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

Taking test kits home

Students were given their home testing kits when they arrived for their final on site test today. We would like students to take their tests before school on a Wednesday evening/Thursday morning and Sunday evening/Monday morning.

Students have been given a pack of three tests in a box with a separate leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. We will distribute further tests next week during form time in time for their fourth home test due on 29th March 2021.

Taking the test

Students should take the test two times every week.

Please make sure you have enough time to do the test before going to the Academy. Preferably this would be in the morning before going into school. However, we understand that for some people this may be challenging. Therefore, tests can be taken the evening before school if needed. You need to report your test results.

Help and support is available, including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

This does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self- isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Can students take the test themselves?

Students aged 12-17 should do the test themselves with adult supervision. The adult may help the student to take the test if they need support.

You need to report each test result

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

You will also need to tell the Academy the result of each test as soon as the result is available via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/5xKaKLnnLn74DC556>

Why take part?

Taking part in testing is voluntary and you will be able to attend school whether you take part in testing or not.

I encourage all students to take part. Testing yourself at home will allow us to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please refer to the Lateral Flow Testing Frequently Asked Question sections for more information. Or contact Miss Leggott, our COVID Coordinator, or a member of the Senior Leadership team if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Keogh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Keogh
PRINCIPAL