

Friday, March 12, 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a great pleasure to welcome the students back to Haverstock this week. There were, of course, some nerves but the school already feels as if we have never been away and it has been wonderful to see how positive students are about being back in their classes and amongst their friends.

Thank you for your support for the Lateral Flow Testing programme - 90% of students have taken up tests, all of which have been negative so far. All students have been offered at least one test and second and third tests will happen over the next two weeks. Thank you also for supporting the wearing of face coverings in the classroom – students have adapted well so far but we of course hope that this measure will not have to be in place for very long.

I will write next week with details of the home Lateral Flow test kit approach, which will replace school tests once three have been completed.

Changes to Senior Leaders at the school

Following a recent staff reorganisation, Deputy Head Ms Sarah Hide has moved on from her role as Deputy Head. We are hugely grateful to her for 26 years of dedicated service to the school and wish her all the best in her future career.

As a result of this, Ms Smith (Assistant Head) will now lead on 'Expectations and Standards' – with responsibility for students behaviour and attendance. Mr Dineen has been appointed as Associate Assistant Headteacher from the Camden Reintegration Base and is also now the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mr Mayne remains at the school as the sole Deputy Head.

Expectations and Standards reminders

Now that all of our community is back under the same roof, it is important for us to work together in maintaining our high expectations of each other. Our standards around attendance & punctuality, correct school uniform and being ready for learning each day are of paramount importance to us and your support in upholding these standards alongside us is always valued. Please refer to The [Haverstock Way](#) document and our [uniform guidelines](#) on our website in readiness for a good start to a full week on Monday 15 March.

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Headteacher: James Hadley Senior Deputy Head: Mark Mayne



In line with continued COVID-19 measures around sport and use of changing areas, students are to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE and full school uniform on other days. PE kit allows the wearing of trainers whereas full school uniform dictates the wearing of black shoes.

Yours faithfully



James Hadley
Headteacher



Lateral flow testing at Haverstock School 'Frequently Asked Questions'

How do I book a Lateral Flow test for my child?

Please complete the [consent form](#).

Why should I book a test for my child?

Lateral Flow Testing is being rolled out by the Department for Health and Social Care to help find asymptomatic cases of COVID-19. Finding people who have the virus, but are displaying no symptoms, and ensuring they and their household self-isolate, is vital to help stop the spread of the virus.

By engaging as many staff and pupils at Haverstock School as possible in this testing programme, we can significantly reduce the spread of the virus within our school and the wider local community. By breaking these chains of transmission, we can help protect families and friends, particularly those who may be most vulnerable to the worst impacts of the virus. It will also help keep our school open.

How accurate is the Lateral Flow Test?

Lateral Flow Tests have been shown to be good at detecting most cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in people who have the virus but do not have any COVID-19 symptoms. This helps people who do not know they have COVID-19 from unintentionally spreading the disease to friends, family and others. About 70% of people who have COVID-19 but do not have symptoms will have the virus detected with the Lateral Flow Test.

If my child has already had the virus, should they still be tested?

Yes. Your child should still be tested. There is growing evidence that people who have had the virus don't necessarily have long-term immunity and may be able to get the virus again. This means that even if your child has already had the virus, taking part in this testing would still be of benefit to preventing spread of the COVID-19.

If my child is self isolating, should they still come into school for a test?

No. They should not come to the testing. They should continue to self isolate for the time they have been advised. The lateral flow testing sites are strictly for individuals not currently displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

How will the tests be conducted?

Students will complete the test themselves with the support of a trained technician.



The test procedure involves taking a swab of secretions from the back of the throat (by the tonsils) and one nostril. This takes about 45 seconds in total. This swab is then placed in a solution for 10 seconds and mixed thoroughly, before two drops are placed in the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) and the test-time starts. A positive or negative result is displayed within 30 minutes. Whilst the swabbing process is uncomfortable, it is not painful.

How will I receive my child's test result?

The result will be negative (no COVID-19 found), positive (the child has COVID-19 infection), or 'void' (if the test process has not completed successfully). If the test is 'void' your child will be offered another opportunity for a repeat test. **We will only inform you if the test result is positive.**

If the test is negative it means that your child is very unlikely to have Covid-19 at the time of the test. They should continue to follow the public health recommendations as before around face masks, social distancing and thorough regular handwashing, as this test result relates to whether they may be infectious only on that day. If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19, they should book a test as usual via www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119 and self isolate.

If the test is positive, we will inform you and your child and will not share this information with other students. Your child and all household members must self-isolate immediately and follow the national guidelines and self isolate for ten days.

Where do students go on the day of testing?

To the school testing area in the Performance Hall

Do I tell the school if my child receives a positive test?

The consent process includes school getting information about positive results directly, so you

Will close contacts of those who have tested positive need to isolate?

Close contacts can continue to come to school so long as consent is given for daily LFT testing at school during the 10 day period when they would previously have been required to self isolate.

Will staff be tested too?

All who work on the site will be tested weekly.

ENDS

