

Friday 21st May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Today is the final day of assessments for our Y11 and Y13 (and Y10 RE) students. They have worked really hard to prepare for the assessments. Staff are busy marking and moderating - tasks which ordinarily the examination boards would do. I want to thank my staff for their dedication to ensuring our students achieve the best possible grades this summer. On a separate note please be aware Public Health England have advised all secondary schools in RBKC and Westminster to supervise one on site Lateral Flow Test next week for all students with consent. Please read the following letter for further details.

Home Test Kits

Your child will also be returning home with another LFT kit. It is essential we all continue to test and record the results both on the [Test Register](#) platform and the NHS website. We have had one positive case reported this week in Year 13. We can all protect ourselves and our families if we continue to test and report the results. I do appreciate that it is a time consuming process - all five of us are testing in my household - but it is such an important part of controlling the virus and ensuring we can fully open up on the 21st June.

27 & 28th May (LCCD) and 7th June (INSET)

A reminder that on Thursday afternoon / evening and on Friday next week, virtual appointments will take place with Learning Coaches. The Academy is closed to all students on Friday 28th May. If you have not already done so, please book your appointment using the [Parents Evening system](#). A reminder that Monday 7th June is an INSET day and was moved from the original January date. We could not have this day due to the start of the third national lockdown. The Academy is therefore closed to students on Monday 7th June and the summer term resumes on Tuesday 8th June.

Safeguarding concern

Please be aware that, in recent weeks, a small number of our students have been offered highly dangerous edible sweets laced with illegal substances - although not on Academy premises. There have been other reported incidents in London. We know that these items come in the form of both jelly fruit sweets and also 'Nerds' candy - but they may well also be available disguised as other types of sweets. The effects of these edibles are extreme and they have resulted in an inability to communicate, unconsciousness and hospitalisation. It is important that you ensure your child is aware of the dangers of such items; please inform the Academy if you become aware of any relevant information so that we can deal with the matter immediately.

And finally given the theme of the week this week has been Pentecost, staff and students have reflected on what inspires us, as we remember the Disciples receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time. We collected £122 for the Christian Aid appeal for India last week and will be offering staff and students the opportunity to donate to the Red Cross appeal for the Gaza community. It is our hope that we can be inspired and raise awareness about current issues and suffering in our world to bring about positive change. We hope our students find inspiration this coming week.

Next week we will share our half termly Academy newsletter with lots of news of what we've been up to since Easter. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Public Health

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea | City of Westminster
12th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

21 May 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Supervised Lateral Flow Testing

Following identification of new COVID-19 cases in north west London, all secondary schools in Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea have been advised by Public Health England (PHE) to undertake *supervised* Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) at school.

This is a one-off additional measure, related to the variants of concern, first identified in India and South Africa. This is a preventative measure: currently there is no evidence that these variants cause more severe illness or that they make vaccines less effective, however the variant first identified in India may be more transmissible - in other words, it passes more easily from person to person.

I understand you may be concerned by this, but please be assured that there are a small number of cases linked to the variants of concern in the UK, and that whilst uncommon, it's important to be aware of cases as soon as possible. Testing will ensure students and their families can enjoy the half-term break confident that they aren't unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

The LFTs, or rapid symptom-free tests are the same tests students took upon their return to the classroom in March and will be carried out in the same way. Consent is already in place from previous LFT testing in schools. There is nothing further for you to do.

Testing process

- From Monday 24th May, the school will be carrying out a one off *supervised* LFT; pupils will attend school as normal.
- For this testing you/your child can continue normal activities, and no one is being asked to self-isolate unless any of the test results are positive.
- Should a pupil return a positive LFT, a PCR test should be taken as soon as possible, and they need to self-isolate whilst their PCR test result is pending.
- Household and close contacts will also be required to arrange for a PCR test and to self-isolate immediately. This is a slight change to what pupils and families have come to expect.
- If the pupil's PCR result is positive, self-isolation for the pupil, household and close contacts will need to continue for the entire 10-day period.
- If the pupil's PCR result is negative, all self-isolation (pupil, household and close contacts) can stop immediately (unless the household member or close contact PCR is positive).

- If you, your child or anyone in your household does develop any symptoms of COVID-19, please treat this as a new possible infection and follow the usual NHS and government guidance on self-isolation and get tested.
- The flow chart on the following page outlines the steps that need to be taken.

If anyone in your household tests positive and needs help (financial, food or medicine) to self-isolate for 10 days, support is available. If you live in Westminster, please visit [westminster.gov.uk/westminster-connects](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/westminster-connects). If you live in Kensington and Chelsea, please visit [rbkc.gov.uk](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk) and search for 'COVID-19 Hub'.

Please be assured we are following the national guidance about reducing the spread of infection and will continue to work closely with the Local Authority and Public Health England.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Heggs
Director of Education



Anna Raleigh
Director of Public Health

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. What is a PCR test and why is a PCR test needed following a positive LFT?**
PCR stands for Polymerase Chain Reaction. A sample is collected by inserting a long swab into the back of the throat and nose. This is a diagnostic test that determines if you are infected by analysing a sample to see if it contains genetic material from the virus. The results of this test have to be processed in a laboratory which increases their validity.
- 2. If the PCR for household member or a close contact returns a negative result, can self-isolation stop for the household member or close contact?**
No, as you are a close contact of a confirmed case the self-isolation needs to continue for the entire 10-day period. The exemption to this, is if the original individual pupil's PCR result is negative (then all self-isolation can stop immediately)
- 3. Do pupils and staff still need to continue with the twice a week LFT testing at home regime?** This supervised LFT testing is an additional measure, please continue with the routine twice a week at home testing and hands, face, space, fresh air guidance. Any tests are only reliable at that exact point of time, it doesn't mean individuals can't become infected at a later date.
- 4. I'm testing for COVID-19 using the twice weekly symptom-free tests, do I need to do this test too?** Yes, and please continue to test twice a week with the LFT, or symptom-free rapid tests.
- 5. Can I take the test at home?** For this one-off additional measure, we are asking all pupils to take this test on-site at school. This has been advised by PHE to increase uptake and as part of prevention control measures before half-term.
- 6. Do I need to do anything differently because of this supervised testing, should I stay at home?** No. Aside from continuing to follow the latest government advice and hands, face, space and fresh air, there is nothing further you need to do. Thanks to your efforts and following hands, face, space and fresh air, the levels of COVID-19 across London are currently low, lower than when we've gone into a national lockdown. The supervised testing is taking place to understand and prevent any wider infection.
- 7. I am/I live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, should I restart shielding?** No. We are asking all secondary school pupils to please take the supervised LFT. Aside from continuing to follow the latest government advice and hands, face, space and fresh air, there is nothing further you need to do.
- 8. I have coronavirus symptoms, what should I do?** If you have coronavirus symptoms, it is important that you get a test for people with symptoms online on the NHS website, via the NHS COVID-19 app or by calling NHS 119, free of charge. You must isolate with your household and close contacts and follow the GOV.UK guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infections until you get your result.

Testing Process Flow Chart: suggested protocol



Supervised LFT on site. Result: **positive**



Following positive LFT, a PCR test should be carried out as soon as possible. Individual to self-isolate immediately whilst awaiting PCR test result.



Household and close contacts also arrange to get a PCR test.



Individual, household and close contacts to self-isolate whilst awaiting PCR test result.

PCR test: **positive**

PCR test: **negative**

Continue with 10-day self-isolation for individual, close contacts and household.

No self-isolation required. Individual, household and close contacts can immediately stop self-isolation.