



# WOODBIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

*Pride In Achievement*

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16<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write with details of the arrangements for home testing for students which will be in place from next week.

## Home Testing Programme

Once students have been tested three times in school, the government have asked us to move to a programme of home testing.

This means that **students will test themselves at home** using quick-result lateral flow device (LFD) tests under the supervision of parents, and then send the result to the school and to the NHS.

Students should test themselves twice each week, ideally in the morning before they come to school. We are recommending that the testing takes place on **Monday and Wednesday mornings**, or as close to this as possible.

Students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 should begin testing themselves from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 should begin testing themselves from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

## Issuing of Test Kits

Students will be issued with two test kits packages each containing three home tests. This will provide six tests, which will be enough test kits for the remainder of this term.

They will receive these kits in school when they come to do their third test. The timings for the third tests and therefore the issue of home test kits are set out below:

	Thurs, 18th March	Fri 19th March	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Tue 23rd March
09:00	11B 11E	10B 10E	9B 9E	7B 7E
09:30	11G 11N	10G 10N	9G 9N	7G 7N
10:00	11R 11D	10R 10D	9R 9D	7R 7D
10:30	11Y 11W	10Y 10W	9Y 9W	7Y 7W
11:05	11P 11L	10P 10L	9P 9L	7P 7L
11:35	13B 13E 13G	12B 12E 12G	8B 8E	
12:10	13N 13R 13D	12N 12R 12D	8G 8N	
12:40	13Y 13W	12Y 12W		
13:15			8R 8D	
13:50	13H 13X	12P 12L 12H	8Y 8W	
14:20		12S 12Z	8P 8L	



Students are required to have undertaken three tests in school before the kits can be issued. This is because the government says that they need to know how to swab themselves before they can do so effectively at home. We will continue to operate the test centre at school until all students with consent have had three tests.

We are also required to log that these test kits have been issued, and so students must attend in person to collect their test kits. More test kits will be issued to students before the end of term ready for next term.

## Conducting the Tests

When students test themselves at home, they will swab themselves in the throat and nose, as they have done at school, and then conduct the lateral flow test using the device provided. They will need to wait for 30 minutes for the result to show on the device.

Full instructions are in the booklet which students will receive with their test kits.

Parents will need to supervise the testing process, particularly for younger children. They will need support in following the instructions, handling the LFD equipment, and reporting the result.

I have attached two documents which the government have produced to help you with home testing. Please read through these with your child before you begin:

- An Introduction to Rapid Self-Testing for Covid-19
- How to Do a Rapid Covid-19 Self-Test

There is also a useful video by Dr Amir Khan to help you, which you can watch [HERE](#).

## Reporting the Results

Students will need to report the result to the school and to the NHS. The result needs to be reported whether it is positive, negative or void.

1. To report the result to the NHS, go to [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Students will need to enter their personal details.
2. To report the result to the school, either scan the QR code on the sticker on the front of the instruction booklet, or go to [www.bit.ly/2OGMjci](http://www.bit.ly/2OGMjci)

Please see the school website [HERE](#) for the privacy notice which sets out how we will use your data.

## Confirming Positive Results

If the result of the home LFD test is positive, the student will need to self-isolate immediately along with their household. Under no circumstances should they come to school.

Parents should then book a confirmatory PCR (laboratory processed) test to confirm the positive LFD result. You can do this here: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). If you prefer, we can send you one of these PCR tests which you can do at home and send off, although this will take longer. If the result of the confirmatory PCR test is negative, the student and household will no longer need to self-isolate.

Parents should call the school absence line and let us know about any student who is not attending due to a positive LFD test, or self-isolating while awaiting the result of a confirmatory PCR test.

We will need to track close contacts of positive cases in school, and they will need to self-isolate, and so please do let us have this information as soon as you can.

## Testing in School

From next week, our in-school testing centre will be wound down. We will retain a small in-school testing capacity for students whose parents feel unable to support with the home testing process.

If you feel you would prefer your child to be tested in school rather than at home, please contact your child's year co-ordinator in the first instance.

### **Test Kits for Family Members**

The test kits issued by the school are only for use by secondary-aged students registered at the school who are asymptomatic. However, the government have let us know that further home test kits are available for parents or primary-aged children who may be asymptomatic. The London Borough of Redbridge have advised us that these kits can be collected from these sites between 1.30 – 7pm daily:

- Gants Hill Library Car Park, IG2 6SX
- Charteris Car Park, IG8 0AL

It is also possible attend a rapid testing site in Redbridge and have the rapid LFD test conducted there. You can find information about rapid testing in Redbridge [HERE](#).

If you have symptoms, you must have a lab-processed PCR test. To book this, go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test).

### **And Finally**

Testing is not compulsory and I cannot check that every student has done it twice a week, but I would urge as many students and parents as possible to engage with the process. It will help us keep our community safe.

The tests pick up asymptomatic positive cases when they are at their most infectious, and if we can prevent children who are infectious from coming to school, we can reduce the spread of the disease, prevent the need for self-isolation of close contacts, and thus protect the education of as many students as possible.

If you have any further questions about home testing, please do let us know.

I send my best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hogan', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Steven Hogan  
Headteacher