



18th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We will have completed our full two-week programme of mass testing for all our pupils this Friday, which will be well over 3000 tests. We have only had two positive results to date and these were prior to the pupils returning to school meaning that no other pupils were required to isolate as a result. I must take this opportunity to not only thank all the pupils for taking part in this programme, but to commend them on their fantastic attitudes and behaviour whilst taking the tests. They were a credit to you.

Home-testing kits will be given out to all pupils who are eligible this Friday, 19th March. If you did not consent to the three tests in school, then your child will not receive these home-testing kits.

There will be an instructional leaflet given out with the test-kits. Please keep this safe and refer to it as required. This [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](#), is also extremely useful. Additional help and support can be found by clicking on this [link](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results.

Whilst the children are now more familiar with the swabbing process, please could I ask that you supervise your child in doing the test at home? Government guidance says that for a secondary school student aged 11, the test should be carried out by an adult. For students aged 12-17 it should be supervised by an adult. Children have not been involved at all with the processing of the sample during the testing process in school, so we anticipate that you will carry out this part of the process. As the programme continues, this is something that you may want to include them in, particularly for older children. This is at your discretion.

Please note the following:

- Each student will be given a box of test kits on Friday 19 March (each box contains 3 tests). We have to record the lot number of the tests against the name of each student, **so kits should not be used by anyone else.**
- Students should complete their home tests twice a week – **we are requesting that the first three tests are done on Sunday 21 March and Wednesday 24 March and Sunday 28 March in the evening.** Further kits will be given out before we break up for pupils to use during the Easter holidays.
- All results must be recorded, both with the NHS (details in the instructional leaflet) and with the school, via this google form link [Report Covid Home Test To School Form](#)
- If a student tests positive you must notify the school immediately by emailing admin@deantrustardwick.co.uk The household must immediately begin self-isolation and you should book a confirmatory PCR test. **You must not rely on informing us by just completing the google form**, as this will only be checked for recording completion rates, and the purposes of re-ordering and issuing further test kits.

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Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE

Headteacher: Ms Suzanne Finlay B.Ed NPQH

- These are asymptomatic tests, that is, for those who **do not have Covid19 symptoms**. If your child develops symptoms at any time including a high temperature a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste they, or indeed anyone in the household, must immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test through the NHS by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Schools Infection Survey

We are also taking part in a Covid-19 Schools Infection Survey. This is a national study that aims to help experts better understand the virus and how it is transmitted. It is helping the experts and also helping us to protect our community. The SIS testing includes the more accurate PCR Test and an antibodies test for all pupils in Year 7 – 10 that register. If you have already registered for the SIS Survey you do not need to register again. If you would like your child to take part in this study you can find all of the information by following this link <https://www.deantrustardwick.co.uk/school-infections-survey-sis/> Any new registrations must be completed by **Monday 22 March. The next round of PCR Tests and Antibodies tests will take place at DTA on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March.**

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

C Dunn

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Deputy Headteacher

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