

17 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

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 in Workington Academy by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

[The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to on their return to Workington Academy.

Testing students at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend Workington Academy whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning **or** the evening will support families to test at home.

Home test kits will be sent home with your child on Friday 19 March. You will be provided with enough kits to complete two weekly tests until school returns following the Easter break.

We would like them to take their tests on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

Tests are free of charge. Your child will receive 9 tests in total with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

Taking the test

A leaflet giving instructions on how to do the test will be given with the test kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#).

[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.

There is no need to keep used test equipment. After the test result has been reported, you can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

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

What should you do after the LFD test?

If your child (or anyone in your household) tests positive or gets coronavirus. If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. If a home testing kit shows a **positive result**, this should then be followed up by taking a PCR test to confirm the result.

You need to report all your results to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) whether the result is negative, positive or void. **A positive test result** should also be reported to the school by contacting your child's Director of Learning and either of the deputy headteachers using the following email addresses:

mbedford@workingtonacademy.org
ro'hagan@workingtonacademy.org

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results need to be reported to [NHS Test & Trace](#)

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

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>.

Why testing is important

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

I am strongly encouraging all children to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other children to attend school and help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Please contact the school main reception if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Bird
Headteacher