



Whitefield

Schools

A member of
Whitefield Academy Trust

Wednesday, 10 March 2021

Re: Testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

I was delighted to see so many pupils coming back to school yesterday. Pupils returned to the classroom with ease and it was wonderful to see them engage in face-to-face learning with their peers once again. Whether your child has been attending school or learning remotely, we are very grateful for the important role you have played in supporting their learning over these past few challenging months.

As you may be aware, the government has advised that secondary age pupils undertake a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) twice a week. It is hoped that by testing pupils on a regular basis, the virus can be contained therefore ensuring school environments remain as safe as possible. These tests are voluntary, pupils should be tested only if their parents/carers consent and the pupil is willing to be tested. We understand that testing may not be appropriate for some of our pupils and we ask parents and carers to decide whether or not their child should be tested. Further information about the tests is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>.

The Lateral Flow Tests should be carried out at home and we will shortly be distributing testing kits for pupils to take home. In the meantime, I have set out the locations of the closest to our school where you can collect test:

- Stanley Road car park, Leyton E10 7EQ
- Linford Road car park, Walthamstow E17 3LS
- Church Lane car park, Leytonstone E11 1H

The test is straightforward to carry out; the kit will come with clear step-by-step instructions. Ideally the test should be taken in the morning but, if this is not possible, it can be taken at another time of day. The LFT gives results in around 30 minutes and parents should report the result (whether positive, negative or void) to NHS Test and Trace as soon as they have the result either online or by telephone. The details are in the kit. We would also be grateful if you could share the result with us by contacting Lelsey (l.middleton@whitefield.waltham.sch.uk / 07874 635728) or Steph (s.earle@whitefield.waltham.sch.uk / 07874 635725). Please include your child's name, the date of the test and the outcome e.g. Joe Bloggs, 8 March, negative.

The health and safety of our pupils and staff is of the utmost importance at Whitefield Schools and we will continue to follow our strict hygiene and social distancing measures. Lateral Flow tests are also available to staff twice a week and I very much hope that by testing regularly, we can identify asymptomatic cases and break the chain of transmission as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Family Support or your Child's Head of School.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Evelina Dimopoulou
Vice Principal