

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Families

**Re: COVID-19 update - inconclusive year 7 lateral flow test this morning**

Firstly, I would like to thank all year 7 families who had to act quickly this morning to pick up their children following an inconclusive lateral flow test result.

This morning, a lateral flow test a student carried out came back with a very faint second grey line and did not indicate clearly whether it was a positive test or not. On checking, we also found it to be a slightly smaller cartridge than all of the others that had been used, even though it was included in the same batch and was of the same product type.

Following consent from the student's family, two more lateral flow tests were carried out on the student by our medically trained volunteers, both of which came back negative.

Following discussions with the Health Protection Hub, it was decided that as a precaution, all close contacts of the student would be sent home to isolate immediately, as the matter was looked into further. They then asked me to contact Public Health England for further advice.

**I have now contacted both Public Health England and the Department of Education. Both have agreed that as this is a unique case, the student should now go for a more accurate, PCR laboratory test. If this comes back negative, all students who have been asked to self-isolate today, will be able to return to school next week.**

**I have contacted the student's family and they have already taken their child for a PCR test.** We hope that the results will come back within the next 24 hours so that we can let families know as soon as possible whether year 7 students who were asked to isolate today can return to school on Monday. **Communication will be emailed, uploaded to our website and posted on our social media platforms to inform you if isolating students from this case can return next week.**

**Students who had to go home today will now have to isolate until further notice. This does not however, apply to their families unless the student who has been asked to isolate develops COVID-19 symptoms (continuous cough/high temperature/loss of taste or smell). The usual time for isolation is 10 days but we will inform you if this is the case once we have the PCR test result for the student who had the inconclusive lateral flow test today.**

The household of the student who had the inconclusive test has been contacted by the Health Protection Hub and will all need to isolate until the results of the PCR test come back. I would like to thank them for their support and quick action today – it is very much appreciated.

**I would be grateful if you could check your emails/our website/our social media over the weekend for further communication that will be sent out.**

Thank you to all families who spoke to me today with your positive feedback and understanding of how we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic – your kind words mean a huge amount to us all.

Best wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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