Grace Academy Darlaston

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Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have given out today your child's first set of test kits. This will continue the testing they will have already completed in the academy. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend the 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.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We have sent home COVID-19 testing kits with students who have taken part in our onsite testing programme. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We suggest you test on a Monday and a Thursday each week, starting on Monday 22nd March. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

These tests are only for the student who has been given them, please do not pass this on to other family members or friends. If at any point you have symptoms of COVID-19, DO NOT use this test.... YOU NEED TO BOOK IN FOR A PCR TEST. *Please dispose of/recycle the instructions in the boxes and use the leaflet you were given when you received your box.* Any student who is 11 will need to be supervised by an adult as they do this test. Please follow the instructions on this video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo .

Please make sure that you follow the timings instructions **very carefully** as these are very important to get an accurate result.

Reporting results

It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result.
It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with Grace Academy as well using this link: https://forms.office.com/r/pgHCYEVhK8
These links will be available on our website and facebook page.

IF YOU TEST POSITIVE YOU MUST ALSO CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY PHONE TO REPORT THIS (AS WELL AS LOGGING ON BOTH SITES). IF YOU TEST POSITIVE, YOU NEED TO SELF ISOLATE (AS WELL AS FAMILY MEMBERS/CLOSE CONTACT) AND GET A PCR TEST COMPLETED. If this PCR test is negative, you can then return to school and stop self-isolating.

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Even if you test negative, remember you should follow the HAND, FACE AND SPACE rules as well as all other COVID-19 guidance.

If you have any other questions, that aren't answered on this extended letter or the booklet given out with your test, then please contact the academy office.

Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

Regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing visit Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular COVID-19 testing.
Thank you for your support with this.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Anstey
Associate Principal
Grace Academy Darlaston