



9 March 2021

Rachel Hutchinson  
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Lateral Flow Testing Update

I would like to start by thanking the staff, parents/carers and students who have been incredibly supportive of the running of the first cycle of the Lateral Flow Testing process over the past five days. We have now completed the first set of testing across all Year Groups with approximately 89% of the College student population. We started Test 2 with our Sixth Form students yesterday, and Year 7 and some of Year 8 will be included today. This is a huge achievement for a College of our size. I would like to thank personally, the staff who worked throughout the weekend in order that we could conduct mass testing on such a large scale, and in such a safe and controlled manner, so that students were able to return to College from Monday, 8 March 2021.

This letter provides further information, advice and guidance for the remaining two tests, with the dates that these are due to be conducted on-site and the arrangements for the distribution of the self-testing kits to all those students whose parents have consented to their child receiving the lateral flow test.

## Lateral Flow Testing Timetable for Test 2 and Test 3 on-site

1. Parents/carers or Sixth Form students **DO NOT** need to complete another **CONSENT FORM** for the remaining tests.
2. If the dates of your next two tests fall on a normal College day you are **NOT required to book via epraise**. Students will be given an allocated time slot to attend their test as a Tutor Group, and this will be communicated through their Tutors.
3. If you are in **Years 12 and 13** or **Years 7 and 8** your third test falls at the weekend and you are therefore required to **log into epraise to book your appointment time**.

Test 1 Date completed	Date of Test 2	Date of Test 3
<b>Years 12 and 13</b> Wednesday, 3 March 2021	<b>Years 12 and 13</b> Monday, 8 March 2021 (during the College day)	<b>Years 12 and 13</b> <b>Saturday, 13 March 2021</b> (appointments available on epraise)
<b>Years 7 and 8</b> Thursday, 4 March 2021	<b>Years 7 and 8</b> Tuesday, 9 March 2021 (during the College day)	<b>Years 7 and 8</b> <b>Sunday, 14 March 2021</b> (appointments available on epraise)
<b>Years 8 and 9</b> Friday, 5 March 2021	<b>Years 8 and 9</b> Wednesday, 10 March 2021 (during the College day)	<b>Years 8 and 9</b> Monday, 15 March 2021 (during the College day)
<b>Years 9 and 10</b> Saturday, 6 March 2021	<b>Years 9 and 10</b> Thursday, 11 March 2021 (during the College day)	<b>Years 9 and 10</b> Tuesday, 16 March 2021 (during the College day)
<b>Year 11</b> Sunday, 7 March 2021	<b>Year 11</b> Friday, 12 March 2021 (during the College day)	<b>Year 11</b> Wednesday, 17 March 2021 (during the College day)

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We apologise for any inconvenience that having different testing dates for siblings and the need to attend a weekend slot may cause. However, given current government requirements, all students need to be tested within a 3 - 5 day cycle and with the number of hours the testing takes, we are unable to organise this within a weekday programme.

We would also like to share the following points for information following our experiences and some parent queries from the first testing process:

**What to do if your child is absent, unwell or unable to complete Test 2 or 3?**

Please report all student absences using the normal College absence line and then email the Lateral Flow Testing Centre on [fft@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:fft@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) to report that your child will not be attending their test. This will support our administration teams. We will endeavour to accommodate absent students wherever possible. However, this may not always be possible due to the scheduling programme.

**Will I hear from the College directly if my child has a positive test?**

Please be assured that as soon as the lateral flow test result has been manually recorded, we will notify parents within the hour of any positive test result. You will also be notified via the automated message/email (sent to the details provided when you registered consent) once the test has been recorded and then uploaded by our own administrative team to the government website which links to the NHS Test and Trace system.

Individuals with a positive lateral flow test result will need to self-isolate in line with the government guidance for households.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

**Why is there a time delay / Why have we not received notification of our child's test?**

Once we have manually recorded each lateral flow test on a central database, College administrators are required to update each individual test result onto the government website that links to the NHS Test and Trace system. As you can imagine, this adds a number of additional administrative stages for the College, and therefore, a time delay, in comparison to the registration procedure that is completed directly through the NHS App. We have reported the above issues to the NHS Test and Trace and apologise as this is beyond our control.

Please be assured we will contact you within the hour if your child's test is a positive result.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

The testing programme at College is for students with no symptoms, if anyone develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting this website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

May I remind you that **no student should be on-site** if they or any member of their household is displaying symptoms. Students presenting symptoms at the Testing Facility will not be permitted entry and parents/carers will be contacted to collect them.

Testing remains voluntary, but we are strongly recommending that all students participate in the programme, as this will reduce the possible risk of exposure and/or transmission for all.

**COVID-19 Self-testing Kit**

On completion of the third on-site test, students will be issued with their home COVID-19 self-testing kit with comprehensive instructions from NHS Test and Trace. The kits are compact and lightweight which students will be able to carry in a normal school bag.

For further information on how to home test please refer to the government website on [www.gov.uk/covid19-self-test-help](https://www.gov.uk/covid19-self-test-help)

In the meantime, we will continue to communicate with all students and parents/carers over the coming weeks if there are any further developments at a government or local level.

We have valued all your support since the commencement of the testing process to support the return to College and we ask that you continue to communicate via [lff@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:lff@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk) if you require any further assistance in relation to the lateral flow testing at the College.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**