



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

Wednesday, 10th March 2021

Dear families,

Confirmation of arrangements for student home testing (LFT)

THIS LETTER IS FOR FAMILIES OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN LATERAL FLOW TESTING ONLY

I am writing to confirm details for the move to home testing after our programme of onsite testing has come to an end. Students have been highly co-operative whilst taking part in these tests and have conducted themselves both maturely and sensibly at all times – without exception.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families who participated in **pre-testing** last week. High levels of engagement meant we were able to start each day with very little disruption – benefitting all concerned. Thank you once again for your support.

As a result, **82%** of students are participating in onsite testing. This is a tremendous outcome and helps maintain a safe and healthy environment – an outcome we would like to replicate with home testing.

Moving to home tests

Students will be given **two** home test kits when they complete their third (and final) onsite test.

1. When students bring the kits home, they will also have a new set of instructions. **Please destroy those inside the kits as these are incorrect** – only use the version dated 15th January 2021.
2. Tests must only be used by the student and not given to anyone else.
3. Students will be given enough tests for the rest of this term and also for a test before coming back after Easter. This means they should take a test on the morning of **Tuesday, 20th April**. They should not test over the holiday.

When to do the test

4. Tests should be done twice a week, 3 – 4 days apart, typically on **Monday** and **Thursday** mornings.
5. Tests should ideally be done **before coming into school**, if this is not possible then the night before. From opening the box to seeing your result, it takes about **40 minutes**, so make sure you give yourself enough time. Swabbing only takes about **10 minutes**.

Taking a home test

6. Before taking your test, watch the instructional video: [How to do a self-test - YouTube](#). This link and a copy of these instructions are on our website: www.ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace.
7. If you are 11, the test must be done by a parent – the parent must do the swabbing.
8. If you are 12 to 16, the test must be supervised by a parent – but the child can self-swab. Students are well practiced in self-swabbing through the onsite programme.

Reporting results

9. You must report the results to NHS ‘Test and Trace’ at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. You must report either a ‘positive’, ‘negative’ or ‘void’ result. **If you take the test, you must report the result.**



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10. You must also report '**positive**' or '**void**' results to the school using office@ryecollege.co.uk.
Negative results do not need to be reported. If your child tests '**positive**', you should contact the school office immediately.

Using a confirmatory PCR test

11. If your LFT result is '**void**', you need to do another LFT. If that is also '**void**' then you must get a confirmatory PCR test and self-isolate until the result is known ([Get a free PCR from the NHS](#)).
12. If your LFT result is '**positive**', you must get a confirmatory PCR test ([Get a free PCR from the NHS](#)). You must self-isolate and members of your household must also self-isolate.

If the PCR test is '**negative**', you and your household can stop self-isolating and you can return to school.

If the PCR test is '**positive**', you and your household must continue to self-isolate for **10 days from the date of the LFT home test**. You must follow government guidance in [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](#). Again, you must tell the school of the outcome of the confirmatory PCR test using office@ryecollege.co.uk.

Home testing is voluntary but strongly recommended. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, testing plays an important role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other. **All testing is free**.

Once we have completed the move to home testing, we will be expanding the offer to those who have not participated in this programme. Registration (consent) for onsite testing has now closed. Further information on all our testing can be found at www.ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace.

Thank you once again for your continued support and commitment to keeping our community safe and healthy – for which we are all grateful.

If you have any further questions feel free to email office@ryecollege.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College