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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware the government have asked staff at primary schools to support routine lateral flow testing.

The academy has been working with staff to understand what they need to do and how testing will add to our current safety measures such as social distancing, regularly washing hands, one-way systems, staggered starts etc. Staff will be taking test kits home and will test twice a week before coming to work.

The tests are designed to find people who have Covid-19 but are not displaying any symptoms (asymptomatic). This allows them to immediately self-isolate and book a PCR test at their local test centre. This reduces this risk of them unwittingly transmitting the disease.

Staff will test in the morning as per Public Health England advice. As has been the case in previous periods of school closure, we may need to close bubbles at short notice due to the need for staff to book PCR tests or isolate. We will do all that we can to avoid this and would like to thank you in advance for your patience and support as we put these measures in place and support the national effort to reduce transmission.

It is not compulsory for staff to take the test. If they choose not to, they will still attend work, however the other mitigations in place will keep the risk of transmission low. The tests do not replace the need for staff to self-isolate and get a PCR test if they are displaying symptoms and will not stop any identified close contacts having to self-isolate (including other staff).

Best Wishes

K Richardson

Kate Richardson
Executive Principal