



# Herne Bay High School

## Specialist Sports College

Bullockstone Road, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7NS  
☎ 01227 361221 ✉ [principal@hernebayhigh.org](mailto:principal@hernebayhigh.org)



18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carer,

As you will be aware, we have been busy testing all our students three times over the w.c. 8<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> March – I am pleased to report that this enormous process has gone without a hitch and by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March we will have tested 1500 students **three times!**

I should like to thank the large number of volunteers from our local community who have worked so hard in supporting this testing approach, we simply could not have done it without these wonderful people!

Students will be supplied with two boxes of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home-testing kits today to self-swab and **test themselves twice a week at home**. The home-testing kits will be made available to every student. We anticipate that most families will want their children home-tested in order to identify young people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and consequently keep everyone safer. (Please note that when we are provided with additional home testing kits we will send these home immediately).

To help with the organisation of both taking the test at home, and also in tracking the results at school, we are asking that you test your child **SUNDAY and WEDNESDAY** each week. The school will text you on both days to remind you, in the text there will be a link to record the results at school.

### **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 is easy to do at:

[www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

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

**In addition, and very importantly**, students **must** also share their result, whether void, positive or negative, with us here at school to help with our contact tracing by clicking on this link:

<https://www.hernebayhigh.org/covid19-student-home-results>

The government's guidance regarding home testing states:

- Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed.
- Adolescents aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.
- Children aged 11 attending a secondary school should be tested by an adult.
- Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use protective measures.
- Students (or family members) who test positive when using a home LFD test will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance, and they will also need to immediately arrange to have a PCR test (ideally at a centre) to confirm the result of their home LFD test.



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Nearly all students have undergone 3 tests at school, and should be well versed with the process, but please take time to read the instruction supplied with the test kits. Please click on the following link to a video which shows you how to conduct the home test:

[How to do a COVID-19 Self Test \(rapid antigen test\) - YouTube](#)

Can we also please advise you that 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](http://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) and collect 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Regrettably, we do need to be mindful that with 1600 students, and possibly family members testing themselves twice a week, there is a distinct possibility that we will experience a small number of positive cases. Should this happen, we will work with the Department for Education and PHE in order to respond accordingly. This may result in us having to isolate a year group bubble at home whilst the person who tested positive awaits the results of the confirmatory PCR test. Although this is not something we would ideally wish to do, the advice may be that it would be the most appropriate approach to keep everyone safe.

Should a confirmatory PCR test come back positive we would endeavour to work quickly to identify the individual's close contacts and these would regrettably have to isolate at home for 10 days whilst other students would be able to return to school.

Once again, I hope we have your continuing support with our efforts to get school back to normal and keep all students, families and our community COVID-19 free.

If you have any concerns, please contact the relevant year team for support.

With kind regards

**Mr Jon Boyes**  
**Principal**