

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

What a pleasure it is to write to you today, at the end of our first week back in our respective buildings. It is such a joy to be able to hear students back in classrooms with teachers, bringing our academies back to life. Staff and students alike have worked amazingly, showing the resilience and focus that we have seen throughout this entire pandemic. Attendance rates, for the most part have been amazing, indicating (I think) how much we all wanted to get back in to our routines and engage with face-to-face learning.

Twice weekly testing for staff and the first week of testing students aged 11 and over is in full swing, providing another layer of reassurance to add to all of the other measures in place to minimise the spread of Covid-19 in our academies.

Parents of children aged 11 and over will receive information from the relevant academy shortly regarding the home testing kits that the government are encouraging secondary school students to use twice weekly after the initial 3 tests are completed in school.

Guidance continues to be updated on an almost daily basis. With this in mind, please find the link below for the Parents Guidance from government, which has all pre-8 March 2021 information removed as well as an updated section on asymptomatic testing: [Guidance for Parents](#)

As home testing is rolled out it may be useful to read the following document from the NHS which explains when self-isolation should be observed and for how long: [How long to self-isolate](#)

Please remember that kits issued by our academies for home testing are for use by students only. Families and others who wish to engage with home testing are able to order home testing kits online, or by visiting a local public testing centre, **NOT** one of our academies. For more information including the location of such test sites, please use this [link](#).

Please also remember that home test kits are for those who are asymptomatic only. Anyone displaying Covid-19 symptoms must book a PCR test by calling 119 or using this [link](#). This is because the tests work in different ways.

Similarly, if a home testing kit gives a positive result, a PCR test must be booked to confirm the home test result and self-isolation observed until such time as a negative PCR test is received (or a full 10-day self-isolation completed in the case of a PCR confirmed positive case – see the above link for full details of self-isolation).

It is more important than ever that the measures in place in schools to ensure (as far as is possible) the safety of IET students, staff and wider communities are not undone out of school by people not following government guidance including the hands-face-space requirements.

Thank you for your ongoing support. It is appreciated.

Take care and keep safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S J Sprack', with a stylized, cursive script.

S J Sprack
CEO Isle Education Trust