



# Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, MA

17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students

Dear parent/carer,

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at school.

Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child at the end of this week for them to start testing from w/c March 22nd. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before**. We recommend that this takes place either on a Sunday evening or Monday morning (to be reported to the form tutor during Monday) and on either a Wednesday evening or Thursday morning (to be reported to the form tutor during Thursday).

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

If your child has not been tested at school yet (and you have given consent), then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing. This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

### 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's 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.

It is important to keep a note of your child's results and share with school. Students will be asked about this by form tutors on Mondays and Thursdays.

### Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder 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) or pick up 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/households-and-bubbles-of-pupils-students-and-staff-of-schools-and-colleges-get-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.

### **National guidelines**

Please continue to follow the [national guidelines](#) regarding Covid-19, in terms of recognising symptoms, testing & tracing, self-isolation, control measures and other information. Do continue to inform us of positive cases within the student body in line with our [established procedures](#).

Thank for your ongoing support and please let us know of any issues

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Langton'.

Richard Langton, Headteacher