

17 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Mass Testing in Schools

You may have heard the announcement this week from the government that staff and students will have access at school to rapid testing in the new year 2021!

The DfE plan to send test kits to schools to allow us to facilitate weekly and serial testing (daily) to help preserve face-to-face education by preventing close contacts from needing to self-isolate.

Before any of this can take place at DPA staff need to be trained or appointed, a room organised to facilitate this testing and, we need consent from every parent before students are tested. The tests are not compulsory however, staff and students who experience COVID-19 symptoms or who are identified as close contacts must follow government guidance.

The DfE believes that these rapid tests will reduce those self-isolating by a third, if the test is negative, meaning your child can stay in school. However, if the test is positive, they will have to isolate and get a second test done that will be processed in a lab.

We are expecting more detailed guidance, but I just wanted to reassure you that DPA will provide this new testing service in the New Year, but it is unlikely to be from 4th January 2021.

Can I please also reiterate a previous point that this test is not compulsory, and consent will be obtained from parents/carers first before it is administered to students at DPA.

As soon as we have received the extra guidance, we will be in touch with the detail about how we plan to test staff and students in school with consent for those who want it.

Yours sincerely



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Principal



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