

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, thank you for your patience and kind words as we try to respond to ever changing circumstances.

Unfortunately, I learned today that a member of staff has been taking part in an asymptomatic testing research project and then was alerted this afternoon that the test taken on Saturday is positive. This has meant that yellow corridor will be required to isolate for 10 days. You have been notified if this has involved your child. Under normal circumstances, a member of staff would not be at work if they were awaiting test results. In this case however, the member of staff was not unwell nor experiencing any symptoms but was taking part in a research project. As such, she was continuing to work while taking part in a research programme.

Thankfully, from tomorrow afternoon, we will begin staff testing. Our 'testing centre' is set up, we will be confirming testing protocols tomorrow morning and then will begin testing in the afternoon.

At this stage, we will not be testing pupils due to the invasive nature of the tests. I learned today that tests are being developed which are tolerable for young people with special needs so we will await for further developments.

Should you be concerned about yourself or a member of your family, you will be interested to know that symptom-free testing sites are opening across Kent. Follow the link below for more information, locations, opening hours and instructions on how to book a test.

<https://kccmediahub.net/symptom-free-testing-sites-to-open-across-kent745>

Please continue to share your concerns or questions with school. It is only by working together and communicating with each other that we be able to navigate through this.

Thanks once again for your ongoing support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully



Jill Palmer
Principal