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Dear Parent/Carer,

By any measure, whether it was our student attendance on Monday (97%), the number of voluntary Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests taken by students this week (over 2,000) or just the countless number of smiles on the faces of students as they returned to classrooms with friends, this has been a very successful week in school. Thank you for the way you have supported students as they have returned and helped them during this latest stage of their journey through the pandemic. Very well done to our students too for the way they have re-adapted so quickly to the different ways of working in school and for the high standards of co-operation and behaviour which they have shown on their return. There can be no doubt that the way they have responded to the new control measures introduced in secondary schools, on-site mass asymptomatic testing and face-covering wearing in lessons being the principal ones, has made returning to school even safer for themselves and their families.

Student Asymptomatic Testing

On Monday, Year 11, 12 and 13 students will undertake their third on-site test, which will represent the final day of mass-testing of students in school. I would like to thank all the student, parents and staff involved for enabling such a large-scale undertaking to take place so smoothly and at relatively short notice.

From Monday, all students, regardless of whether or not they have participated in the on-site testing, will be able to start regular (ie every 3-4 days) LFD testing at home. Further details will follow in a letter from Mrs Warburton, Deputy Headteacher about the home-testing kits which students will be able to take home with them next week. Please also see a letter attached from the local Director of Public Health encouraging participation in the home-testing programme.

As you may be aware, all household members of secondary-age children are now also able to participate in LFD testing at home. As a school we can only provide kits for students, but kits for the rest of the family can be obtained by attending a local collection centre. Collection centre locations and opening times can be found by using the following link <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> Kits can also be ordered for home delivery via [Schools and colleges testing: order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow home test kits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-home-test-kits), although each eligible person will need to place an individual order if using this service. Please note that home-testing kits are not available from other healthcare locations, such as GP surgeries or vaccination centres.

Staff Asymptomatic Testing

Please note that in line with Department for Education guidelines, school staff have been undertaking regular LFD tests at home now for the last 10 days and will continue to do so for as long as is required by national guidelines.

School Equipment

Thank you for supporting and encouraging your child to be fully equipped for school this week. We have had a number of parents dropping off PE kits, lunches, etc during the week though. Although visiting the school site is not prohibited within our Covid-19 Risk Assessment, please do try to minimise the need to visit by encouraging your child to make sure they have everything they need when they set off for school in the morning. Thank you for your assistance with this.

National Census 2021

We have been asked by Cheshire West and Chester to encourage our students' families to complete the national census, which should arrive shortly in the post ...

"The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in Wales and England.

The government, local councils, charities and many other organisations use census information to decide how to spend billions of pounds on services every year. This includes spending on transport, education and healthcare. By taking part in the census, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.

To make sure money is spent where it's most needed, it's important that the census counts everyone. You must complete the census by law. Look out for your pack in the post. It will show you how to complete your census questionnaire. There will be plenty of help for people who need it. Your answers are protected by law and will be kept confidential.

Find out more: www.census.gov.uk

National 2021 Census Contact Centre: 0800 141 2021

England NGT (text relay service) (18001) 0800 141 2021

Language helpline: 0800 587 2021

Cheshire West and Chester Council are operating a local Census Support Centre to provide advice and support for completing the census to local residents. The contact number is 0300 123 7728 and the opening hours are Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm"

I am sure that after a week of very different routines to those students established during the recent 'lockdown' they will be ready for a break this week. They can be proud of the week that they have had and I hope that they, and yourselves, have a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Best wishes,

Martin Hill
Headteacher