

Dear Parent

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to enable us to carry out the onsite lateral flow tests in preparation for our transition back to face to face learning. As you are no doubt aware one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals and can do this by carrying out tests at home twice every week once we have completed the 3 onsite lateral flow tests.

### **Testing students at home**

Students will be provided with home test kits when they register for their 3<sup>rd</sup> onsite lateral flow test in the week commencing the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.

We would like all students to take their tests on a Sunday and Thursday and report the results to the college using the online results portal which can be found on JCC Connect.

We will be sending home Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They are a fast and simple way to test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, but who may still be spreading the virus. The tests are easy to use and give results in 30 minutes.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 2 packs of 3 tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

### **Taking the test**

Students should take the test themselves with adult supervision. There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal household waste bin.

Home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If a member of your household have symptoms, you should all self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow the national guidelines.

### **What should you do after the test?**

You need to report your result to both NHS Test and Trace and the college. The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

- If your son/daughter tests **negative** they can continue to attend college
- If your son/daughter tests **positive** you should book a PCR test
- If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** they should do another test.

A negative result does not guarantee that your child is not carrying the virus so everyone should continue to follow the guidelines to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask, regularly washing hands and observing social distancing.

If anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

**Why take part?**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and students will be able to attend college whether they take part in testing or not. We do, however, strongly encourage all students to take part as testing at home will allow students to attend college as safely as possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jlawrence@jcc.ac.uk](mailto:jlawrence@jcc.ac.uk) or Rosie Shale our COVID Coordinator at [rshale@jcc.ac.uk](mailto:rshale@jcc.ac.uk) if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jo Lawrence', written in a cursive style.

Jo Lawrence  
Vice Principal