



10th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

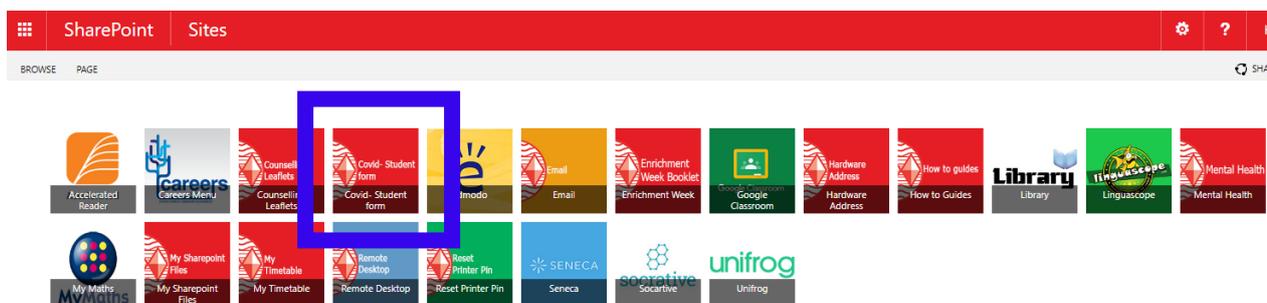
### Covid-19 Home Testing

We are close to the end of the in-school Covid-19 testing programme. Thank you so much for your support with this. I am delighted to say that we will have all of our year groups back in school full-time on Friday.

As you will know, the expectation of the Department for Education is that from Monday, 15th March 2021, parents/carers will test children of a secondary school age at home.

**Parents/carers will be able to test their child twice a week at home before they come in to school. It is suggested that students are tested on Monday and Thursday mornings each week before school.** Tests take around 30 minutes to complete. Full instructions are provided with the test kits. Please kindly give yourselves plenty of time to conduct the test to ensure your child arrives on time at school. **We appreciate that testing in the morning may not be convenient and therefore suggest you conduct the test on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening, if that is more manageable for you.**

**Parents/carers must report test results to NHS Test and Trace** as soon as the test is completed as per the instructions in the home test kit. **Results should also be shared with the School** to help with contact tracing. Results should be uploaded via the Covid - Student Form available on SharePoint please. Students should be aware of how to access this and a screenshot is attached. When clicking the link, students will need to enter their Google classroom account details. Parents/carers should email [itsupport@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:itsupport@highamlaneschool.co.uk) if the student's login details have been forgotten.



We are expecting testing kits to be delivered on Thursday and students will be issued with the tests during form time on Friday to take home. **We will only be providing home testing kits to students for whom we have received consent for testing in school.** If you would like a home testing kit but have not previously given consent, please contact the School to let us know.

Students should take the kits straight home. Please could you kindly read through the instructions with your child son/daughter and support them in carrying out the test.

As with the in-school testing, it is not mandatory for students to be tested at home before they come into school. However, in line with Department for Education and Public Health advice, we strongly encourage you to do this to help us to keep our students and staff safe and to limit the numbers of students and staff having to self-isolate, once we have identified a positive case. We have had a fantastically high response rate to our in-school testing and we hope this will continue with the home testing.

The latest Department for Education guidance confirms that: **all positive results from rapid tests undertaken at home do need to be confirmed with a standard PCR test.** This is because these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment and will not have trained staff on hand. Following a positive LFD test at home, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student and their close contacts should self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the self-test LFD test (taken at home only, not in school) and the child can return to school. **Parents/carers must inform school and provide evidence of a negative PCR test result (a letter will be sent home when we are made aware of a positive LFD test result which explains this in more detail)**

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate in getting in touch with the School via the [contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk](mailto:contactus@highamlaneschool.co.uk) email address.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

P. Kelly

Headteacher