

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

December 22 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Coronavirus [COVID -19]

Parents/carers are receiving regular communication updating them of positive cases in Years 12 - 13 at Kimberley College and Years 9 – 11 at Wootton Upper School. Cases remain *relatively* low compared with other local educational establishments; the increase Kimberley College and Wootton Upper School has seen in the last week mirrors that of our wider area.

Wootton Academy Trust is following Public Health England [PHE] guidance and is in regular contact with them. PHE has classified all cases at Kimberley College and Wootton Upper School as single cases.

Some of our cases are asymptomatic.

Ensuring that HANDS, FACE and SPACE routines are fully implemented and are important measures that we must all implement to minimise transmission. We ask for the continued support of parents/carers in reinforcing this with their children, especially reminding them of the legal requirement to wear face coverings on their way to and from school and college on public and school transport.

Please continue to email covid19@wootton.beds.sch.uk to report any positive test result you receive on your children at Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College.
us.

A reminder that up to and including Wednesday 23rd December we will respond on the day.

Emails to covid19@wootton.beds.sch.uk received from Thursday 24th December will continue to be processed to support our attendance and teaching and learning teams prepare for the Spring Term which starts on Monday 4th January. We will respond to emails received from Thursday 24th December at the start of term on Monday 4th January.

Dr MacKay and Mrs McMorn who have led this work over the last four days have asked me to thank you for your continued support.

Further to my last letter which included information on *Lateral Flow Testing* for Wootton Academy Trust staff, pupils at Wootton Upper School and students at Kimberley College, we are continuing to develop plans which, as previously stated, we will share with you on Wednesday 30th December.

One parent has asked for clarification of when these tests will take place: Lateral Flow Tests will start in the week beginning Monday 4 January. The initial mass testing is likely to go on through that week, and probably into the following week too.

If your child is in a year group that is going to be learning remotely in the first week of term and not physically present at Wootton Upper School or at Kimberley College, we anticipate asking you to book an appointment to bring your child in for their Lateral Flow Test. I am repeating this point in today's letter to give you as much notice as possible.

In our letter on Wednesday 30th December, we will give you the [provisional] dates we have identified for these tests and provide information about when and how you can book a test. We would encourage you to book tests for your children, but it is NOT mandatory. Before anybody can book a test, a registration form and a consent form will need to be completed. These will be made available next week.

Wootton Academy Trust needs your help, please

Before, we start testing we need to train our staff and others to carry them out. We are advised by the Department for Education that the training is easy and it is completed on-line and takes between 90 minutes and two hours. In this letter I am asking for help from our parents/carers who may be able to help our staff to carry out these tests.

I was genuinely 'bowled-over' by one offer of help I received following my letter yesterday. A parent emailed ... *"You are probably aware that there are a number of medically trained parents within your community, that I'm sure like me, would volunteer and help where able."*

I would like to ask for others in our school and college community, who feel able to offer help to get in touch with me at covid19@wootton.beds.sch.uk. I know that in most settings very few individuals carrying out these tests will have medical training beyond the online training they complete before starting the tests. My instincts tell me that if testers are medically qualified, then there is greater likelihood of fully compliant tests being completed that are and therefore, more accurate.

We do need to find a lot of helpers if we are going to be able to test everyone in the first two weeks and there are other roles which others can help with including me. Therefore, if you fall into this category, willing to help in another capacity please let us know.

I will ensure anybody who is able to offer help is contacted on either December 28th or December 29th by email.

Finally, in respect of Lateral Flow Tests I want to draw your attention to a leaflet the Department for Education has sent to schools and colleges which explains more about the Test so you understand how it is carried out. The leaflet is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely and once again... happy Christmas and please stay safe.

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal
Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates:
Wootton Upper School & Arts College
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College
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