

10 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer or Student

## NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Home Testing

Thank you to all parents, carers and students for the way that the Covid-19 testing has been conducted in school. These are unusual times, students have coped very well and the testing centre has continued to operate smoothly and in a typically St. Aidan's manner: efficient, calm and friendly – well done.

This letter gives further information about the home testing that the Government is making available beyond the initial in-school testing. Students who have been tested in school will be provided with a testing kit (when they do their final in-school test) for them to continue testing at home. The intention is that each student will then be tested at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart. There is no requirement to provide online consent for the home testing; please <u>read through the Privacy Notice</u>, the full instructions for testing that will be sent with the testing kit, and the <u>NHS 'How to do a Home Test'</u>.

Participation in the rapid testing programme at home is voluntary and attendance at school is unaffected if you decide not to take part. We hope, however, that those in our community will continue to support the testing programme. There is no cost for those being tested.

The result of each test taken by a student at home needs to be reported to:

- NHS Test and Trace: <u>www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</u>, and
- St. Aidan's: <u>hometest.staidans.co.uk</u>

If the test result is positive, then the student and those in their household (including any support bubbles they are part of) should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance, for 10 days. A confirmatory PCR test should be booked for the student, on the same day or as soon as possible.

All existing Covid-19 control measures used in school (such as self-isolation for those displaying symptoms and for those who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive) remain in place and must be adhered to. This is important for all in school, including for those who receive a negative rapid test result.

Finally, the kits that we provide are for student use only; however, the Government have announced separate availability of <u>household home testing</u>.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Chris Ives Associate Headteacher

