

### Covid-19 Testing arrangements

Last week's testing arrangements ran very smoothly. Our pupils are to be congratulated, they have handled the testing arrangements very well and their behaviour and conduct during the week was excellent. Thank you for all your support with the testing process and ensuring your child participates. The table shows you which day the second and third tests are, or have been, taking place:

Day	AM	PM
Monday 15th	7	8
Tuesday 16th		9
Wednesday 17th	10	11
Thursday 18th	7	8
Friday 19th		9

Testing is running across each day from registration to P5 and pupils are taken to their tests in groups to minimise waiting time.

This week we have also been issuing each student with 2 boxes of 3 Covid-19 lateral flow tests for use at home during the last week of term and over the Easter break.

The LFT kits are being given to each student on the day they complete their third test in the college. We will also distribute a user guide from NHS test and trace that gives very clear instruction of how to use these tests and replaces the older guides inside the box of kits (**the older guides inside the kits should be discarded**).

#### LFT home test kit distribution dates:

Year 10 and Year 11 – Wednesday 17th March

Year 7 and Year 8 – Thursday 18th March

Year 9 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March

It is recommended that each student completes **two tests per week between 3 and 5 days apart** and reports the results to the NHS test and trace service.

**Reporting results to NHS test and trace is the key priority but we would be grateful if you could also report test results to the college.** Please use the form found on microsite (link below) to report results to the college.

The tests are fairly straight forward to complete and come with a very good instruction leaflet but we have also added useful videos and resources to our microsite that we hope will assist: <https://myeds.co/f/nqN5DZvJSwk7>. For ease of access have also added a button to your Astrea app that links to this microsite.

Please could we ask that **if you do get a positive test result** that you contact the school directly via [studentservices@astrecottenham.org](mailto:studentservices@astrecottenham.org) during the Easter holidays.

#### Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.</li> </ul> <p>To find out more on school household testing visit <a href="#">Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Symptoms</b></p>	<p>Please note that if your child shows <b>symptoms of COVID-19 and/or tests positive</b>. Please notify us via <a href="mailto:studentservices@astreacottenham.org">studentservices@astreacottenham.org</a>. We will then put in place the track and trace process.</p> <p>In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 if your child tests positive or has been in close contact with someone who has, we will contact you and you will need to collect your child immediately.</p> <p>As LFT is still being carried out in school this week, if your child does test positive, they will need to isolate for 10 days. There is currently no requirement to obtain a confirmatory PCR test for in school testing; please note if a PCR test is undertaken and is negative it does not reverse the requirement for self-isolation. The reason for this is because tests that are being undertaken at a test site are conducted under supervision and by a trained operator.</p> <p><i>Positive results from <u>home testing</u> should also be confirmed by a PCR test - the individual and close contacts should isolate while awaiting the confirmatory PCR test.</i></p> <p>In the event of any pupils going into isolation or a bubble being closed, all lessons will take place via TEAMS.</p>
<p><b>Y11 Parents' Evening</b></p>	<p>Y11 Parents' Evening is calendared for next Thursday 25 March. However, <b>we are moving Y11 Parents' Evening to Tuesday 13 April (after the Easter holiday)</b>. This in order to be able to have the most productive and useful conversations we can with pupils and parents, once more guidance has been released by the exam boards.</p>
<p><b>Y11 GCSE grades</b></p>	<p>A letter and recorded presentation will be shared with Year 11 pupils and parents next week. This will share more detailed information on the timeline for Year 11 after the Easter holidays, the sort of evidence that subjects will likely use to reach a final grade, as well as how pupils might use their remaining time in the best way possible.</p> <p>It is important to reiterate that <b>there is still plenty of time for pupils to continue to improve and for more evidence to be gathered.</b></p>
<p><b>Uniform</b></p>	<p>As we returned to school, we were aware that many parents were needing to refresh items of uniform. In the past week we asked tutors to check uniforms on our return to enable conversations with parents about items that may not be ideal or need replacement. The aim is to support students' return to full-time education and ensure that we have a time frame for replacement where needed. If you need support with any item of uniform, or you are unsure if an item is acceptable (particularly shoes), please do refer to the <a href="#">website uniform page</a>, which remains the same as it has been, or contact the Form tutor or Head of Year.</p> <p>As you make new purchases, we request that parents avoid buying shoes with any visible branding whatsoever (even if this branding is 'blacked out'), especially those that resemble trainers. We are happy to provide a buffer time as needed for parents, please do write a note or email if you need this to avoid students receiving a detention.</p> <p>This will enable the staff at school to uphold our high standards confidently without issuing a detention to a student with a valid reason for a uniform issue.</p>

# Cottenham Village College Parent Weekly Newsletter

## w/c 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021



<p><b>Year 9 KS4 (GCSE) Preferences - FINAL REMINDER</b></p>	<p>Year 9 pupils continue to engage with the KS4 preferences process (otherwise known as ‘GCSE options’). The <b>guidance booklet</b> can be found on the school website here: <a href="https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Options-Booklet-2021-1.pdf">https://www.astreacottenham.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Options-Booklet-2021-1.pdf</a> and the <b>virtual presentation</b> for pupils and parents is on YouTube here: <a href="https://youtu.be/dWFXBMMVeM">https://youtu.be/dWFXBMMVeM</a></p> <p>Before half term, we had the pleasure of meeting parents and pupils to support pupils’ progress and guide them in their GCSE choices. We are now in the process of organising and conducting <b>guidance interviews</b>, where they have been requested, to further support pupils’ decisions. If you require a guidance interview, please contact your child’s Form Tutor or the Head of Year.</p> <p>The link to the <b>KS4 Preferences form</b> to fill in to submit pupils’ preferences has been sent home. The deadline for completion is Friday 12 March.</p>
<p><b>Laptop Returns</b></p>	<p>Please can we ask that any laptops on loan from the college are now returned for redistribution. Laptops can be returned to the college reception between 8AM and 4PM on any school day.</p>