

28th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you were able to enjoy a happy and safe Christmas.

As you will be aware, the Covid-19 infection rates in Havering have been some of the highest in the country and in an attempt to control and lower them, Havering are encouraging all school staff and students in Years 11, 12 and 13 to have a Covid-19 test prior to returning in January. The aim of this testing is to identify asymptomatic positives to make sure they isolate to protect more of our community, instead of bringing the virus into schools on return after the holidays.

Schools were provided with packs in the last week of term, but unfortunately too late for us to distribute. Therefore, the two available testing options are:

- Request a home test kit from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Click on 'Start Now' then click 'Yes' as an essential worker; then 'No' to symptoms (unless you have symptoms); then 'Yes' to taking part in community testing. The test kits will be delivered directly to your home and you can return directly to the community collection sites on the nominated days.
- Go to one of the local Mobile Testing Units. These are walk-in sites which are situated across the borough. See the Havering web page for regular updates on where these units are located: www.havering.gov.uk. The MTUs will process their own tests separately from the school staff and pupil testing described here.

In regards to community testing, the current Public Health England advice is that if your son/daughter has had a positive test in the last 12 weeks, they should not take a further test.

Currently all the Government indications are that Year 11 will be returning on the 5th January, but I will write to you again later in the week, when we have received definitive confirmation. Please encourage your son/daughter to complete the holiday revision work prior to their mock exams, which start on the 18th January.

Thank you for all your support. Take care.

Best wishes,



MR. W. THOMPSON
Principal