



CHAMBERLAYNE COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS

Expect More. Achieve More.

www.chamberlayne.org

Ref: 042 2021

Date: 10th March 2021

Covid Testing – URGENT

Dear parents and carers

It is with huge frustration and disappointment that today I have to report that the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Saliva Testing Programme have informed us that they have had to pause the saliva testing programme until after Easter. They have had technical issues at the testing laboratory and as a result cannot process the increased number of samples required.

Students and staff who submitted saliva samples last week are all confirmed as NEGATIVE. Samples that were submitted by students and staff yesterday have not been processed and unfortunately will not be. They have been disposed off safely by the testing laboratory.

As a school community this leaves us in a difficult position as we were relying on saliva testing rather than the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test. We now have to shift our efforts to ensuring that all students and parents understand how to administer the LFD test at home. To do that and to remain as safe as possible, we must test all students again, on Friday 12th March.

I am desperately frustrated that we will have to close the school to most students this Friday (12th March) so that we can test everybody again. This is unavoidable and I can only apologise for any inconvenience. If, as a parent, you genuinely require your child to attend school on Friday then we will provide supervision for them. Please inform Mr Toone on billy.toone@chamberlayne.org if you absolutely need a school place. All other teachers and school staff will again be used to test all children as we did on Monday. The timings and processes are exactly the same as Monday. Your child doesn't need to wear school uniform when they come in and they will be free to leave straight after their test.

We will also provide online learning for all students via Epraise for Friday where they should follow their normal timetabled lessons unless they are in school being tested.

All students will be issued with Home Testing kits on Monday and we will be asking all students, with parental support, to begin testing themselves on Tuesday 16 March. We will remind you and them on Monday.

I know that you will feel as irritated by this as we do and if we can help in any way, please do just ask. The turn out for Monday's testing was excellent with the vast majority of students being tested. All tests were negative. We desperately want to keep everybody very safe, so I am really pleading with you to support us by bringing/sending your child in for an LFD test





CHAMBERLAYNE COLLEGE FOR THE ARTS

Expect More. Achieve More.

www.chamberlayne.org

on Friday. Monday 15th March all children will return again to a full timetable and children will have their LFD Home Testing Kits. Those who have their saliva testing kits at home, please keep them safe as you will require them after Easter. Those who haven't received theirs yet will receive them after Easter.

Yours faithfully

Mr N S Giles BA(Hons) NPQH
Headteacher

