



Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter (34) – 20th January 2021

Covid Testing in school

From next week we are going to pilot offering Lateral Flow Tests for Covid **to staff and students on site**. If this runs successfully, we then aim to offer weekly testing for staff and to be able to screen students once before returning to school in the weeks ahead. Families of students in Real School will be receiving information later this week and a way to give consent if you would like to take advantage of the testing. The purpose of this testing is to identify asymptomatic people so they can remain at home and not spread Covid in school or the community. I can confirm that schools nationally are reassured that this purpose of the testing is worthwhile. We are not proposing to use the tests for the other suggested use: daily testing in order to prevent staff and students from having to self-isolate if in contact with a positive case. We had already decided not to use the tests for this second purpose, and this is now being stopped nationally. This is what is being covered in the news currently (though reported as all testing being stopped, which is not the case).

Real School families, please look out for the information this week. All testing is voluntary. Next week will be an important trial for carrying out tests in school.

Year 12 EPQ Surveys – can you help students by completing some surveys?

We have a number of students who are carrying out surveys for their EPQ and would welcome responses from adults. If anyone has time to complete any of these surveys I am sure the students in year 12 would be most grateful. Click on the title to access the survey. More will come out in newsletters in the next few weeks as this is a key time for our EPQ students.

- Subject: [How are attitudes, behaviours and opinions changing because of the Covid-19 pandemic?](#)

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher