



Our Ref: FCG/SJM

12 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Home testing for students

Thank you to you and your children for the support that you gave the Academy with regard to testing of students before the Academy was fully open. Due to such an overwhelming response we were able to open fully this week.

Once students have had their third test in the Academy, they will be supplied with LFD (lateral flow device) test kits to self swab and to **test themselves twice a week at home**. A detailed instruction leaflet will be sent home with the test pack which goes through the process. Testing should take place twice a week, every three – five days, ideally in the morning.

As soon as each test is completed, **the result must be reported to NHS Test and Trace** following the instructions in the home test kit. You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. This can be done at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

Can I ask that you **also share the result, whether void, positive or negative, with the Academy** to help with contact tracing, this should be done by emailing your child's name and the test result to covidtestingresults@somercotesacademy.co.uk In the event of a positive result, can I ask that you use the word "Positive" as the email subject and also please telephone the Academy on 01507 353459 to make sure that we are aware.

The government guidance suggests that young people aged 12 to 17 should self-test and report with adult supervision but that the adult may conduct the test if necessary. Children aged 11 attending a secondary school should be tested by an adult.

Students with a **positive LFD test result for a test taken at home will need to self-isolate** in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend school and use the routine protective measures that are in place.

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The value of the asymptomatic testing is that we can isolate cases that we would, otherwise, have missed which makes **everybody safer** in the Academy. **Thank you for your ongoing support** with this process.

Yours faithfully



Mrs F Green
Principal