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Common Lane
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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Lateral flow testing at Shirebrook Academy

Yesterday schools were sent an email from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, to say that, following guidance he has received from experts, particularly advice from NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England, schools should not carry out the planned daily contact testing for all staff and students. This refers to the testing that was planned to take place for the seven-day period following close contact with a positive case. This approach to testing was originally designed to prevent the need for students to self-isolate at home for 10 days.

Public Health England have reviewed their advice in light of the new, more transmissible Covid virus and rather than taking a test, all close contacts with a Covid case will continue to be asked to self-isolate at home.

The planned roll out of mass, routine testing will continue, with all students being tested once a week and staff testing being increased to twice a week to add 'further reassurances and to break chains of transmission'.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for all who have completed the online consent form. If you have any questions about these changes then please do not hesitate to contact us via email at enquiries@shirebrookacademy.org.

Yours faithfully



Mark Cottingham

Principal