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Dear Parents/Carers,

A note of reassurance following the announcements early this week about living with Covid.

We received separate DfE guidance for schools following the public announcements but, in practice, very little changes for us in school.

- The most significant change is that the **recommendation for staff and students to test twice-weekly has been removed with immediate effect**. In addition to simply following this new guidance there is a pragmatic reason for stopping regular, asymptomatic testing, which is that we all need to save our testing kits for symptomatic testing; schools will no longer be able to obtain free test kits.
- Secondly, although the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test for Covid will be removed tomorrow (Thursday 24 February), the guidance for staff and students in schools remains the same: **that anyone who tests positive is still advised to self-isolate for at least 5 full days** and then return to school only after 2 negative test results on consecutive days up to a maximum of 10 days, as is the case now.

Thank you to all those parents and students who have carried out twice-weekly testing and uploaded the results for so many months in order to reduce the spread in school and therefore enable us to stay open and deliver the education your children deserve. The challenge now will be to keep positive case numbers in school as low as possible (single figures for students today and no staff) in the absence of asymptomatic testing. It becomes more important than ever, therefore, to be alert for cold-like symptoms; **if your child develops symptoms, please use your remaining stock to test for Covid and if they test positive, ensure that they self-isolate, as above**. If you are in any doubt, please contact the attendance office. Students can collect another box of test kits from reception if you have run out - we will not be provided with the stock to distribute kits to all students any more.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Best wishes,

cc. Sixth form students