



**Southfields
Academy**

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Wednesday 21st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carer

I hope you and your family have had a safe and restful break.

As you may be aware, a number of cases of the South African Covid variant have been detected in Wandsworth. To prevent the spread of this, the Local Authority has launched a surge testing operation and requested that all people over the age of 11 should take a PCR test to identify new cases.

It is vital that we all play our part in this operation so that we can keep the Academy and wider community safe and minimise disruption to your child's education. Therefore, all students at Southfields Academy and others in their household aged over the age of 11 are asked to take a PCR test at home this **Thursday, 22nd April** whether they have Covid symptoms or not. If your child and all others in your household have already taken a PCR test as part of the Wandsworth Surge Testing programme, you do not need to take this additional PCR test.

We will be sending home PCR test kits for your child, and the rest of the household, on Wednesday or Thursday. Full instructions for the tests are inside the kit but please ignore the instruction to post the completed tests.

Please note, we have just been notified by the Local Authority that some of the PCR kits may contain a faulty vial. This is the small plastic container which is used to hold the swab after the test has been taken. If a vial is faulty it will have leaked some or all of the saline solution liquid it contained. We have been informed that this liquid is not harmful. If the vial in a test kit your child brings home is leaking or empty, please do not use the test kit but dispose of it instead. If any of the kits your child has brought home are faulty, please notify testing@southfieldsacademy.com as soon as possible and replacement kits will be provided.

It is important that you register the completed test kits so that you are notified of the result. This can be done via www.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit or by phoning 119.

Completed test kits must be returned to the Academy on Friday morning in the sealed boxes that come with the kit.

If your child receives a positive result, please keep them at home and they should isolate for 10 days along with the rest of the household. Please notify the Academy as soon as possible of the positive result. If your child is isolating and develops symptoms, the 10 day isolation period starts again from the first day of symptoms. Further details are here <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

If another member of the household receives a positive result, your child will need to stay at home for a 10 day isolation period.

If your child receives a negative result they may return to school as normal.

These PCR tests are in addition to the Lateral Flow test kits that were sent home with your child before the Easter break. You child should continue to take a Lateral Flow test twice weekly, ideally each Wednesday and Sunday.

To summarise what will be happening this week:

Wednesday 21 st April – Thursday 22 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCR test kits will be sent home with students for the whole household. Please check the vial is not faulty, as described earlier. If it is, please email testing@southfieldsacademy.com to arrange a replacement kit.
Thursday 22 nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and other members of the household should take a PCR test at home.• Parents/carers should register the tests to obtain results www.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/register-kit or by phoning 119.• Please ignore the instruction asking you to post the kits after they have been taken.
Friday 23 rd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All completed PCR test kits must be returned to the Academy by your child on Friday morning in the sealed box which is in the kit.
Saturday 24 th April onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents/carers who have registered the tests will be notified of the test results. If your child or anyone in your household has tested positive, please keep them at home and notify the Academy. If their result is negative, your child may return to school.

If you have any questions regarding PCR testing, please contact testing@southfieldsacademy.com. Further information on Surge Testing in Wandsworth is available here www.wandsworth.gov.uk/surge-testing

Thank you for your support for this renewed effort to stop the spread of the virus.

Yours sincerely



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher