



Principals' Letter – Spring Term 2021 Week Ending 12th March 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Today was number 6 of the 11 asymptomatic Covid testing days and we have been amazed at the maturity in which all year groups have approached it; we have managed to complete a little under 2000 tests this week and will do a similar amount next! As we complete the last test with a year group your young person will be given a home testing kit and a booklet of instructions. We hope that you will then be able to reassure yourselves if you have any concerns about whether something is Covid or simply a cold. We will complete the testing process during next week in the following order:

Monday - Years 8 and 9

Tuesday - Years 7 and 10

Thursday – Year 8

Friday – Year 7

You will not receive an appointment as we will be collecting students from class to complete them. Attached is a letter regarding home testing from Essex County Council that we have been asked to send you.

We have received several emails asking for the date that Year 11 will receive their exam results in the summer. The current information on the Department for Education website says the following:

“We are working towards you receiving your results for AS and A levels on 10 August, and GCSEs on 12 August. Results for vocational or technical qualifications linked to moving on to further or higher education should also be issued to students either on or before these dates.”

We will confirm all details once we receive a final answer from the exam boards on when we will receive the finalised results.

This has obviously been an incredibly challenging week for us with the loss of a much loved colleague alongside testing and the full return to school of students. We would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of all the staff, many of whom were anxious prior to the loss of Mr Simpson, throughout this week. We know that there are many ‘experts’ on social media as to what should and shouldn’t be happening but we are so grateful for the overwhelming support we have received as a school and as individuals from you. It is hard to imagine a time when the partnership between all of us has been more crucial.

It is great to have the energy of the young people back in the building, we really did miss them. Stay well please.

Message from the Pastoral Team: Covid-19 continues to disrupt the world around us like we could never have imagined. We have been exposed to vast stories of loss and grief affecting many people in our local community. Death is unfathomable, especially when it strikes someone with an unfinished life. Unexpected grief is horrid and immeasurable. For many people in the UK, talking about death is still a taboo, meaning that it is not something that is often talked about among families and in communities. However, it is something that impacts us all and it is important to provide the opportunity to learn about bereavement and to support children and young people to develop the skills and understanding they need now and in the future to deal with this particular life event.

Many people within our Passmores community, staff, students and friends have had their lives turned upside down by Covid-19 and have had to deal with several losses of loved ones. This week we were devastated to learn of the sudden and tragic passing of one of our own, Mr Simpson. Mr Simpson was a dear friend to all of us at school and the gentlest giant you would ever come across, who did everything to help us out when we needed it. A true gentleman who will be sorely missed by all.

This week during tutor time we asked to students to think about the effect's bereavement can have on a person. They engaged in discussions with their tutors about the impact of grief and generated ideas of how to support one another.

It is important to remember that during this time of great uncertainty we are a family and together we will weather any storm. Do not forget to check in with those you love and remind them that everybody has somebody who cares about them. If you or your young person are struggling please reach out to your HOH/DHOH or tutor for support. Alternatively, you can call one of these support numbers.

stclarehospice.org.uk/bereavement-cafe or call 01279 773700

Childhoodbereavementnetwork.co.uk



Thought of the Week: Sunday 21st March is the official census 2021 day for all households in the UK. This is an important event as the data is used by the government to plan for the next 10 years and beyond. This week's Thought for the Week has been giving more details to our students about what the census is all about and how it used to decide government spending priorities. If you need more details about what to do or how it affects you, this is the Census 2021 website <https://census.gov.uk/>

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A PE Kit Reminder: We thought a reminder of our PE kit could be helpful. Any questions, please contact the school.



If you haven't got the Passmores logo PE kit you can wear a plain navy jumper / hoodie (with a small logo) and plain navy tracksuit bottoms / leggings

Drama: In drama, Year 7 have been looking at reviewing live theatre through studying the musical Wonder.land, a modern adaptation of Alice in Wonderland. The students were asked to create a song for one of the characters, where the characters secrets and thoughts were revealed to the audience. This is **Lacey-Mae Stafford's** song, written for one of the bullies in the play.

*If only they knew
What I was going through
This, me, its just an act
But I cant tell them the facts.
I only be mean to hide to what I am
Because if they knew they would flip
This, me, them
Best friends but not for long
Would they treat me the same
Wow, they would be so ashamed.
I keep up a lie,
Wanting to hide away and cry.
They are coming
Smush it down
And block it
Back to the old world.*

Year 10 & 11: Epping Forest's Open Event is on Saturday 20 March 2021. Students can register for this event here: www.nccopenevents.co.uk

What to expect at their Online Open Day?

MY NCC- Join the live interactive student sessions, as they showcase their course areas

TOUR NCC- Join a virtual tour of the NCC campuses

EXPLORE NCC- Watch talks ON DEMAND from their industry expert tutors

ASK NCC- Join the conversation online between 10-2pm with the live Q&A

JOIN NCC- Apply for your chosen course!



Natalie Christie & Vic Goddard

Co-Principals of Passmores Academy

TEACHarlow

Interested in becoming a primary or secondary teacher?
Contact Gareth Walsh on g.walsh@passmoresacademy.com

3 March 2021

REGULAR TESTING OF HOUSEHOLDS OF SCHOOL PUPILS

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to you with information about a new national scheme which will enable households with a school-age child to access regular asymptomatic Covid-19 testing, and to encourage you to participate in this initiative. Any adults living in households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including their childcare and support bubbles, are now able to access free Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to take twice a week at home.

One in three people who test positive for Covid-19 do not have symptoms and so regular asymptomatic testing continues to be a vital part of our response to managing the virus. This new approach to household testing will also help to support the easing of restrictions set out by the Prime Minister last week, starting with the re-opening of schools and colleges from next week.

As children and young people return to the classroom, we need to be sure that potential Covid-19 cases are found as quickly as possible and that measures are put in place to prevent them from spreading throughout the school community. Although cases are declining generally, we all need to continue to play our part to keep the virus under control and ensure children and young people can remain in education.

LFTs detect cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning anyone who tests positive but who is not showing Covid-19 symptoms will be able to self-isolate immediately and reduce the likelihood of unknowingly spreading the virus further. You can access a free LFT in a number of ways, including through your employer if they offer testing to employees, at the local LFT site in your district, by collecting a home LFT kit from a test site, or by ordering a home test kit online. More information about these options can be found here: [Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

If you test positive following a LFT, you must inform your child's school or college and self-isolate along with the rest of your household. You will also be required to take a PCR Covid-19 test to confirm the result. If this happens, your child must remain at home with you during the isolation period and their school/college will provide access to remote education for them. There is support available if you are required to self-isolate, including financial support if you are unable to go out to work or work from home: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/support-if-you-are-self-isolating>

If your LFT is negative, this means the test did not find signs of Covid-19. It is vital that, even in this instance, you continue to follow all Covid-19 guidance around handwashing, social-distancing and wearing a face covering if you can, where

recommended.

This new regular testing approach for households is designed to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and support the successful return of more learners to face-to-face education. Testing is an additional measure, working in combination with other protective measures that are in place in schools and colleges to help protect students and staff. These measures together will help to support settings to remain a safe place to learn and work and ensure the learning of children and young people is not disrupted.

This new approach is for adults **only** and this includes a child's support bubble and childcare bubble. In addition to it, primary, secondary school and college staff are continuing to undertake regular testing. Secondary school and college pupils will also undertake regular testing which will be provided via their school or college. Primary school students are not being offered LFTs at this time but parents and carers should access a PCR Covid-19 test for them via the national booking system if they develop symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support to our schools and colleges and the wider community.

Best wishes



Mike Gogarty
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
Essex County Council



Clare Kershaw
Director of Education
Essex County Council