



7<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### Lateral Flow Testing for students

**We know how important it is for you to be able to send your child/ren to school.**

At The John of Gaunt School, we are continuing to take a number of measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimise the risk of infecting students or other children;
- Ensuring our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a [PCR test](#) should they develop symptoms of the virus.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to encourage their children to continue to test regularly on **Mondays and Thursdays** and to report each result to help us keep the school open.

Students will be collecting their next round of home test kits tomorrow (**8<sup>th</sup> October**) during the school day and bringing them home. Please check that they have received these and help them to take the test and report their results if they need support. As always, testing is free of charge. *Please note that our latest delivery contains the new style of test which only requires a swab of both nostrils rather than nose and throat. Instructions are contained in the packs, please ensure you and/or your child read these carefully as the process will differ slightly from what they may be used to. The guidance is provided in multiple languages on how to take the test.*

You can also see this useful video to show you [how to take the test](#) - tests usually take a few minutes to do and you get the results within 30 minutes. Then all you need to do is to report the result to both:

- NHS Test and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- To the John of Gaunt School, by clicking the link sent in an email each Monday and Thursday.

Please note that all students will be provided with kits, however if your child has received a positive test result in the previous 90 days they should not carry out home testing. This is because whilst they may not longer be symptomatic or infectious there may be a residual amount of virus in their system which, if picked up by the test would result in an unnecessary further period of isolation.



### **Financial support is available if your child tests positive and you need to self-isolate**

If you are unable to work due to your child having, or displaying symptoms of, COVID-19, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate. You will be eligible if you live in England and meet all the following criteria:

- you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, including by the NHS COVID-19 app
- you are employed or self-employed
- you cannot work from home and will lose income as a result
- you are claiming at least one of the following benefits:
  1. Universal Credit
  2. Working Tax Credits
  3. income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  4. income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
  5. Income Support
  6. Pension Credit or Housing Benefit

By testing your child every Monday and Thursday you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep our students in school and the John of Gaunt School open to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Please contact Ellie Green, at [egreen@jogschool.org](mailto:egreen@jogschool.org) if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards

**Paul Skipp**  
Headteacher