****

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Enterprise Learning Alliance**  **Thanet & Dover PRU**  The Westwood Centre  Unit L  Westwood Industrial Estate  Enterprise Road  Margate  Kent  CT9 4JA |
|  | Telephone: | 03000 658500 |
|  | Email: | *MClay@ela.kent.sch.uk* |
|  | Ask for: | *Executive Headteacher* |
|  |  |  |
|  | Date: | 15th March 2021 |

Dear Parent/Guardian

Regular asymptomatic (no symptoms) COVID-19 testing has been in place for all staff and students attending the PRU since January.

[The Government has recently announced that](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)all secondary aged students will also be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 tests to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take at home twice a week, so that we can reduce the spread 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. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in the PRU by carrying out tests at home twice every week, on a Monday and Thursday morning before leaving for school.

**Testing pupils/students at home**

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend their centre whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning will support families to test at home.

Tests kits will be given to pupils this week at school ready for their first home test on Thursday morning prior to school. Tests are free of charge. Pupils will receive a pack of tests in a box with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. Parents will also need to report the results via the school website and call the centre if the result is positive.

If a pupil has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one. Pupils have the option to take the test and report the evening before school, but no earlier.

**Taking part**

Taking part in testing is voluntary and all pupils will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not.

I am strongly encouraging all pupils to take part in the national testing programme.

Please contact the Head of Centre, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Please continue testing your child twice a week over the Easter Holidays and on the Monday before returning to school.

**Target Setting Day**

On Monday 19th March, the school’s first day back after the Holidays there is a Target Setting Day. Pupils are only due to attend for their Target Setting Meeting which will be arranged by your child’s centre prior to the Holidays. This will mostly likely be a virtual or phone meeting.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

Micheala Clay

Executive Head Teacher

Enterprise Learning Alliance