

7th January 2022

Dear Varndean families

### Whole school testing programme

Thank you for your support this week with the testing programme. This has been incredibly successful in two ways:

- (i) the vast majority of students tested, giving us a clearer idea about the current levels of risk in school.
- (ii) the identification of a small number of positive cases has helped us maintain our keep COVID out approach and meant that further protective measures, beyond the introduction of face coverings in all areas, are not currently required.

This success reminds us all of the value of regular testing and we ask that all families continue with twice weekly testing and increase the frequency of testing at home when you know that your child has come into close contact with a positive case. We will issue more test kits shortly to facilitate this. Please also remember to record the results each Sunday using the following link: [forms.gle/2bxZzckk3wGnhF9Q6](https://forms.gle/2bxZzckk3wGnhF9Q6)

### New Temporary Rules Around PCRs

The Government has brought in a [new temporary rule](#) from 11th January. Individuals are no longer required to get a confirmatory PCR test following a positive LFT unless you have symptoms:

*From 11 January in England, people who receive positive lateral flow device (LFD) test results for coronavirus (COVID-19) will be required to self-isolate immediately and won't be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.*

*Lateral flow tests are taken by people who do not have COVID-19 symptoms. Anyone who develops 1 of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate and take a PCR test. They must self-isolate if they get a positive test result, even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test – these rules have not changed.*





**Second Dose Vaccinations for 12-16 Year Olds**

We are now starting to receive information about the second dose vaccinations for 12-16 year olds and will share this with you as soon as the dates and details are confirmed.

Kind regards

Shelley Baker  
Headteacher

*Copies of letters to families can also be found on our website:*

<https://www.varndean.co.uk/letters>