



18<sup>th</sup> June 2021  
In all things faithful

**St Damian's RC Science College**

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**Headteacher**

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

## **Supervised Self-Test Project**

We are taking part in a project run by the Department for Education and NHS Test and Trace to encourage participation in regular rapid testing amongst secondary school and college students.

Testing has been playing a vital role in the response to COVID-19. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country. That is why we would like all pupils/students at our school/college to take part in the project.

Currently, pupils/students take lateral flow device tests twice a week at home to detect asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 and report the results themselves, with the assistance of their parents or carers. We also currently have the option for pupils/students to test on-site at school/college should they wish to.

As part of this project, we are now going to ask pupils/students to take at least one of their twice weekly tests at school. Pupils/students will be asked to self-swab and process the test (as they have been doing at home) in a designated area. A trained staff member will then monitor the test result as it develops (allowing the pupil/student to return to class) and will read and report the result on the pupil/students' behalf. This is different to the previous Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) model where students self-swabbed and trained staff processed the test, as well as reading and reporting the result.

Testing in this way should make the process faster and easier for pupils/students compared to when they test and report themselves at home. It should also make it easier for trained staff to oversee the testing compared to the previous ATS model. This quicker process will encourage and support more pupils/students to participate in testing and report results.

### **When will supervised self-testing start?**

We plan to start testing in this way from next week (week commencing Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021).

If parents have already given consent for testing, they do not need to do so again. If parents have not previously given consent, they can do so now by sending a text message to: **07507332277** with the word "Yes". The rapid test consent form can be read or downloaded from schools website please see link: <https://www.stdamians.co.uk/covid-19-rapid-testing>

Pupils/students will still be testing twice each week, 3-4 days apart as per:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

### **What will happen if a pupil/student tests positive?**

As before, if a pupil/student has a positive test result, they will need to self-isolate immediately in line with the [stay-at-home guidance until they receive their confirmatory PCR test](#). They should inform their educational setting of their result so the setting can identify close contacts. Anyone who lives with them and anyone in their support bubble, should [self-isolate in accordance with current national and local guidance](#).

We will continue to manage and notify any close contacts of pupils/students with positive results.

Thank You,

Mr. Logue  
Headteacher

St. Damian's RC Science College