

# Family Bulletin

22nd March 2021 – Week 2



Each one of you has a special gift from God. Use it to serve others well. 1 Peter 4:10

Thought for the Week  
*'Do for others what you want them to do for you'*  
*Matthew 7:12*

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are thrilled to report an historic update with regard to the amalgamation of Wyvern and St Edmund's.

It is now almost three years since we worked to bring Wyvern College and St Edmund's Girls' School into a collaborative working model. Since that time there is no doubt that both schools have gone from strength to strength; the progress and achievement has improved year on year, a successful Ofsted inspection for Wyvern College reflected the work of the two schools together and both schools are oversubscribed. Boys and girls see the collaboration as a real positive and enjoy working with and learning from one another. As far as the community is concerned, we work as one school.

We now plan to take the next step and bring the two schools together legally, which means one admissions policy, a single set of reported results, single Ofsted and SIAMS inspections and a tremendous reduction in some day to day bureaucracy and inconvenience! The admissions consultation which took place in the Autumn resulted in no objection to the schools coming together with one shared policy for 2022 admissions to Year 7. The community consultation, held during the same period, returned only positive comments for the amalgamation. The Trust Board of Magna Learning Partnership has approved our next step which is to apply to the Headteacher Board of the Regional Schools' Commissioner's office for a full amalgamation. Our business case will be submitted in the new academic year and, assuming approval, we will legally become Wyvern St Edmund's Academy in September 2022. The school will take on Wyvern College's Voluntary Aided Church school status and the move has the full approval of Salisbury Diocese, as well as the local authority in Wiltshire.

We are very excited about our future and will keep you informed of progress.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sarah Busby  
CEO, Magna Learning Partnership

Bruce Burley  
Head of School

## **Year 11 Parents' Evenings (Mrs Lee)**

We will be hosting our first online parents' evenings next week with 11x on Tuesday 23rd March and 11y on Thursday 25th March. Booking for both evenings is now open and will close at 5pm the day before each parents' evening (e.g. booking for the 11x parents' evening will close at 5pm on Monday 22nd March).

You can login to make and join appointments by following the links below and inputting your name and child's details:

**Link for the boys' page:** <https://wyverncollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

**Link for the girls' page:** <https://stedmundsgirls.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please be aware that appointments are strictly 5 minutes in length and will end automatically after 5 minutes have elapsed; teachers are unable to extend the appointment. Please ensure that you are ready to join the meeting from the beginning of your appointment.

**How to attend appointments over video call – click [here](#).**

**How to invite another parent/guardian to join your appointments – click [here](#).**

Whilst teachers are unable to provide any information about grades, they will be able to discuss specific details about what students know and can do, as well as explaining what students need to focus on in order to continue making good progress.

As difficult as it may be, we must ask that you do not ask subject teachers about how grades will be assigned or ask for any information about what grade your child will be assigned. In order to protect the integrity and fairness of your child's GCSE and vocational exam grades, these are not questions which teachers will be able to answer.

## **Wyvern St Edmund's collaboration with S6C: Information session Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 4pm**

Students in Year 10 and 11 and parents/carers are invited to join us on a Zoom meeting on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March at which we will provide you with information regarding planned close collaborative work between Wyvern St Edmund's and Salisbury 6<sup>th</sup> Form College from September. This is an exciting development through which we hope to provide greater opportunities for our young people as they move into post 16 learning. The information session will include a short presentation on what we plan for September, together with a chance to ask questions. The meeting will be facilitated by Nicola Bull, Director of Education, Bruce Burley, Head of School for Wyvern St Edmund's and Louise Henderson, Vice Principal at S6C.

Please join us via the following Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/94753793973?pwd=SVVDaHcvUjJSVDIaU2loejZHakVtQT09>

Meeting ID: 947 5379 3973

Passcode: 965163

## Thought for the Week



**Empathy:** is our fifth core value because we believe in the importance of understanding the thoughts and feelings of others in order to reflect God's love and compassion.

It seems hard to believe that this week will mark the first anniversary of the first lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. What an extraordinary year this has been. A year that has brought many challenges.

At WSE we have made a conscious decision to not dwell on the challenges of the past months but instead focus on the silver linings that have emerged from the pandemic. We have seen students develop their resilience and independence. Staff and students (parents too!) have become skilled at using technology to connect, work and learn in new ways. We have been reminded that we need to cherish our friends and families and we have seen communities grow closer together through our shared experiences. Witnessing many stories of sacrifice, compassion and dedication has helped us to look beyond ourselves and our needs in order to consider how we can serve others.

However, we must not forget that a life lived in all its fullness is not just about when life is good, but how we respond when life gets tough. This is why empathy is a core value and a quality of character that can change the world. We need to understand that others may be facing a battle we cannot see and may need our support and compassion. We must not shy away from discussing the difficult topics such as grief, which is something we all face at some time in our lives. That is why, at the request of students we will be marking the first anniversary of the lockdown by joining the Marie Curie [National Day of Reflection](#) on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

This will be our focus of Worship this week and we will hold a minute's silence to remember those who have been bereaved during the pandemic but also to remember all who grieve the loss of someone close. One of our students raised awareness that; 1 in 30 children will have suffered the death of a close family member by the time they leave secondary school. For these young people they can feel as though they are the only ones this has happened to and many want conversations about this and to feel they are not alone.

We will, of course, ensure our reflection and discussion is done with sensitivity and respect for those in our school community who have suffered the loss of people close to them. There are always trained pastoral staff available to support students as the need arises. If you do wish to discuss this with your child's tutor please pop them an email.

***'Do for others what you want them to do for you'***  
***Matthew 7:12***

## **COVID -19 REMINDER:**

### **Update on twice weekly COVID-19 testing at home for students**

Students at WSE have now moved to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home. This is following their first three supervised tests on site at school. Up to 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer.

We have already sent home the first supply of COVID-19 home testing kits. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening before.**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays.** We will be sending home extra kits for Easter holiday before term ends.

This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, [book a PCR test](#) and follow national guidelines.

### **Reporting results**

**It is really important that results of test are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It's easy to do at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).**

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

**It is important to also report the result to WSE as well. This can be done by completing the [WSE Report a COVID-19 LFD Result form](#).**

### **Instruction guides**

[Step-by-step guide to COVID-19 self-testing on You Tube](#)

Additionally, [translated guidance on how to self-test](#) is also available.

Guide to [reporting a COVID-19 result to NHS Test and Trace](#).

### **Testing for parents, households and bubbles twice a week**

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread.

Parents and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online [www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests](http://www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests)
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

**We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular Covid-19 testing.**

## Isolating after a positive COVID-19 result

As schools return to full attendance, we understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home either after testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or because of being in close contact of someone who has tested positive.

However self-isolation is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and help protect our friends, family and our community. Around one in three people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms, and so finding and isolating these hidden cases quickly will help to stop outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.

Now your child has started testing at home using lateral flow tests, positive results must be followed up with a confirmatory PCR test (as these tests are not conducted in a controlled environment).

If the situation of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case does arise at WSE, we may need to ask a bubble (year group) to isolate. In order to prepare us for this eventuality we would like to collect some information from you now regarding your consent and preferences on how your child should travel home during a school day. **Therefore, we would be grateful if you could please complete this [short survey](#) to indicate your preferences.** Please submit one response for each student.

### **To note:**

*If your child is not participating in home testing you are required to follow the current national guidelines; that if they begin to show symptoms of COVID-19 they and the household must self-isolate and you should book a PCR test for your child.*

### **How to book a PCR Test**

If you have any queries about the tests you can call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test.

Testing is voluntary, but it is strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## Home Testing FAQ's

### What if the result of the LFD Test is positive?

Your child and the whole household should begin self-isolation and your child should have a PCR test.

[How to book a PCR Test](#)

If the confirmatory PCR test is negative you do not need to continue with the self-isolation.

**Please report the results immediately as instructed above so the school can identify potential close contacts within school.**

### What if the result of the LFD Test is void?

Your child should take another home LFD test. If your child receives two void LFD test results in a row, your child should have a PCR Test. [How to book a PCR Test](#)

### How often should my child take the home LFD Test?

It is recommended that the tests are taken twice weekly with a space of 3 to 5 days between tests. Ideally tests are taken on Monday and Thursday mornings or Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

### What if my child has previously had a positive COVID-19 test result?

A LFD test is not required until 90 days after the positive test result. Before this time it is likely that a 'false' positive result is recorded.

### What if my child has received a vaccine?

It is currently recommended that everyone who has been vaccinated should continue with routine LFD testing. The vaccine does not affect the result of a LFD Test.

### If you experience any issues with home testing, for example:

- Multiple, repeat void tests (more than two).
- Unclear results
- Leaking/damaged tubes

Please contact the school via [office@wyvernsteds.org](mailto:office@wyvernsteds.org) 01722 328565

Please note, the government states that anyone aged 11 must have the test administered by an adult at home. Anyone aged 12-17 should be supervised by an adult but can self-swab.

For guidance on home testing kits for families, please refer to the guidance published in a recent Family Bulletin <https://st-edmunds.eu/wp-content/uploads/Family-Bulletin-8th-March-2021.pdf>



# Parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

## A guide to regular rapid Covid-19 testing



### Regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a fast and easy way to find out if you have coronavirus and help protect your loved ones and community. It's free and takes around 30 minutes.

### Why introduce regular rapid testing?

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. As well as adults in their households, childcare and support bubbles.

Regular testing for people without symptoms is already taking place across the country. Thousands of people who didn't know they had the virus have been able to take action to stop the spread of the disease.

As lockdown restrictions ease, getting into the regular habit of twice weekly testing will play an important role in getting back to normal; alongside the vaccine, following the hands, face, space guidance, and social distancing measures.

### Regular testing for school staff and students

Regular rapid testing is already available to all staff at nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Secondary school and college students aged 11 and above will continue to access regular rapid tests directly through their school or college. And we continue to encourage them to get tested.

On return they will initially be supervised while testing at school and then continue to test themselves at home with test kits they will get from school or college.

Nursery and primary school children are not being asked to be tested as evidence continues to show that children and young people are at low risk from Covid-19 and are very unlikely to get seriously ill.

### What is the benefit to you?

By taking part in regular rapid testing, you'll be protecting yourself and your loved ones. And helping us all get back to a more normal way of life.



### How does it work?

It's a simple swab test you can do at home, school, work or test site, using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). It takes around 30 minutes to find out if you have the virus.

The test detects viral proteins that are present when someone has Covid-19. Research from Public Health England and Oxford University shows that they pick up the vast majority of people in the most infectious stage of the disease. With up to 1 in 3 people who have the virus showing no symptoms – they could be spreading it without knowing.

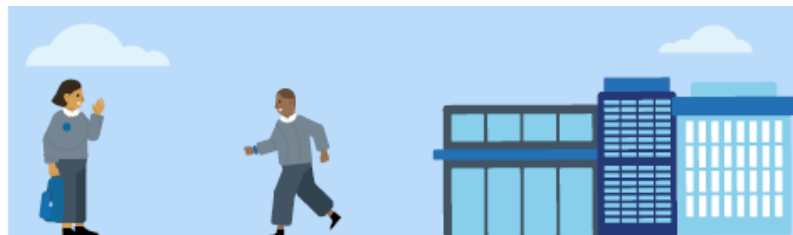
**Testing should take place twice a week, every three – five days, ideally in the morning. Why not add this to your morning routine?**

If you test negative, you can continue to go to work. You should still strictly follow all other government guidelines and avoid all unnecessary contact. If you, your household or bubble test positive, you should all self-isolate immediately. And then the person who has tested positive should also take a confirmatory PCR test and follow latest government guidance.

For more information visit [gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms)



YouTube Introduction to Rapid Lateral Flow testing



### Reporting your test

You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.



### Where can I get tested?

If you are a parent or adult of a household, childcare or support bubble you can either:

1. Get an assisted test at work if it is available.
2. Attend a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.
3. Order a test online to do at home.

To find out how to get a free rapid Covid-19 test visit [gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing)

Regular rapid testing is for those without symptoms of Coronavirus. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book through [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

## VotesforSchools topic for this week:

Given the heavy news of the last seven days, we have chosen something a little more light-hearted for students to discuss this week. Students will consider whether the end may be nigh for coins and notes with the question: "**Are the days of cash numbered?**"

They will be questioning whether cards, contactless or even cryptocurrency could replace the tender humans have used for thousands of years, or whether cash is too big a cultural symbol to ever disappear completely.



**Be informed.**



**Be curious.**



**Be heard.**

A final thought ...

