

Dear Parents and Carers

21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

We hope this letter finds you well.

As I am sure you will be aware, staff in primary, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools are being offered the opportunity to take part in regular asymptomatic testing. Waterton academies have started to receive deliveries of DfE home testing kits to offer to all our staff and testing will commence twice weekly from week commencing Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of January.

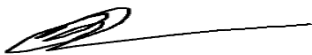
We believe the testing programme to be an important addition to supporting colleagues to maintain the continuity of education through the pandemic. However, I feel I must reassure all stakeholders that the system of controls currently in place will continue to be rigorously applied to enable the safest possible environment.

All staff will be supplied with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits to self-swab. Staff will be asked to take their test kits home and carry out the test twice a week. The LFD test will give a result in around 30 minutes. Staff must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed and should also share their result with their school to help with contact tracing and school opening. The positive element of this work is that we will reduce significantly the number of staff attending who are asymptomatic. However, I must add the caveat that we will more than likely incur an increase in confirmed cases and therefore an increased occurrence of having to collapse bubbles. As is now customary practice, we will endeavour to communicate such situations to parents as soon as is logistically possible.

We thank you once again for your patience and support during these unprecedented times.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours Sincerely



Mr D Dickinson OBE  
Chief Executive Officer  
Waterton Academy Trust