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Richard Brand: Headteacher

18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

**Re: Voluntary Daily Rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing – Year 7 only**

We have been monitoring positive Coronavirus case levels closely at The Dean Academy and have seen a slow but steady increase over the last two weeks. We are noticing a higher case level amongst Year 7 students than other year groups at the school.

Changes to the national Department for Education guidance on 19 July 2021 have removed the general requirement on education settings to identify all close contacts of students and staff with COVID-19. However, education settings are still required to take necessary actions to prevent further spread of COVID infection if an outbreak occurs in their setting.

We have taken advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advisers and due to there being a higher number of cases in your child's year group (Year 7) than others, they have advised that all Year 7 students should take voluntary daily rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing each morning before they attend school until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October. We will provide your child with more LFD tests tomorrow.

The objective of this approach is to identify positive cases amongst students who are asymptomatic (display no symptoms) without them coming into school and further transmitting the virus to others.

LFD tests should only be used by people without symptoms of COVID-19. If your child's LFD test is negative, and they remain without symptoms, they should attend school as usual. If the test is positive, please inform the school immediately, isolate at home and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test.

We would like to thank you for your ongoing support at this challenging time. Should you wish to discuss this new guidance please contact us at [info@thedeanacademy.org](mailto:info@thedeanacademy.org) and a member of the senior team will be in touch.

Yours sincerely

**Richard Brand**  
Headteacher

