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Richard Brand: Headteacher

2nd November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Voluntary Daily Rapid Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing – 8AM

We have been monitoring positive Coronavirus case levels closely at The Dean Academy and have seen a slow but steady increase recently. We are noticing a higher case level amongst your child's tutor group than other parts of 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 the 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 tutor group 8AM than others, they have advised that all students in the tutor group should take voluntary daily rapid lateral flow device (LFD) testing each morning before they attend school until Tuesday 9th November. We will provide your child with more LFD tests to take home today.

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 and a member of the senior team will be in touch.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher

RJB/TW -8AM voluntary testing-021121

