To All Headteachers

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Dear Colleagues

Changes to Guidance on Lateral Flow Testing for Schools

Many of you may have seen the media coverage over the weekend related to the change in procedure when a student or member of staff has tested positive after taking a Lateral Flow Test in school. The guidance was previously that this should be followed up with a PCR test and that if this returned a positive then the procedure for self- isolation, isolation of the household and close contacts should be initiated. Guidance has now changed to state that a positive Lateral Flow Test result following a school-based test is sufficient for the self-isolation process to be initiated and that a follow-up PCR test is not required. However if a home-based Lateral Flow test returns a positive, this should e followed up with a PCR test and if that returns a negative result, then those self-isolating can come out of isolation. Please find the link to the latest advice from NHS Test and Trace which can be found on kelsi: https://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/118851/Rapid-testing-to-support-return-to-school-Guidance-for-LAs-5-March-2021.pdf

The Key for School Leaders has some useful flow charts for both primary and secondary schools that your school can adapt if you would find this helpful. These can be found here: https://schoolleaders.thekeysupport.com/covid-19/plan-reopening/keep-pupils-and-staff-safe/school-reopening-steps-respond-suspected-case-covid-19/

Balance Control Mechanism (BCM) - Year End 2020-21

2020-21 has been an unprecedented year due to COVID-19 and amongst other things it has impacted on schools' finances in a number of different ways. In light of this the Schools' Funding Forum at its meeting on 12 February have taken the pragmatic approach for one year only to revise the BCM criteria to reflect this. Find out more on Kelsi.

<u>Supporting curriculum leaders in secondary schools</u>

In order to continue to support curriculum leaders in secondary schools, the English network meetings will focus on preparation for GCSE assessment in light of the Ofqual announcements. The link to book onto those sessions is below. These are available to all maintained secondary schools and academies.

[Secondary English Network Meeting: remote learning in the long term, managing the return to school and assessment 16th March](#)

[Secondary English Network Meeting: remote learning in the long term, managing the return to school and assessment 30th March](#)

Maths sessions will take place in April and links will be sent to all secondary schools.

And finally, just a reminder of the information that was sent out on Friday on the free Covid 19 printed and digital signage offer for schools. You can still order these free resources up until 1pm tomorrow 9 March via it www.kelsi.org.uk/backtoschool.

Yours sincerely

Christine McInnes

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