

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Dear Learners, Parents/ Carers, Staff and Directors,

### Prime Minister's Announcement on Living with COVID-19

Following the Government announcements about “living with Covid”, our understanding of key points of Government policy is as follows:

**Changes to self-isolation for positive cases** - from tomorrow the legal requirement to self-isolate with symptoms or following a positive test has been removed, but people are still advised to take a test and stay at home and avoid contact with others. A negative test on days 5 and 6 will continue to indicate that it is safe to return to a normal routine. This stay-at-home advice applies until 1 April, after which the Prime Minister has said, the government will encourage people with Covid-19 symptoms to exercise personal responsibility, just as they would encourage people who may have flu to be considerate to others.

**Close contacts** - From tomorrow the government is ending routine contact tracing, and close contacts are no longer being asked to isolate or conduct daily COVID tests, regardless of their vaccine status.

**Changes to testing** - with immediate effect, the government is removing the guidance for learners and staff to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing. We will be sending home one more box of tests – our recommendation is that families may wish to keep these (and any other unused tests they have) so that they have a supply should their child show symptoms which could be Covid. Until the end of March learners and staff can still access free lateral flow test kits from their local pharmacy or [online](#), and a free PCR test if they have symptoms. From 1 April, the Government will no longer provide free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

For further information behind the government’s rationale please see the web-links at the end of this letter. Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,



**Geoffrey Fowler**  
CEO & Principal

#### **Further information:**

[1] Prime Ministers statement in the House of Commons on the government's strategy for living with COVID - [gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-living-with-covid-21-february-2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-living-with-covid-21-february-2022)

[2] The government’s plan for removing the remaining legal restrictions while protecting people most vulnerable to COVID-19 and maintaining resilience - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19>