

FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD PASTORAL  
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TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Through work with our advisors Sutton House we have managed to secure some testing capacity for those families who need a Covid-19 test for travel or other reasons.

The testing will be conducted at a UK Government accredited diagnostics laboratory at a clinic in London with the swabs taken here at School by the School Nurses and couriered to the laboratory. The clinic employs a high sensitivity PCR SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test which is externally validated and has a current ISO 15189 accreditation. The clinic provided capacity to the NHS during the first wave of the pandemic and continues to do so to a number of hospitals and private practices in London.

They will be able to provide individual certificates to confirm accreditation for each individual and carry out three test runs per 24 hours so timing of tests can be specifically coordinated with travel arrangements / flight times. They can provide individualised, test result reports in original format (signed, dated, stamped) as required for [HK](#) and perhaps some other locations (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/>) and will carry out diagnostic tests on samples from under 16s with parental consent.

Clearly there are tight timelines to take into account from test to travel and arrival in the overseas locations and some rigid requirements to meet for certain locations. With that in mind we will need requests for tests for travel at least a week in advance. For this half-term (17<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November) requests must be received by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**.

Costs will depend on the numbers of tests being sent at any one time as the courier charges are fixed for each batch but we envisage the total cost to be in the region of £150 to £200 each, though this will rise to over £300 for one off tests for individuals.

Requests for a test will only be accepted on completion of the form [here](#) by **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October**.

The clinic has also agreed to respond to ad-hoc requests for individual tests from the School community at any time and will provide the School with a standing supply of swab test kits for this purpose. If you are interested in receiving further information please complete the form [here](#).

With very best wishes,