

Marsh Mail

It's incredible just how much has changed in the space of a month. All of us have had to adjust to being in lockdown once again and the impact that this has had on children's education.

At Linton Village College, needing to revert back to remote learning and closing the College to the vast majority of our students came as a shock at the end of term. However, the resilience and adaptability of our staff, students and families has been remarkable.

While the press is quick to criticise teachers and teenagers, I have the privilege of working alongside both and observing how hard both have worked to make online learning a success. Overnight, teachers changed curriculum plans and upskilled to move their regular lessons onto Microsoft Teams. Students stepped up, with the support of their parents and carers, to take greater responsibility for their learning.

Our partnership with Cambs Youth Panel continues with many families benefiting from access to technology through this means, in addition to devices issued by the Department for Education.

Meanwhile many members of our support staff have been working hard in school to supervise vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. Those learning in school have engaged brilliantly with the remote provision and new routines.

Other members of staff and volunteers from the local community have contributed to the setup of a rapid Covid-19 testing centre on site. The College's sports centre has been converted into testing bays and the trained testing team, expertly led by our Sports Centre Manager, is now working hard to administer lateral flow tests for staff and students based in school.

In time, as we welcome back more teachers and students to work and learn in school, more testing will be required. While not as accurate as the lab-processed PCR Covid-19 tests, the lateral flow devices can help us to identify asymptomatic cases amongst the College community.

I am incredibly proud of how colleagues and families have responded in the current challenges. The volume of appreciative messages and comments of support have also helped to keep morale high and community relationships strong.