Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to write to you having now completed the onsite testing of the entire school community three times. When we first heard that the school was being asked to undertake mass Covid testing it seemed like a fairly daunting task, not least as the planning was taking place over the winter break ready for 1st January. Lockdown gave us three months to practice, but the task of completing close to 7000 tests over the last two weeks has still been quite an undertaking.

There was much publicity about the involvement of the army to support schools through this challenge. In the end this did not materialise at JFS, but the school community came together as an army of volunteers without whom we could never have completed the process in such a smooth and calm manner. We would like to pay tribute to the 65 volunteers who between them have completed a colossal 1110 hours of volunteering in our testing centre. We are exceptionally fortunate to have a community of such engaged parents, grandparents and friends of JFS who were willing to commit their time.

There are several members of JFS staff who have spent innumerable hours ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the entire school community in the testing centre and training the volunteers. In particular Mr Smart, Miss Maxim, Miss Winters, Mrs Etheridge, Mrs Golding, Mrs Mosquera and Mrs Noel-Parke are due tremendous thanks for their tireless dedication. Our thanks also go to the site staff who have supported the testing centre so diligently.

At the start of the year we were approached by Camden Town Alumnus, Paul Ross, to offer the school use of his ‘Rota Central’ software free of charge. This has made what would have been a colossal administrative burden exceptionally simple and straightforward. We are indebted to Paul and his colleagues at Rota Central for their altruism.

Chesed and Social Action are key parts of the educational experience at JFS and there can be no better example than that shown by the JFS army of volunteers over the last three months and in particular over the last two weeks.

It is also important to highlight the exceptional behaviour shown by all students as they have participated in the testing. Our volunteers have commented daily on the politeness, courteousness and good behaviour of each and every student. Please do thank them for us.

Each student has now been given two boxes of 3 home testing kits and the testing regime of twice-weekly home tests should begin next week. We are asking each student to complete the test on a Sunday night/Monday morning and again on Thursday night/Friday morning. They have enough tests to see them through the Pesach holidays and we expect further deliveries to be made to the school for the start of next term. **Please see the ‘COVID Home Testing Kits’ letter, which details the arrangements for home testing and how to share the results with both NHS track and Trace and the School.**

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Pesach break.

**Mr Jamie Peston, Mr Simon Appleman & Mrs Rebecca Bull**