



ST/KJP
8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are well.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible. Following my last letter to you, you will have seen in the news that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms (asymptomatic) is beginning across the country using new, quicker Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students remain in the academy safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms so by testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our academy open as safely as possible. The two-stage test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

Therefore, we will be making the test available for all of our staff and students who want to participate. Testing will start week commencing 18th January 2021 for the children of key workers and vulnerable students who are currently attending school, and for all other students on their return. An instructional leaflet with further information about how your child will administer the test is available on our website, along with an instructional video from the NHS which explains the work involved in setting up the secure testing site. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat, 2 tests are required, 3-5 days apart with results available in 30 minutes. We have trained staff who will oversee and supervise the swab process for all of our students.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete and submit the consent form (one per student) on our academy website under the parents tab, or via this link [Consent Form](#). We would ask you to complete this consent form by **5.00pm on Friday 14th January 2021**. **If we do not receive a consent form from you then we will assume that you do not want your child to participate in the testing programme and they will not receive a test.** If at a later date you decide that you do want your child to receive a test, then please contact the academy. Once consent has been received by the academy we will register your details with the NHS Test and Trace Lite Registration system, so that you can receive text correspondence from them confirming your test results.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents/carers will also be notified. Students will then need to take a further confirmatory Covid test on the same day (or as soon as possible) by going to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or calling 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a test yourself, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while you wait for the test result your child will need to self-isolate. If the test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear from us you can assume the test was negative. Students may be asked to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for Covid-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

The testing programme at the academy is for people with no symptoms (asymptomatic). If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

I hope that the information provided in this letter, on the attached poster and on our website, as well as the national guidance, has provided you with the necessary detail you require in order to make the decision as to whether you want your child to participate in the national mass testing programme.

If you wish your child to participate then please complete the consent form and return it to the academy as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull
Principal

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