



Rye College

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Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

Wednesday, 24th February 2021

Dear families,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID19 testing for students returning to school

We wrote to you last month about the introduction of in-school testing for individuals who do not display any symptoms of coronavirus. We have successfully been using lateral flow tests to detect such 'asymptomatic cases' with colleagues, were any to be present, for a number of weeks now.

As you may have heard, schools will be offering all students **three lateral flow tests over two weeks** to aid their return to school. This sort of testing means asymptomatic individuals who might otherwise attend school are identified and self-isolate. Following this initial round of in-school testing, we will then be moving to home test kits for both students and colleagues.

Whilst participation is voluntary, we strongly encourage everyone to take part in both types of testing. Not only will participation ensure young people return as healthy as can be, posing no risk to other members of our community, but it will also allow us to train students to maturely and correctly undertake self-swabbing ahead of the move to the home test kits. **All testing is free of charge.**

Since the launch of in-school testing, we have introduced online consent. This helps us to effectively manage your data and smoothly run the test site whilst re-opening the school.

To make sure your child is included in this important round of asymptomatic testing, please complete the online consent form (one per child) on our website by Friday, 26th February. You should complete an online consent even if you have already submitted a paper copy.

You will find the online consent form and further information including instructional leaflet and video on our website at www.ryecollege.co.uk/mustknow/nhstesttrace.

Submitting your consent early will help us to plan how all students will return from Monday, 8th March. This may include some testing in the week prior to the re-opening of school.

Lateral flow tests are quick and easy, using supervised self-swabbing of the nose and throat. All results are shared with parents via text and email using the national 'test and trace' system.

If you have any further questions feel free to email office@ryecollege.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College