



7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following on from my recent letters which referred to the introduction of asymptomatic testing in schools, I now have further information to share with you about how this will work.

We have been busy taking delivery of and setting up our testing facility so that we can provide weekly testing for members of staff, initial testing of students before they return to school and daily tests for students and staff who are identified as close contacts, during what would ordinarily be the self-isolation period in order that they can remain in school (called 'serial' testing).

All testing will be offered free of charge and will be voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to participate so we can help to reduce the spread of the virus and keep as many of our students and staff in school as is safe to do so. Should a student not wish to take the test, normal self-isolation rules will apply in line with national guidelines where they have symptoms or have been in close contact with a positive case. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat. Please find some further information enclosed with this letter along with an instructional leaflet. It is important to note that your child will administer the test themselves under supervision from an adult.

As your child is currently attending school through the key worker or vulnerable provision, we are able to offer testing immediately. If you would like to register your child for a test and provide consent, please complete this [form](#) by **4pm on Friday 8th January** so that we are able to commence testing from Monday 11th January. You will need to complete a separate form for each child you have at the Academy. After this date we will assume consent has not been granted. If you do not wish for your child to take part in testing, then please do not complete the form. Students and parents will not be pressured in any way.

Thank you for your ongoing support and I will keep you updated if and when changes are made.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal



What if a student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

The individual will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The Academy will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, 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 PCR result (via text / email) you will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR 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?

They 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 you can assume it was negative. A small number of people may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at the Academy tests positive?

A close contact of someone in the Academy who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return 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?

This testing programme is for people with no symptoms. 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the Academy on 01623 663450 or email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.