

3 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be looking to test all secondary school age pupils as they return to school after half term. This is for KS3 (Years 7 and 8) keyworker and vulnerable pupils in the first instance. **The first test will take place on Monday 22 February and a second test will take place on Friday 26 February.** No other lateral flow tests will be undertaken until further notice.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat which your child will administer for themselves. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil/parent will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information. Please note, the results can only go to one number which we recommend is the parents contact as pupils are under 16.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16
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While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be informed.

What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including 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>.

We will support our pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Dan Jeffries
Head Teacher