

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students**

This letter is to help give you more information about the September 2021 testing programme in our school. As students will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, wherever possible, all secondary aged students should receive 2 on-site lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term. Where possible, students should then continue to test twice weekly until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

Testing is voluntary and students can attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing.

#### **Plan for testing**

We will be looking to test all students as they return to school. Year 7 will do their tests in the hall on Thursday. Y8 and 9 will do their tests on Friday in the hall. Y10 and Y11 will do their tests in room 15 on Friday. Second tests will take place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th. For the rest of September students will be able to test at home and upload their results to the school website. In order to carry out the tests we will require a new consent form. Please complete the consent form and email it back or send it in with your son or daughter on their first day back.

#### **How the tests work**

For at-home testing, where possible, a combined nose and throat swab should be taken. **Testing done on site via ATS requires nasal swabs only.**

#### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a confirmatory PCR test ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate. If the confirmatory PCR is negative the pupil can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test. Where a child or young person has tested positive for COVID-19 on-site, they will need to be sent home. The setting should contact the parent or carer who should make arrangements for the child or young person to journey home as soon as possible.

#### **What happens if the test is negative?**

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/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

#### **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 staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Walsh

## Consent form for COVID-19 testing in secondary schools and colleges

### Introduction

- This consent form is for participation in tests at an ATS designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.
  - For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

### Terms of consent

- 1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [DD/MM/YYYY] and the attached Privacy Notice.
- 2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
- 3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and/or throat swab for lateral flow tests. I / my child will self-swab if I / my child is able to otherwise I understand that assistance is available.
- 4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for the below named person. If, on the day of testing I / they do not wish to take part, then I understand I / they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
- 5. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
- 6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that I / my child is removed from school/college premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind I / they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
- 7. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this lateral flow test I understand that I / my child will be required to self-isolate and [book a confirmatory PCR](#) test following public health advice.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name</b></li> </ul>	<b>Year group</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Date of Birth</b></li> </ul>	<b>Gender</b> – this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes. Male/Female
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ethnicity</b> - this information is needed for Department for Health and Social Care research purposes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Asian or Asian British</li> <li>Black, African, Black British or Caribbean</li> <li>Mixed or multiple ethnic groups</li> <li>White</li> <li>Prefer not to say</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Home Postcode</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Email Address</b> – this is where test results will be sent.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Name of parent/guardian giving consent</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Relationship to test subject</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Signature</b> (typing out your name is sufficient if you are filling in this form digitally)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Today's date</b></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details of any health or accessibility issues which might affect a child's safe participation in the testing exercise.</li> </ul>	

I do not give consent for my son or daughter to be tested for Covid 19 in school.

Signed

Date