

Monday 1st March 2021

Ref: LFD Covid Testing and Return to the Academy after Lockdown

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we now prepare to return to the academy I would like to update you on arrangements for Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for asymptomatic cases of covid-19 and the return to school dates for each year group.

LFD Testing

Approximately one third of all cases of Covid-19 occur without symptoms and young people are more likely to experience no symptoms than those who are older. It is therefore important that as our school community reconvenes, from 8th March, that we are able to ensure that anyone who has Covid-19 without knowing it is able to isolate before passing the virus onto others.

LFD tests are quick and self-administered by students within school and the process is overseen by a team of trained staff who can offer advice and support. Students currently in school have been taking tests regularly and have been extremely mature whilst doing this. Staff have also been taking tests whenever in school and twice weekly where possible.

We have sent out a letter and text messages asking you to give consent for your son or daughter to have LFD tests in school. **If you have not yet completed the survey at [COVID Consent Form](#) could I please ask that you do so by 5pm on Tuesday 2th March to help us to plan for all students with consent to be tested on return to school?**

We would be grateful if you could also record on this survey if you do not consent to your son/ daughter taking part in the testing programme.

We would also urge that as many parents as possible consent to the test as this increases the safety of the whole school community.

Students who are age 16 or over are required to give their own consent and will therefore be asked in school if they wish to give this. Can we ask please that you discuss this with your son/ daughter if they are in this category to help them make their decision?

After students have had three tests in school, with advice from school staff on how to conduct the test, they will be issued with test kits to take at home. By taking tests at home there is a legal requirement to record results with NHS Test and Trace. Full instructions are provided on how to take the test and see the results. The tests are very similar to a pregnancy test in how they work and are not difficult to administer or check results. Tests can be disposed of in ordinary household waste once taken.

Return to School Dates and Testing

Tests are required to be taken between three to five days apart. We will therefore stagger the start date for return to school for each year group to allow a reasonable length of time to test students. Additionally, to allow us to bring students back into school as quickly as possible week commencing 8th March, to ensure we can test all students as they return and to ensure that students are tested within the correct timescales we are inviting some year group bubbles into school for a test this week:

Year Group Bubble	Date of First Test	Time of Testing	Return To School Date
Year 10	Thursday 4th March	8.30am – 11.30am	Monday 8th March
Post 16	Thursday 4th March	11.30am – 2.30pm	Monday 8th March
Year 11	Friday 5th March	8.30am – 11.30am	Tuesday 9th March
Year 9	Friday 5th March	11.30am – 2.30pm	Tuesday 9th March
Year 7	Wednesday 10th March	During the school day	Wednesday 10th March
Year 8	Wednesday 10th March	During the school day	Wednesday 10th March

Children of critical workers will continue to be tested within school as normal this week.

For those students invited into school for a test this week, testing will be in the large Performing Arts portacabin. Access can be gained via the vehicle access gates and you will be directed to the testing room without coming into the main building. Each test takes approximately five minutes.

The more students who come into school for their LFD test this week, the safer our return will be. We therefore really look forward to seeing as many students as possible for their test on the dates above.

Teachers will be aware that students may not be in online lessons due to this on the day of their test.

Thank you very much for your support with this, we are really looking forward to seeing all year groups back in school by Wednesday 10th March.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J Gaunt
Principal