

8th January 2021

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

Dear member of Staff, Parent or Guardian,

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 academy. 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 staff and students returning to the academy to be tested.

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. Results which take around half an hour from testing will be shared directly with the person named on the consent form. The academy will also inform the student of a positive test result. The person named on the consent form will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the academy and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. The academy will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time while waiting for the PCR result via text they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in the academy and resume their activities as normal.

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

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the academy. If close contacts consent, they will be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and if they test negative every day, they will be allowed to remain in the academy. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this

instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through the academy and are participating in daily contact testing.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at the academy 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>.

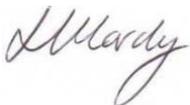
Next Steps?

Please click on the link, <https://forms.gle/A9aoxMjHofDD6uBs9> this will take you to a form where you have the option to consent or decline. We require **ALL** staff and students to complete this form (one form per student that attends the academy).

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by office@deferrers.com. Please also refer to our privacy notice on the website for further information regarding the use of any data collected.

Have an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K D Hardy
Principal