



25th February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. Testing for those without coronavirus symptoms commenced in schools in early January this year using the 'lateral flow tests'. Of course, due to the lockdown, most students have been unable to participate in the testing.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it - helping to keep each other and our community safe.

We will be testing all students from Monday 8th March and will conduct three tests per student over the course of two weeks. You will be notified of the dates and times when students will return to school.

I enclose a privacy statement with further information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below by **no later than the end of Tuesday 2nd March (next Tuesday)**. You can find a link to the form here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuvleEjE_pUJLjyfMOgy61EUVUOVIGSEhLV1JMQzM1WTIZRDIwSEs2QVpUSS4u

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose and throat. Testing will be offered free of charge.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with students participating at the time. In addition, a notification from the NHS will be sent the mobile number and email address provided by you in the consent form. If the result is positive, you will be advised of what to do next.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

These three tests will help the students get used to the process of testing, building their confidence for when the process moves to home testing. Further information and guidance on home testing will be provided in due course.

Thank you for your support, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries.
TPS.covidsupport@taw.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Stacey Jordan
Headteacher

