



9 July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

NHS Test and Trace: Consent for at school COVID-19 testing for Year 8 students

As you are no-doubt aware there are many changes taking place regarding current COVID-19 regulations, especially as the Government moves to lift a significant number of them.

With adults and young people expected to be mixing more over the summer months, we need to be in a position to limit the impact of COVID-19 in the school community at the start of the academic year. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help reduce 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 providing students the opportunity to take two lateral flow tests, carried out at the schools Asymptomatic Test Site, on their return to school.

The first test will take place on Friday 3rd September, once the swabbing process is complete your child will be able to leave the school, returning home. The table below provides information when to attend school on that day based on Tutor groups (new tutor groups for coming year e.g., 7ELG1 is now 8ELG1):

Arrival Time	Tutor Group
0900	8CHU1, 8CHU2, 8CHU3
0930	8ELG1, 8ELG2, 8ELG3
1000	8NEW1, 8NEW2, 8NEW3
1030	8SHA1, 8SHA2, 8SHA3

The second test will take place on Wednesday 8th September, once the swabbing process is complete, your child will go to lessons – please ensure they are in school uniform. Again, arrival times will be based on Tutor Groups, as shown below:

Arrival Time	Tutor Group
0900	8CHU1, 8CHU2, 8CHU3
0945	8ELG1, 8ELG2, 8ELG3
1030	8NEW1, 8NEW2, 8NEW3
1115	8SHA1, 8SHA2, 8SHA3

If you are not consenting to testing, your child should attend school at the times shown above on the 8th September.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below by **no later than Friday 30th July**. You can find a link to the form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/8iCNk3nAfe> . I enclose a privacy statement with further information.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) are quick and easy, using a swab of both nostrils. Due to new LFTs, a throat swab is no longer required (we do retain the ability to carry out throat swabs only, using a different LFT should there be the need).



Results (which will take around 20 minutes from testing) will be communicated from the NHS and sent to 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 – on many occasions since the start of the year LFTs have reduced the number of possible infections in the school community. Whilst there have been instances of false positives, they have been outweighed by the true positives.

Home testing will continue twice a week when students return in September, after the initial two school-based tests. The government will be reviewing the home testing process in September.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stacey Jordan', with a small flourish at the end.

Stacey Jordan
Headteacher