

24th February 2021

Re: Return to school – COVID-19 testing for students

Dear Parent/Carer

You would have heard the latest government updates on Monday that made it clear that all students will return to school from Monday 8th March onwards. Before returning to lessons, students can all be tested at school, followed by a further two tests on site. After this, students will be given two tests a week that would be done at home.

We are delighted that we can welcome all of our children back and are now currently working hard to make the necessary arrangements to enable students to return safely. Those students that have been in school, along with staff have been able to receive tests for a number of weeks now, so we are already well prepared to scale up this process and test all of our students.

It will logistically not be possible to have all students returning on the same day/time and complete their first test and hence a staggered return/testing timetable will be put in place from Monday 8th March. We want to ensure that all students have at least one test before they return to 'normal' lessons and hence our immediate priority will be the testing process. Online lessons will continue for a few more days during this week ensuring that education continues. Full details of the times and dates for student return will be sent to you in due course.

The remainder of this letter outlines the testing process and how you give your consent for your child to be tested at the Academy. Testing is completely voluntary and we must have parental permission. Despite the voluntary nature, we strongly urge all students to be given consent by parents in order to support the ongoing measures to reduce the risks to all.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. 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 Academy open as safely as possible.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information. Students will have access to three tests at school, 3-5 days apart. If you are happy for your child to be tested, then please complete the consent form electronically by using the link [here](#). We ask that the consent is completed by **9am on Friday 5th March**. If you have any issues with the electronic consent form, then please do contact the Academy. If you have previously given consent (as your child has been in school this term) then there is no need to do this again.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents through the details provided on the consent form. Note this will only be shared with students in school if the result is positive.

What if a student tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually and parents or legal guardians will be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. Legally, students are then required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days along with those identified as close contacts.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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 (such as 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 students throughout, but please contact us if you have any further queries.

Your sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey
Principal

