

January 4th 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Covid-19 Testing for all Secondary School Students

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 tests', which are the ones we used in the pilot, last half term. The Department for Education are therefore inviting all young people to take part in this process at their secondary school from the 4th January 2021.

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 school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

All students aged between Y9 and Y13 years old, where the appropriate recorded consent* is provided, are eligible for the test. Students over the age of 16 are able to provide self-consent for the testing process.

The test involves taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose. This process may be uncomfortable for some people but isn't harmful. In most cases the test will be self-administered, but trained school staff will be on hand to demonstrate and support.

We ask that you and your child discuss this to see if it is something you would like to participate in. If the appropriate consent* is given, students will be tested twice over a period of about 10 days for COVID-19. The results will be fed into NHS Track and Trace. Individual results will also be held by the school and provided directly to you or your child.

Anyone who tests positive, using either a lateral flow test or an existing swab test, must self-isolate in accordance with national guidance which can be found [here](#). Those who test negative will need to continue to follow national guidance which can be found [here](#).

The testing will be delivered by the school team so students are familiar with the staff involved.

To be able to participate in this pilot please complete the attached consent form and return it to your school prior to the tests taking place.

Yours faithfully,

Jill Davies, Principal

*Further information regarding consent can be found at the [NHS website](#) and also at the [CQC website](#)

PARENT/ STUDENT CONSENT FORM

Mass Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing for Coronavirus/Covid-19

Please discuss this form with your child, then complete this form and return it to school by **11th January 2021**.

Students aged 16 or over are able to self consent to the testing process.

If we do not receive this completed form and recorded consent, your child will not be tested.

Students full name (first name and surname):	Home address and postcode:	
Date of birth:	School year:	School form:

Please complete either box below for YES or NO and return the form to the school.	
YES , I give consent to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19	NO , I do not give consent to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19
Name	Name
Signature	Signature
Date	Date
Any comments:	