

22 January 2021

Dear parent/carer

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students**

We are working to keep our Academy as safe as possible. 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'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in the Academy safely. Following the announcement of a national lockdown we will be beginning with those currently attending in person.

I enclose a leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the consent form by clicking on the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=eBpyvmw9NUqUimgWHu2ZKmlkDcmFnotErWLT5ajMDV9URDREmK1QNUs2V1VMVVdGNkUxOTE3VVZWQI4u>

Those taking the test will be asked to self-swab and will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your child's nose and throat.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with your child. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal carers will also be informed.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

#### **What if my child tests positive?**

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal carers will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while your child waits for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

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

**What happens if the test is negative?**

Your child will be able to stay in the Academy and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear, you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

**What if a close contact at the Academy tests positive?**

If your child is a close contact of someone in the Academy who has tested positive for COVID-19 you will be informed that they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme 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 via [office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk) if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ged Rae  
Principal