

1 March 2021

Dear parent/carers

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Year 12/13 students**

We are working to keep our Academy as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms has begun 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 full re-opening of schools we will be testing all students on their return. If your child has had a positive test result they will **not** be required to have a lateral flow test until after 90 days from the date of the positive test.

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=eBpyvmw9NUqUimgWHu2ZKmlKDCmFnotErWLT5ajMDV9URDINUFdBUkNKQkxWSIJGOExJMEhMRTROri4u>

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. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason. I enclose a leaflet with some more information.

Results (which take approximately 30 minutes from testing) will be sent via text to the mobile phone number provided on the consent form.

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. You will receive the result by text message and be contacted by the Academy. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will not need to take a further 'PCR test'. The whole household 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.

**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