

7 December 2021

Dear parent/carers

Re: Lateral Flow Testing January 2022

We are continuing to work to keep our Academy as safe as possible. In line with government guidance and in addition to recent changes regarding face masks, we will be offering an on-site lateral flow test to all our students when they return to the Academy in January. To ensure we have the staffing capacity to facilitate testing there will be a staggered start to the re-opening of the Academy.

- Year 7, 8, 11 and Sixth Form will return on Tuesday 4 January 2022 at 8.40am
- Year 9 and 10 will return on Wednesday 5 January 2022 at 8.40am

Students will be tested as follows:

- Year 7, 8 and 11 will be tested on Tuesday 4 January 2022
- Year 9, 10 and Sixth Form will be tested on Wednesday 5 January 2022

Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of the nose. Please note that if your child has had a positive PCR test in the 90 days prior to the above dates, they should not engage with this testing programme.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

Following the onsite test, students are encouraged to take a further test, at home, 3-4 days later.

Previous consent will be used for all year groups – you therefore do not need to do anything. If you wish to update your consent, please email the Academy Office DUK-office@attrust.org.uk providing your child's name, year group and the change required.

What if a student tests positive?

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

Individuals with a positive LFT result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection and seek a confirmatory PCR test.

The current guidance on contact tracing and isolation remains in place - which means that close contacts of anyone with a positive COVID result should take PCR tests but do not need to isolate unless they are over 18 and unvaccinated. The exception is for close contacts of suspected or confirmed Omicron cases, who will be asked to isolate for 10 days.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if they do not hear they can assume it was negative. A text confirming the result will be sent to the mobile number provided on the consent form. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Please ensure your child continues to test at home, twice a week. Students have been given enough kits to last over the Christmas break.

I appreciate these latest guidance updates may have caused some concern for some of you, and I thank you in advance for your ongoing support, understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate this period. I hope that this is a helpful update in terms of clarifying what is happening, and please be assured that the Academy is continuing to do everything we can to protect the health and wellbeing of our students and wider community.

I would also encourage any parents/carers and/or students with any concerns or who would like to discuss any of the above further, to get in touch with the Academy directly so that we can support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ged Rae
Principal