

January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing.

Up to a third of people who have COVID-19 are asymptomatic, meaning they can pass it on to others without realising they have it themselves.

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'.

Regular testing will mean that children will be able to stay in school in situations where previously they would have had to self-isolate. For example, if your child was to come into close contact with someone who had tested positive, they would need to immediately self-isolate at home. Now, with these 'lateral flow tests', they can stay in school, providing they continue to test negative themselves.

The test is voluntary and anyone under 16 will require parental consent. We will be testing all pupils who want to participate.

The government has produced a guide, attached, on how the test will be performed. Pupils will perform the tests themselves, while being supervised by trained staff.

Each pupil for whom we have consent will have

- Two tests on their return to school, spaced three to five days apart
- Further daily tests for seven days **IF** they have come into close contact with a positive case

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with pupils participating.

If you are happy for your child to be a part of our programme, please complete the consent form. If your child is aged 16 or above they can complete it themselves.

VERY IMPORTANT: If you have more than one child with us, you must complete the consent form separately for each individual child. After this letter you will find a privacy notice which tells you how your data will be used.

If you do not want your child to be tested, you need to complete the non-consent form.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils 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 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 they wait for the PCR result (via text / email), they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result students will have to self-isolate for 10 days, following the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative each time. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. You must also inform us, following normal attendance procedures. If you have any questions please contact: secretariat@fortis.shaw-education.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Alberto Otero
Campus Principal