

2nd March 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 mass testing for students

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we eagerly await the return of all students to school next week, we are contacting you with the details on how we will be administering our mass testing. Students and staff will be tested three times by Friday 19th March. We have a team of fully trained testing staff made up of teachers, support staff and volunteers and we are confident that our systems are robust. However, it is very important that you read this letter in full and ensure your daughter/son is aware of what they must do as this will help us to continue to keep all students, staff and volunteers safe.

The purpose of mass student testing is to detect **asymptomatic** cases within the community. To date, John Spence has conducted over 1400 tests for onsite staff and students and have picked up two asymptomatic cases. **It is important that if your child is symptomatic and displays any Covid-19 symptoms at any point you do not send them into school for a test but instead arrange for them to receive a PCR test by phoning 119 or using the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>**

Your consent is required to administer the testing of your child. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have already consented for their child to be tested as this will help us to reduce the risk of both transmission in school and in the community.

First Test

Students have been issued a specific day and time to return to school; it is important that your child only arrives at this time as we have a set schedule of testing throughout each day.

Tests will be conducted from the Main Hall. Students should enter the school through the small car park and walk down the ramp to the fire door that leads directly into the Main Hall. Parents are not permitted into the testing area.



After entering the site, students will be directed by staff to a seat. Students will be asked for their name and registration group and will then be handed a set of bar codes on a label. This label will be passed to their test assistant and will be used to identify their test result. Throughout the process students will be asked to remain two metres from others and will be expected to wear a face mask, unless they are exempt.

Once registered, students will be directed to a test bay in the Dance Studio where a test assistant will support a student as they take their test. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the throat and nose. Students will self-administer the test with supervision, guidance and support by our trained staff.



Once a student has completed their test, they will be directed to leave the Main Hall into the School building. Students should sanitise again on their departure from the room.



As results are being processed students will be housed in a classroom where they will remain socially distanced. During this short wait, mentors will be facilitating sessions using a back-to-school transition task.

Receiving the test result

Three different results are possible from a test:

In the event of a **void** result, the school will conduct a re-test. The risk of this occurring is very small (we have only had two out of 1400 tests). A **positive** result will be communicated to you via the student registration contact details. The school will immediately upload details to NHS test and trace. In the likely event of a **negative** result, confirmation of the result will be sent to the e-mail address and telephone number provided during registration. As we anticipate a possible strain on National systems at this time, it is possible that the notification of negative results are delayed; please rest assured that we will contact you directly if a positive or void result has been received.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Leanne Clay
Deputy Headteacher