

23 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Lateral Flow Testing Consent

As I am sure you are aware, last night the Prime Minister confirmed that all students will return to school next month. As part of the return to school, we have been tasked with completing mass testing for asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 in students. To enable us to plan for this, the most urgent issue is to gain your consent to test students. Without consent, we will not test your child.

If you would like your child to participate in testing, you will need to complete the consent form by Friday 26 February. Please note that if you have consented previously to your child being tested, you do still need to provide this further consent. The link for the form is:

<https://forms.gle/PJ4q9ubSRE9uibzaA>

This is a voluntary consent; it is not mandatory to participate. If you choose not to consent, then your child will not be tested. Full details on how your data will be managed can also be viewed at <https://theeducationalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

The Department for Education have created a Frequently Asked Questions sheet for parents on the lateral flow testing process and this can be viewed at <https://theeducationalliance.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>

The Lateral Flow Tests which we have received from the NHS are quick and easy to complete, giving a result within 30 minutes. **In the unlikely event that that test is positive we will contact you immediately** and you will be asked to collect your child from school. They will be asked to leave their class and escorted to a safe area within the school until you are able to collect them. This result will be recorded on the NHS test and trace register. Your household will need to enter household isolation and await instructions from NHS test and trace regarding the duration of this and to ascertain any other close contacts (outside of your household) that your child may have had.

Whilst this is a new area for us, we are keen for it to be a success and encourage as many of our students as possible to participate. I would like to assure all parents and carers that we are diligently following all the guidance which has been shared via the DfE, and all of our staff members involved will have completed the training provided and been certified as competent. The NHS have provided appropriate risk assessments which have been amended to the needs of our school and are available on The Education Alliance website.

It is also important to note that where someone receives a negative result from a lateral flow test, this is not a guarantee that they do not have Covid-19. Therefore, they must continue to follow all virus-control measures such as social distancing, wearing of a mask where required etc.

Once we have received and processed your consent, we will be in touch confirming the testing information and an expected return date to school for your child.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Gray', with a horizontal line underneath.

Barry Gray
SLT Lead for Testing