

21st December 2020



NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

Dear Parent or carer,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. 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'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. **IF** the tests turn up as expected on Monday 4th January we intend to roll out the testing programme on **Tuesday 5th January**.

Giving consent

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in this [January Rapid Testing Consent Form](#) (you should complete one per student). Should you need a paper copy of the form, these can be collected from the main school reception on Monday 4th January (after 11am). Students over 16 years of age can give consent.

How will the test be administered?

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. It is expected that students will self-administer the test under guidance, unless they are struggling to do this themselves (see attached leaflet of the process).

Will I be informed of the result?

The test takes approximately 90 seconds, and the result takes about 30 minutes to process. Students will leave the school site as soon as they are tested. Any students obtaining a positive result will be contacted by phone. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

When will my child need to turn up for a test?

Students need to have 2 tests (3 days apart). We will be testing all students on **Tuesday 5th January** and again on **Friday 8th January**. Students are not required to wear school uniform but **MUST** wear a face covering as standard.

- *Students are not to attend if they have any Covid symptoms or are self isolating due to positive contact.*
- *Any students that have had a PCR test positive in the last 90 days will not require a test.*

Approximate timings (accurate time slots will be communicated on Monday 4th January after 3pm:

Vulnerable / Keyworker	8.40 - 9.00am
Year 11	8.40 - 10am

Year 7	9.30 - 11am
Year 8	10am - 11.30am
Year 9	11am - 12.30pm
Year 10	12.30 - 2pm
Year 13	2 - 3.30pm
Year 12	2 - 3.30pm

Students are to enter the site from the back car park entrance (Raynham Road) and will leave via the side gate by the sports hall.

When will my child return to school, and how will work be set?

Year 11 and 13 students will return to school on Wednesday 6th January as normal in school uniform or sixth form attire.

Any students who have an exam that week will be contacted to arrange a time for a revision session, and they will attend their exam slot.

Year 7 - 10 and Year 12 will return to school on Monday 11th January (online learning set on the website from Wednesday 6th January - Friday 8th January). Year 12 will have live online lessons on Wednesday and Thursday; Friday lessons will be set in the google classroom.

Any parents that have already indicated that their child does not have **access to any digital devices** to access the work (computer / mobile phone with wifi access) will be contacted by the Learning Manager on Monday 4th January to make arrangements to loan devices.

Vulnerable children and keyworker

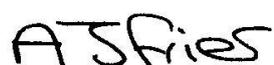
Those children that are considered vulnerable (e.g. EHCP) or those children of keyworkers will be able to return to school from **Wednesday 6th January at 8.40am** - places can be booked using the consent form above.

Free School Meals

Hampers can be provided for those children eligible for Free School Meals who aren't able to attend school - please contact reception on Monday 4th January to discuss any dietary requirements and to arrange collection.

Please see FAQ below as well as a leaflet from the DfE. We will support our students throughout, but please contact us on Monday 4th January after 11.30am if you need any further information. Have a restful and safe Christmas.

Yours faithfully,



Anita Frier

Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and 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). Schools 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 you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to return to school on the start date in the letter and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

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. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.