

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Return to School and COVID-19 Testing for Students**

I am sure you will be aware of the recent Government announcement regarding school's re-opening from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. I would like to provide an outline of our re-opening plans and an updated Risk Assessment based on latest guidance by the end of this week.

An integral feature of our plans for re-opening will be the testing of students for Covid-19 using lateral flow devices before they return to the classroom. The Academy is very keen to ensure that as many students as possible are tested, however, we understand that this is a choice that families must make themselves. No student will be tested without clear consent and this letter is intended to provide more information about the testing programme at Holbrook Academy.

Once you have read all of the information provided, I should be grateful if you would complete the online consent form to inform the Academy if you would like your child to be tested on their return to school and for a further two subsequent tests before the end of term. The consent form can be found [here](#). Alternatively, if you are unable to complete the form online, please complete the attached form and consent statement (one per student) and return it to the school office, preferably by email to [parents@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:parents@holbrookacademy.org)  
**I would like to encourage you to provide this consent by 5pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February if this is possible; although of course we will continue to respond to requests for testing beyond this date.**

### ***How the tests work***

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the throat and/or nose. Results (which take around 30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result and, where participants are under 16, parents/carers will also be informed. The parents/carers or student will also receive a text notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

### ***What if my child tests positive?***

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will need to be collected from school as soon as possible. The student will then need to self-isolate for 10 days.

### ***What happens if the test is negative?***

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

***What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?***

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and the NHS Test and Trace guidance will be followed.

***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 (including 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>

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01473 328317 or email [parents@holbrookacademy.org](mailto:parents@holbrookacademy.org)

Yours sincerely,

Tom Maltby