

July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing Students – September 2021**

Following the recent Government announcement regarding the return to school in September, we will be completing on-site testing of all students as they return. This letter is to provide further details for new Year 7 students about the testing programme at Holbrook Academy.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are, therefore, strongly encouraging students to be tested as they return to school after the Summer holiday.

### ***Plan for testing***

We will be testing all students, for whom we have consent, as they return in September. Students will be tested twice, 3 to 5 days apart.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please click [here](#) to complete the form online. Alternatively, if you are unable to complete the consent form online, please complete the attached form and consent statement (one per student) and return it to the school office as soon as possible, preferably by email. We will start testing Year 7 students on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September so it is important that you complete the consent form before that date.

After the initial two tests on site, students will be given home test kits and asked to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Further details will be provided with the home test kits.

### ***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 nose. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of the test result and parents/carers will also be informed via a text/email notification 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 need to self-isolate immediately, in line with [stay at home guidance](#). They will need to take a '[PCR test](#)' to check if they have Covid-19. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the student will continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the lateral flow device test and the student can return to school, as long as they do not have Covid-19 symptoms.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained, the student should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

***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 remain in school and resume their activities as normal. Parents/carers will be informed of negative test results via text/email.

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

In the event of a positive result, NHS Test and Trace will identify close contacts and will provide further guidance direct.

***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 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Maltby', written in a cursive style.

Tom Maltby