



July 2021

Dear Parent or guardian,

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

We have worked hard since the start of the pandemic to keep our school as safe as possible. All secondary school students are being asked by the government to undertake two on-site lateral flow test on their return to school in September.

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. However, we are participating as a school and I would encourage all students take part as well.

Alongside this letter, I would encourage you to read this Government instructional leaflet [here](#) with more information about the tests themselves. Please can you also read our Testing Privacy Statement [here](#) and you might find this Testing Data Protection [FAQ](#) helpful too. These documents are all available on the school website.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please:

- complete an online version of the Consent Form using a phone, tablet, laptop or PC. Just follow this link: <https://forms.gle/2CHtDhxwDw29mbUr5>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

The Government has shared information with us from Oxford University and Public Health England, which have indicated the tests are as accurate in identifying a case as a 'PCR test' (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but are considered better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently. Testing will be offered free of charge.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. **Please do ensure you complete the online Consent Form, if you are happy for your child to take a COVID-19 test. Please do this as soon as possible.** If you have any questions, please do also email these to admin@scalbyschool.org.uk

Yours Faithfully

Michael McCluskie
Head Teacher

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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. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

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). [School / college] 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, they 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 stay in school 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 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01723 362301 or email admin@scalbyschool.org.uk .

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