

23 February 2021



**Holderness Academy**  
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

I trust this letter finds you safe and well. As we take time to digest the information from last night's government announcement, we are looking forward to welcoming more of our students back into the Academy to commence face to face learning again.

We are currently working on the exact dates that each year group will return w/c 8 March and further details will follow in due course.

The government's directive is that all secondary schools offer a testing programme to include three on-site tests for each student with each test being 3-5 days apart. Whilst this test is voluntary, I would encourage everyone to provide their consent to continue the fight against the virus.

Our 'pop up' testing site has been in operation since the start of the Spring Term and has served to offer reassurance to critical worker parents and students currently attending the Academy and our staff.

Please read the following important information about Lateral Flow Testing and the link to provide your consent for your child.

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Students**

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 devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help students and staff to remain in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those currently attending school to be tested.

Testing will only be offered where consent has been received. The link to provide consent has been sent to all parents, however please contact us should you not have received this or would like to receive it again.

### **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be informed via a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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### **What if someone tests positive?**

If a participant tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. These tests can be booked by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards.

During this time while they wait for the PCR test and subsequent result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, those who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Participants will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school or NHS Test and Trace and will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

### **What if staff or students develop symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms (known as asymptomatic). If staff or students develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your 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>.

The availability of Lateral Flow Testing is not a passport to changing our behaviours – we should still stick rigorously to the Hands, Face, Space mantra.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions via [office@holderness.academy](mailto:office@holderness.academy)

Yours faithfully,



Mr S Wilson  
Headteacher