

Executive Headteacher Mr D Gurney B.A. Hons / NPQH / NLE
Head of School Mrs S Roberts BSC. Hons / PGCE / NPQH

3rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: STUDENT COVID TESTING

Following on from the letter sent regarding return to school from March 9th, this letter gives detail of when students will be expected in school for their first COVID-19 test. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in the academy 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. It is not compulsory to take these tests but the Government advises that effective testing will help to stop the virus spreading and make school as safe as possible. Therefore, we **strongly advise** you to give consent for your child to be tested.

Lateral Flow Testing Plan

In order to carry out the COVID-19 testing we are operating a phased return to the academy and students will be given a set time to attend their first test.

All testing will take place off-site at the Cockburn John Charles Athletic Centre (your child knows this location as they will have had PE lessons in this building) parents/carers can park in car park C to wait.

Use the John Charles Stadium Car Park C, for a Safe and supervised area to drop off and collect your child.

Please do not park on the double yellow lines or on the roundabout.

Please note that after your child has had their first test, they will go home. They will not be required to wear academy uniform for this first test but must wear face coverings unless they are exempt. The key dates that each year group is required to attend are as follows:

Thursday 4th March: COVID- 19 testing for critical worker and vulnerable students currently on site

Friday 5th March: COVID-19 testing for Years 7 & 8 (Online live lessons for Years 9, 10 & 11)

Monday 8th March: COVID-19 testing for Years 9, 10 & 11 - Professional Development Day (No remote learning or online live lessons)

Tuesday 9th March: Full return to the academy for ALL students at their staggered times per year group. Please note the changes to start and end times for some year groups.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Start	8.15	8.35	8.25	8.30	8.20
Finish	14.35	14.45	14.30	14.50	15.00 or 15.40

Schedule for testing

Please note that students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days from their final day of self-isolation should not be tested using lateral flow tests. They would return to the academy on Tuesday 9th March.

Friday 5th March – Year 7

Frog Remote Learning work (rather than live lessons) will be set for students to complete when at home

8.50-9.40	9.40-10.30	10.45-11.35
Surname A-D	Surname E-M	Surname N-Z

Friday 5th March – Year 8

Frog Remote Learning work (rather than live lessons) will be set for students to complete when at home

12.30-1.10	1.10-1.50	1.50-2.40
Surname A-D	Surname E-M	Surname N-Z

Monday 8th March – Year 9

8.30-9.40	9.40-10.30
Surname A-H	Surname I-Z

Monday 8th March – Year 10

10.45-11.35	12.20-1.10
Surname A-H	Surname I-Z

Monday 8th March – Year 11

1.10-1.50	1.55-3.00
Surname A-H	Surname I-Z

When students arrive to the testing centre they will be asked to sanitise their hands before entering the building. They will then be directed to the testing room. Trained members of staff will be on hand to support students at all times.

COVID-19 'lateral flow tests'

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose/throat. Staff will oversee the swab process.

The government confirmed that students who have had consent provided will have three tests initially whilst in the academy on site and then will be provided with two home testing kits to use each week at home. We will update parents/carers on how these will be distributed to students, and conducted, in due course.

If you have any specific questions regarding the COVID-19 testing process please email covidtest@cockburnjohncharles.org

How are results given?

A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear from us you can assume it was negative. 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 positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents/carers will also be notified. If the student receives a positive result the student will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What if a close contact at the school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in the school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at the 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Do not attend to have a Lateral Flow Test if:

- your child has any symptoms of COVID 19, or live with, or have been in contact with, someone who is showing symptoms of COVID 19 (including a fever and/or new persistent cough)
- if they have returned within 14 days from a part of the world affected by the virus
- Your child has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days

We would like to thank you, once again, for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented time and look forward to welcoming your child back into our academy building.

Yours sincerely,



Mr D Gurney
Executive Headteacher



Mrs S Roberts
Head of School