

Friday 18th December 2020

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Pupils

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using a new, quicker Covid-19 tests. We will be starting this in January. Initially, this will mean **all pupils in Phase 2 and 3, Year 7 to Year 14 will be eligible.**

We will also be able to test staff once a week.

In addition, the programme will help pupils to stay in education, by enabling close contacts of someone who tests positive to stay in school if they do a daily test for seven days. This is known as 'serial testing'.

Along with the other measures we are taking, **these tests will help staff and pupils to work safely.** Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so by supporting them to self-isolate we will save lives and help keep our school open and as safe as possible.

The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the form attached, and the enclosed consent statement** (one per pupil) and return it via email to covidtesting@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

The test will be supervised by trained staff, we hope there will be minimal disruption and distress to pupils learning. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Staff will assist with taking the swab.

Results will be shared directly with you and where it is appropriate we will share the results with pupils.



Test and Trace

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe, with a 99.8% specificity. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

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 of change to your 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>.

We will support 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. Email covidtesting@chiltern.beds.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

Lisa Leonard

Headteacher