

14 July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

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

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is continuing across the country using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Hobart High School.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to Hobart to be tested.

### **Plan for Testing**

We will be looking to test all staff and secondary school age students as they return to school in September. Students will take two tests with a gap of 3-5 days between them. Tests will only be taken by students if we have had consent from parents/carers. In line with government guidance, we will be using existing LFD test kits prior to introducing the Orient Gene kits. Details on the differences between the kits can be found [here](#).

### **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 and throat. For the Orient Gene tests the swabs are nose only. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual/participant **if they are positive**. We will contact parents/carers should there be a positive result to share this information and arrange for the collection of your child. A PCR test should then be booked to confirm the test result.

We will not share negative results with students, but individuals or their parents/carers will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system, providing these details are accurately registered on the online consent form. A link to the online consent form has been provided in the email accompanying this letter.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a **confirmatory PCR test** ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the student can stop self-isolating and return to school. 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 be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

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

We will follow any new guidance from the government linked to self-isolation when students return in September.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Hobart High 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 staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office via [office@hobart.org.uk](mailto:office@hobart.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



**Mr R Li-Rocchi**  
Head of School