

UNIVERSITY ACADEMY
HOLBEACH



UNIVERSITY OF
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Dear Parent/carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. You will now be aware that pupils are expected to make a return to school from March 8th onwards. Further information regarding this will be sent to you in the forthcoming days but I am able to confirm some of the government guidance that has been issued since the announcement on Monday.

Upon returning to school lateral flow testing will be made available to all pupils on 3 separate occasions, 3-5 days apart, before tests are required to be taken at home. More details about testing at home will be made available once we are updated by the government. The testing of pupils means that we will need to operate a staggered start to the term. Once the schedule for testing has been finalised we will share this with you. The tests are designed to identify those who may be asymptomatic but carrying the Covid-19 virus.

Those pupils who are currently attending site will be tested prior to March 8th.

The link to the Google Form which will allow you to give or withhold your consent can be found on the link below. I ask that you complete this by **Wednesday March 3rd** to enable us to prepare for the testing.

<https://forms.gle/MfNH3DfbsbhndM6A>

Although not compulsory, it is anticipated that testing will ensure that pupils and staff can attend school with less of a need to self-isolate in the event of coming into contact with a positive case of the virus. Anyone choosing not to undertake testing will still be permitted to attend school unless they develop symptoms or have been in contact with a positive result.

The tests provide a result after approximately 30 minutes and will be administered by the pupils themselves by swabbing their throat and then their nose. A team of trained staff will manage the

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process from registration through to the uploading of results. Consent from parents and carers is required for pupils below the age of 16. Pupils who are aged 16 and above are able to give their own consent.

In the event of a positive test you will receive a text message from the school and will be asked to collect your child and arrange for a PCR test at a testing centre. We understand that this is somewhat inconvenient however, keeping pupils on site with the virus obviously increases the risk to others. It is important that you follow Government guidelines and organise a further test at a designated centre. Naturally, your child will not be permitted to travel home on school transport due to health and safety reasons.

There is much information to absorb and further details, including a video on self-swabbing, can be found on the **school website** in the folder titled: **COVID TESTING**. It will be most helpful to share this information with your child, as this will help to put their mind at rest and support the process in school. The folder also contains answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding data protection, a diagram explaining how to self-administer the test and our Privacy Notice which is attached with this letter.

I should like to thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss S Paige
Principal

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