



Ref:NHSTTStaffStudents/CTY/wlr

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## **NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Secondary Phase Students**

In light of the Government's announcement last night and further to my letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, I wanted to provide additional information regarding mass and serial testing in school.

We are currently working to establish a programme of testing for staff and **secondary phase students**. I am sure you are aware that testing is being provided across the country using new, quicker Covid-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests.' Up to 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms; and by testing regularly this will help stop the spread of the virus and keep our school open as safely as possible.

The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. We are hoping to commence testing both students and staff who want to participate later this week. I have also attached an instructional leaflet containing more information on the test.

### **Registration and Consent**

To process the test, we will need to register all participating students.

To complete this registration and provide consent please complete the online form via Microsoft forms on the link below by **tomorrow evening, 5.00pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kGSC6rbgAk2BMLvfMAKGDOzA-OeurWdPp2KNJegF3ZxUMIQ4QUROTINCNFkyTTFUCU0k0RIE5MkRCVY4u>

***If you do not complete all the information required on this link, your child will not be able to be tested.***

### **Privacy Notice**

The Covid Testing Privacy Statement can be found at:

[https://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk/downloads/coronavirus\\_guidance/privacy\\_notice\\_-\\_covid\\_pupils.pdf](https://www.thegrangeacademy.co.uk/downloads/coronavirus_guidance/privacy_notice_-_covid_pupils.pdf)

### **Testing and results**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around 30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

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## What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test for your child, where possible, it is quicker to choose to visit a drive-through test site rather than requesting a home test, which takes longer for the results.

During this time, while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

## What happens if the test is negative?

Pupils will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear 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.

## What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the tests are negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can. If the seven days of testing falls over a weekend, then a follow up test on Monday will be required.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

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 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need any further information. You can call the main school office or email [info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@thegrangeacademy.co.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mr I Critchley  
Principal

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