



Growing  
Talent,  
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Community

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Executive Headteacher: Mr P Cavanagh  
Deputy Headteachers: Mrs C Grandidge, Mr C Leng and Mr J Shaw

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

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

You will be aware that testing in schools for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you additional and up to date information about the testing programme in our school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am, therefore on the advice of Public Health England and the NHS, encouraging those returning to school to be tested. We will be testing all staff and students who choose to participate from Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 before returning to face to face education.

If you have not already done so and you are happy for your child to be tested, please read and complete the consent though the Google form by Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 using the link provided below,

<https://forms.gle/a2opqaJBsTbrDRhC6>

Students who have given consent to be tested in school will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Trained staff will oversee the swab process and results will be shared directly with parents by text message via the NHS (which take approximately half an hour from testing). We are confident 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%).

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

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

Students who test negative on any test will be able to return to face to face education and resume their activities as normal. Parents or legal guardians will be informed of negative test results in the same way as a positive result. There may be a small number of students who may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void. This could be if there is a problem test equipment or the test has been completed incorrectly. Rest assured that void tests are unlikely to happen.

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

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

### **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 (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>.

A copy of Kelvin Hall Schools Privacy notice and frequently asked questions on asymptomatic testing can be found on our school website.

### **Arrangements for testing days**

Due to the number of students who have given consent to be tested in school, each year group has been allocated a day where each focus group will be invited to attend the test centre for their test and then return home. The testing days for each year group are as follows



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National Support School  
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Year group	Testing day	Full year group return day
Year 11	Friday 5th March 21	Tuesday 9th March 21
Year 10	Monday 8th March 21	Tuesday 9th March 21
Year 7	Tuesday 9th March 21	Wednesday 10th March 21
Year 8	Wednesday 10th March 21	Thursday 11th March 21
Year 9	Thursday 11th March 21	Friday 12th March 21

All consenting students in each focus group will be allocated a time slot to come to school on their testing day (Science Groups for Year 11). **Student test times will be communicated by email to students and text to parents - It is vital students attend wearing their face mask during their allocated time slot on the correct day.** Students will need to approach the site via the main school entrance on Bricknell Avenue and queue, socially distanced, outside of the G-02 Drama studio external entrance (or in G-02 if raining). Testing bays are set up in the Performance Hall numbered 1 - 9. Immediately after completing their test, students will exit through the fire doors of the Drama Studio (next to the Performance Hall) and return home. On the testing days pastoral staff will be on hand to direct students and help maintain social distancing. Students will not be able to access any other part of the school site, including toilet facilities whilst waiting for a test. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

We understand that students may be nervous about how the testing process will work and to help with this we have provided below a link to the NHS YouTube video 'How to do a COVID-19 self test'. Our staff have been testing a little on a regular basis and are extremely knowledgeable, helpful and approachable. If any students are nervous they will be available to support. We thank all parents and carers for their support and understanding during this unprecedented period. We are trying our best to make sure that our testing process, as well as the return of students to school runs as smoothly as possible.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLmZYrdkj-E&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ&index=5>

Lastly, once we have started conducting the COVID-19 tests in school, we will write to you again with further information on how we will give out the 'home test kits' to students and instructions of how to use these tests at home. If you have any questions regarding this or the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Grandidge  
Deputy Headteacher  
Kelvin Hall School

