



# Kingswinford Academy

**A part of the Windsor Academy Trust**

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KFA Covid Response

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## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing in Secondary Schools**

### **Dear Parent or Guardian**

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is now happening across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more 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 settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those attending school to be tested.

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some children and young people with SEND and their families. Some of these concerns may be alleviated by discussing them with school and agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments (if the individual has a disability). Parents and carers may want to look at the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings for further information - [Mass asymptomatic testing in specialist settings - GOV.UK](#)

### **Plan for testing**

In the hope that the government reopens schools during the next half of term, we expect to offer voluntary Lateral Flow Tests for all students prior to their return in accordance with government guidance. This 'mass testing' programme recommends that students undertake two tests within a 3-5 day period and requires consent (either from a parent or carer for students under the age of 16 or from the student themselves if they are 16 or over). At this stage, in preparation for any future announcements, we are seeking consent from parents/carers to enable us to better prepare our testing programme.



## How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained adults. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a self-administered swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the pupil/student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil/student and/or their parent will also receive notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a quick 'how to self administer' guide for you to familiarise your child with.

## What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil/student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by the school and will need to self isolate as per current government guidance.

## What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils/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. Students will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

## 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. They will then have to go into self isolation for anywhere upto 10 days depending on the last contact they had with the confirmed case.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

**This testing programme at the 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 [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus](#).

Please complete the consent form if you wish to enrol your child on the testing programme. I also enclose a Covid 19 privacy notice for parents to read before consenting.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact reception and ask to speak to Mr Wilkes if you require further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Macdonald'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

Tom Macdonald  
Headteacher