

20 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Asking your consent for Covid testing**

The government is **strongly recommending** that secondary age students have Covid tests when they return to school in September, and learn how to do the test at home after the first two tests in school. For this to happen, we need to have your written consent. Young people aged 16 might be able to give their own consent, but we would still like your consent to proceed.

### **Giving your consent**

Please fill in all the boxes on the electronic consent form on this webpage (one per child), making sure that you sign it using the mouse or your finger on a smart screen. The form will then be returned to us automatically when you click 'submit'. If your child has previously tested positive for COVID 19 they cannot take another test until 90 days have passed as this could produce a false positive result. Please indicate this on the consent form. No testing will go ahead without written parental consent for all students. We are gathering consent now so that when students start school in the Autumn term, testing can be carried out without delay.

### **More information:**

#### **What will the test involve?**

The tests that many of you will have taken so far involve putting a swab at the side of your throat and then up your nose. We know that the gag reflex this causes is uncomfortable and might put students off completing the test or taking later tests in school or at home. Because of this we will only be asking students to swab their own noses (just like NHS staff do).

#### **What type of tests are they?**

The tests are the same ones that NHS staff use to check whether they have Covid. They are called Lateral Flow Tests. They are not as reliable (or expensive) as the PCR tests that must go to a lab to get the results. The advantage of lateral flow tests is that the results come in half an hour, taking them twice per week improves reliability.

#### **What support will staff be giving?**

We will be teaching students about the test during their Tutor Time lesson on their first day at school. They will see photos of the setup and how they need to use the swab for their noses.

When it comes to the time of their test, students will be accompanied to the testing room and shown what to do. Adults will demonstrate, reassure, and guide the students back to class afterwards. Adults will not be inserting the swabs; this will need to be done by the students themselves. Other members of the school testing team will be processing the test and uploading the results.

#### **Clinical supervision from the School Nurse**

Our school nurse will supervise our arrangements to make sure that they are clinically safe and secure. She won't be able to supervise each individual test but will make sure that we are well set-up for students to take the test safely and properly.

#### **Will my child have to take the test?**

It is **highly recommended** that every student takes the test so that the risk of spreading the virus is reduced. For that reason, we hope that every parent and carer will give their consent for the tests to be offered. However, no student will be forced to take the test, even if their parents or carers have given their consent.

#### **When will we get the results?**

When your child takes the test, the result will be ready within 30 minutes. If the test result is **negative**, you will not hear further from us and your child can continue to attend school. If the test result is **positive**, your child will need to go home to self-isolate and we will contact you to support with next steps. After the test is uploaded to the NHS Test and Trace website, you will receive a notification via the mobile phone number provided.

Last time round over 90% of our student cohort were able to self test. We detected no positive and no void test results. Thank you for your support in keeping our school community safe.

Additional information about the testing process along with details of how your data is used are also available on this webpage. If you have any questions relating to the testing process, please feel free to ring the school or email [info@stormonthouse.sch.uk](mailto:info@stormonthouse.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

Kevin McDonnell  
Headteacher