



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

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Head of School: Mr W Speke, BA (Hons)

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NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students

Dear Parent/Carer

Upon the return to school a program of mass testing is to be implemented to support the safe return of students to schools and colleges. This will help to identify and break the transmission of COVID-19 through the identification of asymptomatic cases via the use of lateral flow tests. Testing has been operational at Fitzharrys School since January with twice weekly testing of staff and the regular testing of those students who have been in school.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. In line with the Governments guidance all students will be given three tests in school and then will transfer to home testing along with staff. If for whatever reason you do not feel that you will be able to complete the test at home, please let us know as we will be maintaining our test site at school and we will support those unable to test at home to do so. The process however is very straight forward, and I will be in contact following the return of students prior to the issuing and distribution of home test kits.

The testing process is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it for the good of the Fitzharrys community as well as the reassurance this will bring to you at home. Attached alongside this letter is an instructional leaflet with some more information titled 'how to do your test'. I also hope to be able to share a video walk through of the test site to help reassure students and help them understand the process and how it works here at Fitzharrys.

If you are happy for your child/children to be tested, please complete our online consent form using the following link (one required for each student attending school)

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qtEM4g_ZUUGcXLtrquCldYad4O1WmY9Lmg0sjZnl_zZUQ1Q3WjZBQTc4S1kyVVZCOEI0Q0k3RzFYUS4u

If you are not happy for your child/children to be tested, they will still be allowed to attend school once the rest of their year group has been tested.

The government have outlined that we should test every consenting student three times upon return to school. The first test needs to be taken and be confirmed as a negative result before the student is allowed back into school for face-to-face teaching. Therefore, for the student's first test, we ask that they come into school for their test and then return home. Next week I will make



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further contact detailing the timings for students to attend to have their first test once we have received the testing consent information and know the numbers we will be testing. Please be reassured that while this initial return testing happens remote lessons will continue to be delivered as they have across lockdown. With the planned schedule of testing, we will see the return of all students on Thursday 11th March. Please see Mr Speke's letter for the table of dates for tests and returning to school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the colleagues in school and external volunteers who have made this possible. The testing in school have been very successful and this will support and reassure students and staff as we now move to scale up the testing process. Those taking the test will be registered using the information shared via the consent form. Students will then attend at their allocated time slot to complete their test. 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. The results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be recorded on the NHS system and shared via the contact details used to register the student from the consent form (parents' telephone/email). Students when in school for their second and third tests will be able to assume the test is negative as we will contact them in the case of a positive or void result. directly with staff and students participating.

We have been assured that 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. Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student 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. If a student tests positive on their first test, they will be required to self-isolate and will continue with online learning. If a student tests positive on their second or third test during the school day, guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

What happens if the test is negative?

If a student receives a negative test result on their first test, they will be allowed into school to resume face-to-face teaching from the week commencing 8th March on the day after their test as per the table above. If they receive a negative test result on their second or third test, they will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 my child develops symptoms?

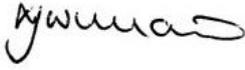
This testing program at Fitzharrys is for people with no symptoms. Please do not send students to school to have a COVID-19 test if they have symptoms. In this situation an external test center must be used. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; 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>.

Home Testing?

Following the completion of the three tests, students will be issued with a testing kits to be used at home. This will happen after the three supervised tests in school, so that we can support and ensure that the testing process is being done correctly. We will provide more information on home testing in due course.

We will continue to support our staff and students throughout this process, but please contact us if you have any questions. Please email office.4127@fitzharrys.oxon.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Williams
Assistant Head; Pastoral Director



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