

26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and Senior School students

You will be aware from the Headmaster's communication, along with coverage in the media, that schools throughout the country will be offering COVID-19 testing using rapid 'lateral flow device' tests. Please read this letter carefully as some of the guidance has been updated since our last communication on this matter.

There are many protective measures already in place within school as detailed in our COVID-secure booklets and we are pleased that these tests offer us a further opportunity to support the safety of staff and students in school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread at St Dunstan's through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging all Senior School students to be tested, even if they have already received the vaccine. Although the tests are not mandatory, we would encourage everyone to take them. St Dunstan's College staff will also be tested regularly at home or on site. All existing protective measures such as social distancing, handwashing and face coverings remain important and the need for these is not lessened.

Testing Slots

We will be looking to test **all** staff and Senior School students **between 3-5 March 2021** at our Asymptomatic Testing Site before we welcome students back onto site on Monday 8 March, in line with national guidance. Students should turn up **at the West Door at the time of their test slot** and then return home immediately afterwards. They must wear a mask at all times on the school site and should maintain strict social distancing measures. Parents will not be able to enter the school building at this time. Below is an indication of which day your child should be available for testing. You will receive an exact time slot on Monday 1 March 2021.

Year Group	Test Date and Time
Year 13	Wed 3 March AM
Year 12	Wed 3 March AM
Year 11	Wed 3 March PM
Year 10	Wed 3 March PM (10F, 10G, 10H) Thu 4 March AM (10I, 10J, 10K)
Year 9	Thu 4 March AM
Year 8	Thu 4 March PM
Year 7	Fri 5 March PM

The Department of Education has requested that students be tested **three times** on site, before switching to twice-weekly home testing. Test two and three will be taken on site during the school day between Monday 8 March and Friday 12 March. You will then be supplied with tests to carry out twice-weekly LFD testing at home from Monday 15 March.

Consent Forms

- The electronic registration and consent for students **under 16** can be found [HERE](#) and should be completed by the parent or carer.
- The electronic registration and consent form for students **over 16** can be found [HERE](#) and should be completed by the student, following discussion with the parent or carer.

To aid the administration and preparation for testing, we ask that you complete the registration and consent forms as soon as possible and by **Tuesday 2 March 2021**.

Information about the Lateral Flow Device tests

Staff are now trained to supervise and administer the tests and the 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy; using a swab of your nose and throat. Senior School students will be shown how to swab themselves and staff will oversee the swab process. Our Asymptomatic Testing Site has been running throughout lockdown for those who are required to keep attending school so we hope your children will find this to be a smooth process. Students should avoid eating or drinking (other than a small drink of water) for the thirty minutes preceding their test slot.

Test results

Students will be returning home immediately after taking the test. They **should not** remain on site and wait. Students will be given a barcode and registration card to take home with them after the test. These should be registered on the website given in order to view the test result. However, we will also contact families directly if a student receives a positive result.

What if a student tests positive?

- If a pupil 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. If a positive result is obtained from our onsite testing, it is not required to get a confirmatory PCR test.

What happens if the test is negative?

- Students who test negative will be able to return to school on 8 March and resume their activities as normal.
- Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.
- 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/college tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by a member of staff at St Dunstan's College and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at St Dunstan's College 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>.

Please also see attached at the end of this letter the instruction leaflet for testing. We will support

our staff and students throughout this process so please do contact us if you have any questions. Further information outlining arrangements for Monday 8 March, including the slot for your child's second and third tests will be sent to you shortly. You can contact us via collegeoffice@stdunstans.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

St Dunstan's College COVID-19 Testing Team