21st July 2021

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Students

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following the recent Government announcement we will be testing all students on their return to college in September.

Along with the other measures we are taking, **these tests will help staff and students to work safely**. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so by supporting them to self-isolate we will save lives and help keep our College open and as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. I will be taking one.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

Current guidance indicates that a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to College if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days, and the test is negative. If not, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of College who will still need to self-isolate. This guidance may change at short notice and further details will be provided at the time.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please complete the Microsoft Form, which can be accessed using the link below, and which contains a consent statement** (one per student). If you wish to opt out of the process entirely, please also use the online form to indicate this – there is an option to withhold consent at the very end of the form. Please submit the form electronically to College. *Please let us know if you require the form in an alternative format.*

Link: https://forms.office.com/r/ZYGr7Kw7VU

I also enclose a Privacy Statement with this letter, regarding how the data submitted will be processed and used.

The test will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose. For under 18s, staff can assist with taking the swab.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

Registration

In order to process the test, we will register all participating students. The software we use for this is called TestRegister and you will receive details via email.

What if a student tests positive?

Results will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be notified.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result, they will be able to do this at school or take a test kit home. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate until they get their result. If it is negative, the students can return to College.

If the result of this secondary test is positive, the student and household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. **Please inform College as soon as you receive this test result.**

We will continue to support students with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus, and there is financial support available via the NHS app. Students might need collecting from College, so please discuss this with them. There is more advice on self-isolation and home learning on Gov.uk.

What if a student tests negative?

They will be able to stay in College and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive in the first 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at College is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of change to your 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.

We will support staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

If you have any questions regarding the Covid-19 testing, please contact Ann Hopkins (College Manager): hopkinsa@clystvale.org

Best wishes,

Kevin Bawn

Principal