



The John Roan School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid-19 Update: Testing for Students

As we begin to welcome students back into school, I am writing to you with information about how we will be running the Covid-19 Testing Programme at The John Roan School. Secondary school students and staff in every school across the country are being urged to have regular tests for Covid-19, so that we can minimise the risk of spreading the virus.

I would like to thank everyone across the school who worked extremely hard last term to ensure that we did everything we could do to minimise the risk. We will of course continue with the systems and processes that have become routine since September, but the opportunity for everyone to be tested regularly is an excellent addition to our tools for keeping everyone safe and healthy.

All secondary schools in the country will be using what are known as 'lateral flow tests' (LFT). Whilst these tests are not as sensitive as a full Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, they are highly effective when the person has a high viral load and is therefore at their most contagious. With this in mind, the use of these tests will increase school safety measures and help identify any students who are asymptomatic. This will help reduce the spread of infection in school. Importantly, the test can be carried out regularly and results returned within 30 minutes, this means that anyone who is infected is identified much more quickly and effectively.

The test will involve a throat and nose swab and will only take a few minutes. It is proven to be perfectly safe and the test will tell you if your child is carrying the virus that causes COVID-19, even if they are not showing any symptoms. I know that this will be of reassurance to many parents/carers, particularly at a time where students are returning to school.

Students who test negative will, of course, be able to stay in school as normal. A student will be told immediately following a positive test result. Where students do not hear from a member of staff, they must assume the test was negative. All students will be provided with an NHS COVID 19 test registration card, that is directly linked to their test result, which is logged with the NHS. This card provides a QR code for all students to access their result directly from the NHS. We strongly encourage all parents/carers ensure that they access their child's result in this way. This system supports more effective tracking of the spread of COVID 19 within the local community.

Students who test positive will be informed about their results individually and, if they are under 16, parents/carers will also be notified as soon as possible after the positive test result is confirmed. At this

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point parents/carers will be telephoned to inform you of the positive result and to arrange collection of your child from school. Once a test result is confirmed, a member of staff will complete a track and trace exercise with your child to identify any close contacts who may be in school. Students who test positive will need to take a further test on the same day (or as soon as possible), known as a PCR test, to confirm the result. We will be able to provide test kits for this to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. It may be quicker to visit a drive-through test site if you are able to do so. Whilst waiting for the PCR test result, your child will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, your child must continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

As you will recall, last term, anyone who had been in close contact with someone who tested positive also had to self-isolate at home as a precaution. A member of school staff will inform you if your child has been identified as a close contact and clarify any necessary arrangements for this.

Schools must test all consenting students before they fully return to school. This process begins on the 8th March 2021. Two testing centres will be set up in school, one at Westcombe Park and one at Maze Hill. These testing centres will be staffed by external NHS Track and Trace Teams who are trained to administer the full testing programme and will also be supported by John Roan School staff. All students are expected to complete three COVID 19 tests in school, over a 10-day period. Following the completion of these 3 tests, students will then move to home testing. Further information will follow regarding this process.

Taking part in the testing is optional but I would urge parents/carers to ensure that your child joins me, and other members of staff, in participating. To provide consent for your child please click on the link below and complete the attached consent form. This will automatically send your consent to the school.

Please fill in the form at this link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HbBK2E98kUGqVRUpG7n0B-Di36vae5Nqz7MWtNFnuhUMIJTQThGUzhPNIFZQ1BINKhVWIZVRUZPWC4u>

by Thursday 4th March. By consenting to participate in the Covid-19 testing programme, you are also consenting to the sharing of personal data. Please read the attached Privacy notice for further information.

Thank you in advance for helping us to keep our whole school community safe. Obviously, if your child develops Covid-19 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

The introduction of Covid-19 testing is a major step forward in managing the virus for us as a school.

I will be in touch with you over the next week with further information around the timetable for testing students prior to their return to school. This will provide you with the exact time and specific arrangements for your child, stating the time and date that they are required to be in school and the details about what they need to do.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cath Smith".

Cath Smith

Executive Headteacher