



**Meadowhead School**

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**Academy Trust**

**Headteacher**

*Kam Grewal-Joy*

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*Steve Bacon*

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KGR/SGI

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Asymptomatic testing for students on returning to school**

You will have heard that schools are being asked to test all students on their return to school from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. All students will be offered 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart during the first two weeks of full opening. A Test Centre has been set up and has been effectively operating throughout the lockdown period for staff and students in school. We are now needing to upscale this provision in preparation for the full opening. Testing remains voluntary but parents are strongly advised to give their consent to reduce the risk of infection for our school community and their families. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Meadowhead School.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore hopeful that all students returning to school are tested as recommended by the government.

### **How the tests work**

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the participant of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed via text/email. Personal information, including parent/carer contact details will be registered on the government lateral flow test system to enable test results to be sent via text/email.

Please find below frequently asked questions around testing. Our testing privacy statement and terms of consent documents are also attached. To consent to COVID-19 testing in school please complete the consent form using the following link: <https://mhsch.uk/covid19testingstudentconsent> **by Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**. Those parents who have already given their consent to testing do not need to respond.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office using the contact details at the top of this letter. If you do not want your child to be tested in school on their return please contact their Year Office by the deadline above.

If you are unable to access the electronic consent form please contact us using the details at the top of this letter and a paper consent form can be provided.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Grewal-Joy  
Headteacher

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## COVID-19 Testing in School – Frequently Asked Questions

### What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by school and will need to self-isolate for a period of 10 days as per the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will be informed via text/email. Parents/carers of students aged 16 or over will be informed via text/email unless the student has completed the consent form for themselves and provided their own contact details, having discussed participation with their parent/carer.

### What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school. Close contacts will be identified and informed to self-isolate for a period of 10 days from the last date of contact with the positive case, as per the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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>.