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4 January 2021

Dear Parent

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

School Closure

Further to the Prime Minister's statement this evening, I regret to inform you that school will remain closed to the majority of students until at least February Half Term. School will remain open for those children classed as vulnerable and those whose parents are keyworkers. Full details of the national restrictions can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

During this time, learning will continue via Google Classroom and students will be able to join their teacher via this platform. It is expected that students will log in, as per their usual timetable, with their cameras turned off and their microphones muted. If your child will have difficulty accessing this resource due to a lack of equipment please email contact@haslandhall.derbyshire.sch.uk and we will endeavour to support you.

If students have forgotten how to use some of the facilities on Google Classroom there is a link to the video tutorials on the school website: <https://www.haslandhallschool.co.uk/>

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch via contact@haslandhall.derbyshire.sch.uk

If your child is classed as vulnerable or you are a keyworker, and you have not already contacted us and you would like them to attend school, please email contact@haslandhall.derbyshire.sch.uk and we will be able to accommodate you. Those parents who have already contacted us, do not need to do so again.

We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our students, working with you and keeping you informed every step of the way, while following Government rules and advice.

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

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests can help staff and students 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. The test is voluntary. However, we are participating as a school and I would encourage all students and staff to take part as well.

There are three groups of people who will be tested:

- Students will be tested on their return to school, starting with vulnerable and key worker children. This will be gradually rolled out as students return and will involve two Lateral Flow Tests, with a gap of at least three days between tests
- Weekly testing for all staff
- Identification and daily testing of 'close contacts' of a confirmed case, for a period of seven days.

Please see the additional information at the end of this letter, the attached instructional leaflet with further information (<https://bit.ly/2X6jWoS>), a copy of the privacy notice (<https://bit.ly/38UJ4Va>) and a link to an electronic consent form (<https://forms.gle/o44xUnaNsJ1ncSRD9>)

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the electronic consent form. There is also the option to indicate that you DO NOT give consent, if this is the case.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

Results take around half an hour from testing and will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under-16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

The Government has shared information with us from Oxford University and Public Health England, which have indicated the tests are as accurate in identifying a case as a 'PCR test' (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but are considered 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.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful. Please do ensure you complete the consent form indicated above, if you are happy for your child to take a COVID-19 test, by **Wednesday 13 January 2021**, this is especially important if your child is currently attending. If you have any questions, please do also email these to contact@haslandhall.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Edmonds
Acting Headteacher

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. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

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 a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

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 (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>.