

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Mass Asymptomatic Testing at QEGS

I feel sure everyone is looking forward to returning to school as soon as we are safely able. Last week the government delivered several updates, which the Department for Education then explained in more detail. These included that:

- With the wider reopening of schools and colleges there would be some changes to the arrangements for testing in secondary schools.
- Home testing is to be introduced for secondary age students [11+]. It is important that students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they do this correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on site at our Asymptomatic Testing Site [ATS]. This is a condition of being able to transition students to test at home.
- Schools will be able to decide how best to deliver testing on a phased basis, prioritising vulnerable children and the children of key workers.
- Students may return to face-to-face education following their first negative result. Testing is voluntary and students not undergoing testing should return to school in line with the phased return arrangements for their cohort.
- All members of the school community are strongly encouraged to engage with the asymptomatic testing programme in order to help break transmission links, by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

For a school of our size there are certain logistical challenges we have needed to overcome. Therefore, it is very important your child attends for their first test at their allotted time. We will be unable to arrange alternative times.

Students must attend for their tests wearing the correct school uniform, lanyard and ID card. Doing this will help to ensure all those on site remain safe.

We must all continue to follow the national lockdown instructions and therefore you must travel directly to and from school, only attending the site for the test at your allotted time.

Remote and hybrid learning will continue to take place for your child until their return to school. Therefore, your child will be excused from registration for the lessons they miss whilst attending their test appointment.

Students Currently Attending Key Worker Provision on Site.

We will aim to test each consenting student three times before their Year Group returns. Therefore, there will not be a need to attend for a first test with the rest of the Year group.

Year 9 Asymptomatic Test Appointments

On arrival at school for the first test students must go directly to the Main Hall. Students will enter through the external fire exit as directed. We must ask anyone accompanying their child to school to wait in their car/carpark, and not to come up to the Main Hall.

Students have been given a time based on their current teaching group [see below].

It is very important that your child arrives at the Main Hall at the time indicated. At peak times there may be a short wait and we would ask for your understanding.

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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Future tests will occur during lesson times, and students will need to follow instructions regarding testing times as directed by their teachers.

First Test	
Tues 16 th March	Year Group: 9
Time	Teaching Group
Session One	
09.00	9XH
09.30	9XR
10.00	9XS
10.30	9YD
Session Two	
11.00	9YE
11.30	LUNCH
12.00	9YI
12.30	9YT

We expect the process of students registering for their test to take a few minutes. On arrival they will need to know their postcode, house number, mobile phone number [parental if they do not have one], email address and date of birth. It is useful if this information is written down to remind them.

Name:

Date of birth:

Address including postcode:

Mobile phone number:

Email address:

Some answers to questions you might be thinking:

1. Will the test be administered by school staff? No, the student will swab their own throat and nose.
2. Will students need to wear face-coverings? Yes, students do need to wear face-coverings, which they will be instructed to remove for the purpose of testing.
3. Why can't we have tests at home, and not test in school? The Department for Education will deliver home testing kits to the school in the next two weeks, and these will be given to students once the 'in school' testing is completed.
4. If I haven't given consent but do wish my child to be tested what can I do? We have recently sent out the links to sign-up for this, and it is not too late to do so now.

<http://www.qegs.link/covid19testing>



[Fill | QEGS NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing](#)

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows: • For pupils and students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol. • Pupils and students over 16 can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18. • Staff will complete this form themselves. 1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated 31st December 2020. 2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent form for each student.

www.qegs.link

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. I feel sure your child is as excited as we are to have a swift, safe and positive return to school. So many of you have taken the time to email in to show that support, and I know will be willing us on through this final hurdle.

Please do not hesitate to contact either your child's Progress Leader or myself should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Bawden
Assistant Headteacher