

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

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



1st September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students at QEGS

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at QEGS.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are, therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for Testing

We will be looking to test all staff and students as they return to school. Parents and carers of students in Years 8 to 13 who were attending QEGS over the last academic year have previously provided consent for testing. By attending the session below, you are authorising your child to be tested before their return to school.

Parents and guardians of current Year 7, and any other new arrivals to the school, will need to provide consent by following this link before attending the relevant session below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3Byuar5oHY7KACdKjL1oaEh8AqdUNzhKMUczNlhFOUIXM1hXT0NVOFg1UzEzVS4u>

Onsite Lateral Flow Testing Sessions			
Year	Day	Session Time	Location
Year 7	Monday 6 th September 2021	14.30 – 15.30	Sports Hall
Year 8	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	08.30 – 09.30	Sports Hall
Year 9	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	09.50 – 10.50	Sports Hall
Year 10	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	11.10 – 12.10	Sports Hall
Year 11	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	12.30 – 13.30	Sports Hall
Year 12 & 13	Tuesday 7 th September 2021	13.50 – 15.00	Sports Hall

Students may walk to school for their test or be dropped-off. If dropping-off please use the Bus Bay. Staff will be available to direct your child to the testing centre. Once they have completed their test they should return to the Bus Bay for collection or to walk home.

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. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant, in that we will inform you of any positive results via the telephone number supplied at time of test. If you have not received such a notification within an hour of your child taking the test this will mean the result was negative. Tests are free of charge.

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

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What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate immediately and a [confirmatory PCR test](#) ordered. The confirmatory PCR test should be taken within two days of the positive LFD test. If the confirmatory PCR is also positive, follow guidance from NHS Test and Trace and continue to self-isolate.

If the confirmatory PCR is negative the student can stop self-isolating and return to school.

Should a confirmatory PCR not be obtained the student should self-isolate for 10 days from the result of the positive lateral flow test.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

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

The rules around close contacts have now changed. Students under the age of 18 years and 6 months, and adults who have been double-jabbed with the vaccine, do not have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact. The responsibility for any close contact tracing and information that needs to be conveyed to individuals and families now lies with NHS Track & Trace.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at QEGS 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>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Bawden
Assistant Headteacher