

Dear parent and carers,

We know that parents want their children and young people to remain in the academy for their learning. Every time a positive COVID-19 case is identified in the academy, it currently leads to mandatory self-isolation of students and staff who are contacts of the case for a minimum of 10 days to help stem transmission of the virus. Daily contact testing, combined with regular twice-weekly asymptomatic testing (for those without symptoms), could allow us to reduce the need to close learning bubbles and the academy open and maximise attendance, while minimising the risk of community transmission.

We have recently been invited to take part in a clinical covid trial of Daily Contact Testing, to help evaluate its effectiveness and safety. The trial will start Monday 26th April and will conclude this summer.

Students in the trial that are a close contact of a positive case will be able to choose to take a rapid test each morning and, if it is negative, continue to attend school. They would have to continue to self-isolate at home in the evenings, weekends and holidays.

Should your child test positive, the following procedure would be implemented:

- The academy will offer anyone in close contact to your child to continue to go to the academy for the subsequent days, assuming they do not test positive using their Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. All staff and children in contact with your child will be offered a PCR ('Polymerase Chain Reaction') test on days 2 and 7 following your child's positive LFD test. In the event of testing positive, your child will also receive a PCR test on day 1. Should any contacts of your child test positive from their LFD test, they will need to isolate for 10 days as per Government guidelines.

The trial is being co-ordinated and managed by the Department of Health and Social Care, Department for Education, Office of National Statistics and ethics cleared by Public Health England. It will also be independently evaluated and overseen by an independent data monitoring committee and a trial steering group. The trial is voluntary and shall only include staff and students who consent to do so. If you would like your child to participate in the trial, please click onto the link below and follow each step. All consent forms must be returned by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 8am.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2s8TOK9SpUy44yMVeXcKuuibSo6SVfIBhzc3C8ahxQVUNFJVM1MzNEhFMTNWMIIQRjk0RURaNOxEUC4u>

The department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will collect personal information, including name, date of birth, contact details and names of contacts at the academy. This information, together with COVID-19 test results will be collected so they know when someone tests positive to help stop the spread of the virus. DHSC are the 'controller' for this use of personal data – they decide how it will be used and are responsible for it. The academy will use this information to help us manage our



Principal: Mr R Gummery  
Vice Principal: Miss K Athawes  
Vice Principal: Mrs L Fraser

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COVID-19 response within the academy – where we do this, we are the controller of the personal data.

The use of personal data by the academy and by DHSC is made lawful as it is being used for the protection of public health. We will keep all the information securely in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UKGDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

We hope you will be willing to participate in this trial; should you have any questions about the trial, please contact [tracey.bates@taw.org.uk](mailto:tracey.bates@taw.org.uk)

Kindest regards

Mr Gummery

Principal

