



23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Consent Information Required for wider re-opening of St James'

Following my letter yesterday we have now seen the announcement from Mr Johnson regarding the wider reopening of schools from March 8th. Preparations around risk assessments, planning for the return of children and establishing a testing facility which is capable of testing each child three times upon their return have already begun. Unfortunately, there has still been no further clarity around the Year 11 examinations other than the guidance stating, "further detail will be published shortly, now that the consultation on this has closed", as soon as we receive any clarity I shall be in touch.

In order to allow us to plan accordingly it is imperative that **you complete one of the following links** to either a) give consent for your child(ren) to be tested or b) confirm that you do not give consent for your child(ren) to be tested. **You must respond to one of the links.**

If you **would** like your child to take part in the testing programme, **please complete the link here.** We will require one completed link per child:

<https://forms.gle/YkG8U1ovLjgZHFIA7>

If you **do not** wish your child to take part in the programme, **please complete the non-consent link here:**

<https://forms.gle/dHHDKzkidVqZJQrR6>

The deadline for completing the forms is 3pm on Monday 1st March 2021. If we do not receive your completed link by this date your child will not be able to participate in the testing programme.

I have included all of the information from the NHS and frequently asked questions surrounding these tests as an additional page to this letter. If you have any questions at this stage around testing please do not hesitate to contact our testing lead, and School Business Manager, Mrs Doherty at j.doherty@stjamesheadle.co.uk

I will write to all parents by Thursday 25th February outlining the final plan for the full return to St James' this will give you 10 full days before the 8th March to plan accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Pontifex
Headteacher



Lateral Flow Test NHS Information

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

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 strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We will be offering one test to all pupils on their return to school. They will be allowed to return to their classes following an initial negative test. They will be offered two further tests over the subsequent two week period

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. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant.

School will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Parents or legal guardians will also be informed of a positive result and will be asked to collect their child from school.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive by a lateral flow test, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow 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. **School will not contact parents unless the result is positive.**

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

The student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

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>.