

2 March 2021

Dear Parents

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing

We are working to keep The Royal Grammar School as safe as possible. 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 tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to 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, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

Below is a list of useful documentation which should answer any questions you may have:

- An [instructional leaflet](#) with some more information.
- Data protection and covid testing [FAQs](#)
- [Privacy Notice](#)

**If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill the consent statement [here](#) (one per student). These must be completed in order for your son to take the test. Please could you complete by 9am Thursday morning. It is optional. If you have already completed this form as a boarder/key worker you do not need to do this again.**

### Plan for testing

All students are required to be tested 3 times at the school's test centre. These tests need to be spaced between 3-5 days apart. As you can imagine with such a large school, this is a significant operation. To this end, we will start by testing Year 11 and Year 13 on Friday 5 March, this will allow these two year groups to return to school for Assessments and Assessment preparation the following Monday. The rest of school will begin their testing the week beginning 8 March. A full return will start on Monday 15 March, most students will be having their third test during this week. When a year group is being tested there will be no lessons during that time period. Online provision will continue while year groups are not in school.

A full testing timetable is [attached](#).

If **Year 13** students are in school for an Assessment and the testing queue is low during the week commencing 8 March they could join the testing queue to save returning later in the day. **Please note the tests must be between 3-5 days apart.**

### Bringing in pupils for testing

Firstly, thank you for supporting us in this process. I know it will interrupt your busy schedules to ensure your son can arrive for their allocated testing slot. We envisage Uplyme car park will be busy as parents drop off and wait for their son to be tested, we would therefore encourage you to park safely and within walking distance of the school. Ideally, your son could walk to school for their test. Your son should report to the Main Quad where they will be met and wait for their test. It would be sensible to allow around half an hour for your son to be tested and return to you. Please remain in your car whilst you wait for your son. Your son can come in home clothes.

### **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 and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge.

### **After the test**

Your son will be issued with a card which gives instructions about registering his test with the NHS. Please support him with this registration (this needs to be done within 24 hours).

Occasionally, you may get a void result, if this is the case we will have to ask you to return to school to re-take the test.

The school will notify you of a positive result.

### **90-day rule**

If you have tested positive by PCR for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection.

Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.

If your son has tested positive for Covid in the last 90 days then he should not take part in the testing until the 90 days have passed.

### **Home testing**

Once your son has had 3 LFTs at school they will be issued with home testing kits. These need to be administered twice a week, spaced 3-4 days apart. More details of this process will be shared shortly.

### **What if my child tests positive?**

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, we recommend 14 days self-isolation, this is above and beyond the Government Guidance, to ensure our community is as safe as possible. Please 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. Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

### **What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?**

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact Dom Clatworthy, [dec@rgshw.com](mailto:dec@rgshw.com) should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Alex Wallace  
Deputy Headmaster