

Our ref: JFM/JC

14 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you remain safe and well. I am writing today to outline the offer from the DfE for all students, staff and their families to access a test this week, regardless of whether they are showing symptoms. Covid-19 continues to be prevalent in our local community and, despite all learning now taking place online, we continue to hear of students and staff members who are testing positive for Covid-19. The opportunity, as outlined in the attached letter is voluntary, but it may alleviate some anxieties leading up to the Christmas period.

The letter came to school late on Friday afternoon, I am aware that some schools sent out the information before the weekend, but as the letter raised some questions, I decided to wait until they were answered.

1. If you book a test but have not shown any symptoms you do not need to self-isolate until you get your result. In normal circumstance this would be true, but in this case, as you are booking the test as a precaution you only need to isolate if you have symptoms, if you have been contacted by track and trace or a member of your household has symptoms for it or your result returns as positive.
2. If you have had a positive test within the last 90 days you should not access another test as the PCR test will detect remnant viral RNA fragments from the initial infection and give them a false positive!
3. Our local mobile test unit has been set up on the East Kent College campus, however, please do not turn up without having booked a test in advance.
4. To book a test please follow the link below and follow the sequence as outlined.

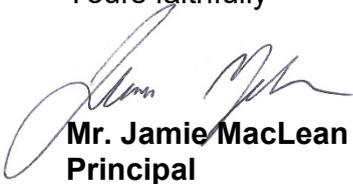
Book a test by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

Because this initiative is to test asymptomatic individuals, when booking a test you need to follow these instructions:

- When asked “Does the person who needs a test have coronavirus symptoms? – click no
- When asked “Is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? - click yes
- When asked “Tell us which pilot or trial it is” – click “the person is taking part in community testing”

Finally, despite virtual learning and a significant body of staff who are isolating or are ill, the school remains open for any queries or if you need support. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



**Mr. Jamie MacLean**  
Principal

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14/12/2020

### **NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 testing for staff students and family members**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are working to keep our schools and colleges as safe as possible. From today, we are surging additional mobile testing units into your area to complement the existing MTUs, regional test sites, and local test sites. The NHS Test and Trace team will be testing staff, students and their family members who want to participate.

Along with the other measures we are taking, these tests will help reduce the risk of people without symptoms transmitting the virus. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage all staff, students and family members to get tested.

All you need to do to be tested is to arrive at the mobile testing unit and register, alternatively you can book a test by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories and is totally safe. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

#### **What if someone tests positive?**

If the results of the test is positive, everyone will need to self-isolate. For the person who has a confirmed case of Covid-19, self-isolation will be needed for 10 days, and household members for 14 days. **Please inform us as soon as you receive this test result.**

We will continue to support students with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family, but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus. There is more advice on self-isolation at <http://bit.ly/Govukselfisolate>

#### **What if the test is negative?**

The household will be able resume their activities as normal. If the student is contacted due to being in close contact with another individual who has tested positive, they may need to take a repeat test, but this will also be voluntary. If they test positive, they will need to self-isolate.

Best wishes,