

**Sir Charles
Parsons
School**



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Wednesday 20th January 2021

Asymptomatic testing of students in secondary schools.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many of you will be aware of the government plans for testing of staff and students in schools to improve the detection of covid-19 in those people who may be infected but are not experiencing symptoms.

This mass testing programme is voluntary and is administered and run by school staff who have accessed training from the NHS and the Department for Education.

As a secondary school we have been part of this programme since the start of term. Staff within school have the opportunity to access a lateral flow test on the school site each week. The programme of weekly testing for staff is now running smoothly and **staff are able to access this weekly.**

The second part of the government programme is to offer testing to students in secondary schools. Students are offered one test and, where possible, a follow up test 3 to 5 days later. Currently, under the government programme **students are not** tested on a weekly basis.

We are now ready to expand our testing programme and begin to offer tests to students from across the school.

We will be in touch with you to ask if you would like your child to be tested for covid -19. Most students will be tested once. Some students will be offered a second, follow up test if they are in school 3 to 5 days after the first test. We are offering the follow up test simply to comply with government guidance, there is no problem with students not accessing the second test.

Students will only access testing with parental consent.

On the day of the test any student who is unhappy or reluctant to participate in the test will not be tested, even if parents have given consent.

Participation in testing is voluntary and will not impact on your child's access to school.

We will share more information with you about the testing process on the school website and school Facebook page and directly with you when we are asking for consent.

If you have any questions about the testing programme you can find information on the government website, or you can call the school and senior staff will be happy to talk to you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hamilton', written in a cursive style.

Karen Hamilton,
Headteacher