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Dear Parents

You may recall that prior to this last lockdown the government intended to test all students to allow schools to reopen. At that time, I wrote to you to ask you to confirm your consent to your child being tested. Schools closed shortly thereafter and so the consent forms were largely no longer necessary.

When all students return to school in March, there is an expectation for schools to offer three tests to students in the first few weeks. After which they will be provided with home testing kits. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will not be able to carry out student testing, without parental consent. If you have not provided consent yet and you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete this [consent statement \(one per student\) to be found on the college website](#) and return it to the school office via email to [consent@oathall.org](mailto:consent@oathall.org) or by post. Your child may also bring the signed consent form with them on the day of their test.

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.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a self-administered swab of your child's nose. Staff will be available to assist with the swab process should this be necessary.

To process the test, we will record details of all participating students. When they have completed their test, your child will be given a registration card ([see example here](#)). This card has a barcode on it that links to your child's test. Please make sure you ask your child for the registration card when they get home and then follow the instructions on the card to register the test result. You can register anytime within 7 days of the test. When you have completed the registration of your child, you will be sent the results direct from the NHS by text or email. You will need to do this every time your child is tested.

### **What happens if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. The school will complete the registration card for the student when the test result is positive.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). You can book a test by going to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. During this time while you wait for the PCR result (via text / email) you will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if they do not hear anything you can assume it was negative. As soon as you register your child you will be informed by the NHS of the test result. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **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 (such as 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>. You must not send your child to school to be tested.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01444 414001 or email [office@oathall.org](mailto:office@oathall.org).

Kind regards

**Edward Rodriguez**  
Headteacher