



All Saints' Catholic Voluntary Academy

Head Teacher: C Cuomo

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“We shall serve.”

Mark 10:45 - *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

28 January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are working hard to keep our 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 spreading and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We are currently testing staff and students that are in school at the moment and this will also take place for students coming back to school after lockdown (subject to consent), so we ask that you please follow the link below and complete the consent form if you have not already done so. The test is voluntary.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information about how to do the test and I also enclose the Covid-19 Testing Privacy Statement which explains how the data will be used and this must be read before completing the consent form.

Once you have read the privacy statement and if you are happy for your child to be tested, please follow the link to the consent form (one per student):

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zS2c7pXpVEyiTPY_o6h1wTsfpcC0E_9MryJwmm9DKHRUM1VMQVRBTDq0TIRFUThRSIRKSUpLMkQ5Ti4u

Please can you complete this form as soon as possible so that we can make preparations in advance.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The ‘lateral flow’ tests are quick and easy to complete, using a swab of your child’s nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

“The school is a cohesive and inclusive community characterised by students who are highly respectful of each other and very polite. The overall achievement of students has remained strong and students make good progress overall.”

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Cuomo', followed by a small dot.

C. Cuomo
Headteacher