

Date: 14th July

Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11– Plans for the Autumn term

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you may have heard from the latest government announcement, schools have been asked to deliver a mass testing programme (AST) to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid and help to reduce the spread of transmission in September. Those who test positive will then self-isolate, helping to keep other pupils and students in face-to-face education.

Testing is voluntary, so your child will still be allowed to attend school even if they do not participate in testing. However, I encourage families to consent to tests as this is the best way to reduce risk and keep everyone safe.

As you can imagine this is a large logistical increase for the school to undertake. In order to complete on site testing for all year groups, I am informing you that your child will return to school as follows:

Monday 6th September:

Year 11 – AST testing 2pm – 4pm. We will notify of the time of the test on Thursday 2nd September. Students will return home after their test.

Tuesday 7th September:

Year 8 – AST testing 8.30am – 11am. We will notify of the time slot of the test on Thursday 2nd September. Students will return home after their test.

Year 9 – AST testing 11.30am – 2.00pm. We will notify of the time slot of the test on Thursday 2nd September. Students will return home after their test.

Year 10 – AST testing 2.30pm – 4.00pm. We will notify of the time slot of the test on Thursday 2nd September. Students will return home after their test.

Please note that if you do not consent to the testing programme then your child will not be required to attend school until Wednesday 8th September for the start of term at the normal time of 8.25am

Testing information:

The testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. This will help us quickly identify students and staff who are not displaying any symptoms but who might be transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.

Students taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. These free lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a nose and throat swab. Results (which are 30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with your child. We will let you and your child know if they test positive.

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Once students have been tested twice during their first week in school, they will be given home test kits for regular, twice-weekly testing at home. Students will need to carry out twice weekly testing at home (three to four days apart) before coming into school.

Testing onsite if consented will be:

Year 11

Thursday 9th September – During the school day

Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10

Friday 10th September – During the school day.

Consent

As a parent or carer of a student under 16 years old, we need your consent for the test to be taken. We will be writing to you again on 2nd September to ask you for consent for this testing programme. At the moment this letter is for information only.

If you wish to ask any questions, please contact the school on 0121 4594451 or info@arkkingsacademy.org and we will try to answer your query.

Yours sincerely



Roger Punton
Principal