



Diocese of Middlesbrough



Fides Caritas Unitas

# ALL SAINTS RC SCHOOL

Diocese of Middlesbrough  
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Our Ref: SKE/EWR

2 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Plans for Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) testing in secondary schools

Please see below a joint letter from the Local Authority, York Public Health and the York School and Academies Board. We are in a position of strength in York, with organisations working in close partnership to effect rapid and decisive leadership and action. The government announcement made on Thursday 17 December provided school leaders with significant challenge and the task to set up mass testing in schools by the week beginning 4 January was seemingly unmanageable due to lack of time over the Christmas holiday. However, through working together, LFT can now be offered for all young people in York. This offer has also provided schools with additional time to set up individual programmes for their own settings and for that benefit we are extremely grateful at All Saints.

I would encourage you to make use of this offer. With Covid infections increasing at a rapid rate in the city, it is vital that schools can open safely. This test is another line of defence in protecting our young people and staff.

### Please see below details of the offer

Following the announcement on 30 December delaying the full opening of secondary schools, the City of York Council's Public Health and Education teams are working with the York Schools and Academies Board to develop plans to offer LFT for staff and students to support the phased return to school from Monday 11 January 2021. Whilst testing remains optional the Department for Education has made it clear that there is an expectation that all secondary schools should promote and encourage LFT.

In York the plan being developed to support secondary schools, their staff and students, will involve the offer of testing from two dedicated school testing sites at the University of York and York St John University. The York St John site will be open only for children in exam year groups (Year 11 and Year 13) from Monday 4 - Thursday 7 January 2021. This will support their return to school from Monday 11 January. Both testing sites will be open for all secondary



Compassion



Truth



Respect



Forgiveness



Justice



Service



Gentleness



Humility



Stewardship

aged children from Friday 8 January to support the full return to school from Monday 18 January 2021. Parents/carers can book a time for a test using the following link:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/SymptomFreeCOVIDTest>

Bookings can be made for the York St John site using this link from Saturday 2 January, bookings will open for the University of York site from Friday 8 January 2021.

Children under the age of 16 **must** be accompanied by a parent or carer when they visit the University testing sites. Children will be required to attend the testing centre twice in a period of 3-5 days prior to their return to school and the results of the tests will be shared with the child's school.

If a child tests positive they will be required to take a PCR test and to self-isolate until the result of the test is known. If the PCR test is negative the child will be able to attend school from Monday 11 or Monday 18 January dependent upon the return date for their year group.

If a child has tested positive in the 90 days prior to 4 January then it is not necessary for them to have a test if they have completed their isolation period and they **should not** be booked in for a test if they have not completed their 10 day isolation period.

During week beginning 4 January on site contact testing areas will be set up at each secondary school. From week beginning 11 January these testing areas will provide capacity to test children daily for a period of 7 days if they are confirmed contacts of a child who has had a positive Covid test. This should help to reduce the need for whole bubbles to self-isolate so preventing further disruption to the children's education. School staff will also be provided with testing kits by their school to allow them to take a twice weekly test. The tests are optional and require consent to be obtained before being administered. Schools will provide a copy of the Covid 19 testing privacy statement which provides details about how personal data will be used, stored and when it and how it will be disposed of. The personal data collected from school staff, students, parents and carers will only be used for the purposes of testing and consent can be withdrawn at any time.

The tests for children will be supervised by public health trained staff. Members of school staff will be asked to use self-administered tests. If a child or member of staff has a positive result from a lateral flow test they will be asked to take a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Children/staff testing positive will then be required to self-isolate for 10 days. The school will contact the parents/carers of close contacts and will offer them the opportunity to have a daily test in school or to self-isolate if they do not want to be tested.

The co-ordinated city approach to testing will ensure that schools are supported to make testing available to all staff and students from 4 January 2021. The use of the two central testing sites will allow all secondary age children who want to have a test to have been tested prior to their return to school. It also means that the tests will be administered to appropriate clinical standards, overseen by the City of York public health team.

The introduction of lateral flow testing in schools is an additional layer of preventative response to Covid19, but it is important to continue to maintain the other control measures that schools

have had in place since March 2020. In York, schools have been very successful in implementing their prevention response and, as a result, school attendance has remained consistently above national averages throughout the pandemic. It is essential that schools continue to implement these measures and to see LFT as an additional tool in the armoury in controlling the spread of the disease.

HANDS, FACE, SPACE remain the essential elements to effective infection control.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "S.L. Keelan-Beardsley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mrs S L Keelan-Beardsley  
**HEADTEACHER**