



16th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carer

COVID-19: Asymptomatic Testing for Year 7 Students in September

As you may be aware, when your child joins us in September we have been asked to offer two lateral flow tests. We intend to offer the opportunity for your child to be tested on Tuesday 7th September and Friday 10th September.

Both tests will be administered on site. Unfortunately, the first test must be offered prior to the student return. Should you provide consent, you will need to make arrangements for your child to attend at the specified time. The second test will be conducted once the students are back at school and it is our intention that this test will be conducted during the normal school day.

Once we have completed the in-school tests we will issue testing kits for students to continue the twice weekly testing at home. Most of the school community have been testing themselves on a Sunday and Wednesday evening for the last couple of months.

Although we are still waiting for some of the government templates and guidance to be updated, we realise that it will be beneficial to gather information before school finishes for the summer holidays. I have provided links relating to consent and the testing process/arrangements within this letter. There are links detailing how we will use your child's data when testing [on-site](#) and also when [testing at home](#).

[How to conduct a home test \(the same process is adopted for the on-site test\)](#)

You do not have to give consent and can change your decision should you initially refuse involvement in the testing but decide you would like to give your consent later. Similarly, if you provide consent but wish to withdraw it at any point this is fine. We recognise that our new year 7 cohort may not have as much experience of administering the lateral flow test, so would urge you to provide consent, where possible. This will help us continue to protect the school community effectively and will also enable us to provide effective support and guidance for our students when carrying out their home testing.

We must demonstrate that we have offered each child the opportunity to be tested, so please could you complete the form by the end of **Friday 23rd July** whether you decide to provide consent or not.

If, having read the information provided, you are happy to give consent you can easily enter your information through the link below:

[Testing consent information and form](#)

We are currently taking steps to establish the numbers that we will need to test in September. Once we have accurate numbers we will be able to arrange the order and timings. Although I

cannot currently commit to an exact time, the year 7 student tests will be conducted between 8:30am and 11:00am on Tuesday 7th September. Students should not need to be on site any longer than 20 minutes. It is our intention to group students according to their current primary school for the first test. We hope this will help parents and carers who have other commitments to communicate and transport groups of students where necessary.

I hope the documents attached combined with the information above provide enough information. If you are unsure about anything, please feel free to make contact with the school through the info@princehenrys.co.uk email address or by phoning the school reception 01943 463524. We will try to respond throughout the summer but please remember that we do not have as many staff available to respond to queries and questions during the school holidays.

Could I emphasise that the lateral flow test is just one of the measures we have in place to keep our staff and students safe and is intended to identify members of our community who are in the school building and have corona virus with no symptoms. Testing is not 100% accurate but has enabled us to identify students and staff who have Corona Virus during the last few months. Although the requirements and mitigations are constantly changing we will continue to assess the national and local recommendations relating to social distancing, school bubbles, hand washing etc. when we return in September.

If you or your child wish to access rapid lateral flow testing during the summer, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

We are extremely frustrated that we have not been able to adopt our normal induction programme and disappointed that, for many, their first visit to the site in September will be to carry out a lateral flow test. We must, however, follow the guidance. The evidence this year, despite a disrupted induction schedule for our current year 7 cohort, is that they have settled superbly well and made the adjustment to secondary school successfully. We will provide further, relevant, information relating to testing closer to the return to school.

Yours faithfully – Chris Rowbottom



Mr C Rowbottom
Associate Headteacher
Prince Henry's Grammar School