



ESTABLISHED 1906

Lord's Independent School

March 2, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Safe return to school

On **Monday 8th March**, all pupils in Years 7 to 11 will return to school.

We have made specific arrangements for your child's safe return to school in light of the current government guide lines due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Testing in School

When your child returns to school there will be a staggered arrival. A text with the time will be sent for their testing and arrival to school, on arrival they will be offered a 'lateral flow test' for COVID-19.

The test will be supervised by trained school staff. The test is quick and easy using a sputum test. Results are available within 30 minutes and will be shared directly with participating pupils and their parents.

Pupils will need to isolate for the duration the results have been confirmed before being allowed into the class room.

Please could you fill in the consent form before **Friday 5th March** using the link

<http://lordsschool.co.uk/testing-consent-form.pdf>

We will be testing all participating pupils three times. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help pupils to remain in school safely. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it. Additional information about the testing is outlined below.

Do these tests work?

In validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, these tests 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.

What 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. If you test positive, you will need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

A pupil testing negative will be able to stay in school and continue their learning as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive? A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing program 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.