



St. Edward's Church of England

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

22nd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please accept my apologies for contacting you during the holiday, however, due to the lack of information the Department for Education provided me with at the end of term I wanted to update you on the proposed 'Mass testing programme' for schools for January 2021.

At the Academy, we are looking at how we can provide mass testing for pupils and staff as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate. Currently, this will only be provided for Year 7 and 8 pupils (secondary age). You can read more about how the Government expects this programme to work here:

[Lateral flow testing - Staffordshire County Council](#)

I will be writing to you with further information about what the test entails, who will be providing it, how they have been trained, and requesting you complete a consent form should you wish your child to be involved.

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. More detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the Government over the Christmas holiday period. We will not, therefore, be in a position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts with the information we currently possess. When we have this information, I will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the Government or other agencies, and what the Academy can realistically deliver.

I will let you know more about the Academy's plans as soon as possible. In the meantime, as I have previously stated we will continue to implement the safety measures we have applied in the autumn term.

Wishing you a safe, happy, and Holy Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mr. T Hutchinson

Principal

