



**St. Edward's Church of England Academy**  
Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN  
Telephone: 01538 714740  
Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson  
<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Pupils

We are working to keep our Academy community as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and pupils to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our Academy community open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We are pleased to inform you that we will begin testing all staff and secondary school age pupils, who are currently attending the Academy and who want to participate from Monday 25th January 2021. Other secondary age pupils will be able to have tests when the Academy is allowed to fully re-open, which is why it is still necessary to complete the consent form.

An instructional leaflet with some more information can be found on the Academy website here:

#### [St Edwards Academy](#)

If you are happy for your child to be tested, and you have NOT yet completed the consent form please do so using the link that can be found here:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1fhjb3KZgUuT\\_NXvEhdWcBB0LxXLsIVGm4o98I23T0Z\\_UOU5FNikyUldHSzRHWkFJWkJVRDExNUFTUi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1fhjb3KZgUuT_NXvEhdWcBB0LxXLsIVGm4o98I23T0Z_UOU5FNikyUldHSzRHWkFJWkJVRDExNUFTUi4u)

You will need to complete one of these for each child receiving the test.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they 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.

Testing will be offered free of charge.



### 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 and must collect their child from the Academy.

Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The Academy will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in the Academy and resume their activities 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 my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at the Academy 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>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can contact the office via the 'Contact form' on the Academy website

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Hutchinson  
Principal

