



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

August 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 available for all Secondary Age pupils (Years 7 & 8) at the start of the new Academic Year. There will be two on-site lateral flow tests taken by the pupils, before the use of Home Tests resume throughout the rest of September. The *first test will be on-site but the pupils go home after the test*, the second test will be during a normal school day (details at the end of this letter).

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.

An instructional leaflet along with other Covid-19 information can be found on the Academy website here:

<https://www.stedwards.academy/pastoral/covid-19-guidance>

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/r/VumwMeUSNP>

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating 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). Go to 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 may need to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace:

[When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

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.



Companies House number: 08316327

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>.

Arrangements for pupil testing

Thursday 2nd September – Year 8 (as of the New Academic Year, so last year's Year 7)

8 Edward 10:00 a.m.
8 Elgar 10:30 a.m.
8 Isaac 11:00 a.m.
8 Newton 11:30 a.m.
8 Florence 12:00 p.m.
8 Nightingale 12:30 p.m.

Since the pupils are familiar with the tests I am hoping that we will be able to meet the times above, however please note that they are approximate timings for each tutor group and there could be a slight delay. Can parents/carers who are dropping off please wait while their child is tested as they will be able to leave straight after their test. These pupils will be able to attend for their test in their home clothes, they may wish to wear a face mask. They may also wish to bring a reading book to read while they wait. Please use the gate on Westwood Road and go to the fitness suite (mobile) on the Y7/8 yard.

Arrangements for pupil testing

Friday 3rd September – Year 7 (as of the New Academic Year, so last year's Year 6)

7 Edward 9:00 a.m.
7 Elgar 9:45 a.m.
7 Isaac 10:30 a.m.
7 Newton 12:00 p.m.
7 Florence 12:45 p.m.
7 Nightingale 1:30 p.m.

Since this is the first time most of the pupils will have experienced the tests I have allowed extra time for the testing process, however please note that they are approximate timings for each tutor group and there could be a slight delay. Can parents/carers who are dropping off please wait while their child is tested as they will be able to leave straight after their test. These pupils will be able to attend for their test in their home clothes, they may wish to wear a face mask. They may also wish to bring a reading book to read while they wait. Please use the gate on Westwood Road and go to the fitness suite (mobile) on the Y7/8 yard.

Year 8 will have their second on-site test during the normal school day on Tuesday 7th September & Year 7 will be during the school day on Wednesday 8th September. The pupils should then resume twice weekly home Lateral Flow Tests from Sunday 12th September and continue with these through September. The Department of Education will be updating schools on the continuation of testing later in the term and we will pass this information on to you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr T Hutchinson
Principal