



30th December 2020

NHS COVID-19 Asymptomatic Testing Information and Consent for Students in Schools and Colleges

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Following my previous letter on 18 December 2020, regarding a staggered start to the new term to allow for preparations for asymptomatic testing in schools, we have now been informed that the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests', will start to be delivered to schools from 4 January 2021, our designated logistical planning day.

Along with all of the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in our school safely, as we will be able to test those who previously had to self-isolate due to close contact with a positive case of the virus. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it so we can help to stop the spread of the virus and keep as many of our students and staff in school as is safe to do so. Should a student identified as a close contact not wish to undertake the test, normal self-isolation rules will apply in line with national guidelines.

We currently await the government training materials and are preparing for the safe recruitment of volunteers and staff to run our testing facility, so at this stage, we intend to offer:

- Weekly tests for members of staff
- Daily tests for students and staff who are identified as close contacts, prior to attending lessons, during what would ordinarily be the self-isolation period so they can remain in school (called 'serial' testing)

The extent of our testing will be reviewed regularly and you will be updated accordingly.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat. 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 by email when a test is negative and by telephone if a test is positive. Please find the government's instructional leaflet attached, as well as further information about the testing process.

Collecting consent at whole school level is a time-consuming administrative job and we would therefore like to make a start before our return to school. Please take time to read this information and subsequently, if you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the registration and consent form via the link below and **submit by 3pm on Wednesday 6 January 2021**:

www.toothillschool.co.uk/consent

Toot Hill School | The Banks, Bingham, Nottingham NG13 8BL
Telephone: 01949 875550 | Email: contact@toothillschool.co.uk | Website: www.toothillschool.co.uk

Executive Head Teacher: **Sandra Paley** BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd | Head of School: **Christopher Eardley** BSc (Hons), PGCE, PhD

Once we have finalised our detailed testing arrangements next week we will of course communicate these to you.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to keep our school open and as safe as possible. We will support our staff and pupils throughout the challenges that Covid-19 continues to bring. Please contact our school office on 01949 875550 if you need any further information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Eardley', written in a cursive style.

Dr C Eardley
Head of School