

2nd March 2021



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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Staff and Students

We are working to keep Chatham Grammar 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 students to remain in the Academy 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 open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate from week commencing Monday 8th March 2021.

You can access the online consent forms for each year group by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/covid19-information>

Consent forms are divided up by year groups. We need to know your child's Personal Tutor group. You can check this by looking at your child's timetable – this is important information that we require so we can successfully organise the testing programme.

- **Please return consent forms to the Academy by 4pm, Wednesday 3rd March 2021.**
- **If you do not consent to your child having a Lateral Flow test and would like to opt out of the testing, please email the contact below stating your child's name, year group and teaching band.**
- **Email: Receptioncg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk**

To view the NHS video to show students how they will undertake the test, please click on the link below:

<https://www.chathamgrammar.org.uk/covid19-information>

To view the 'lateral flow' test instruction leaflet, please click on the link below:

[Guidance+for+Parents+and+Students.pdf](#)

If you would like to read the Privacy Notice regarding any personal information we are collecting and what happens to this data, please click on the link below:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d4890fc6403d700018b0e6f/t/603e1a912e6568229d01bb4a/1614682769992/PrivacyNoticeLateralTestingMARCH.pdf>

Students who have consent to take the Lateral Flow test will be supervised by trained staff/volunteers who have all undergone the mandatory training stipulated by Public Health England and have experience in facilitating the test. The tests themselves are completed by the students and there is no contact whatsoever with any adult who is supervising the process. The 'Lateral Flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For students under 18 years, staff will be oversee the swab process to ensure that it is done correctly and literally talk them through the steps required.

Results (which take approximately 30 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with the staff and students participating. Where participants are under 16 years, parents or carers 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 student tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16 years, parents or carers will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students 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). Chatham Grammar will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home, or you can 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) students will need to self-isolate.

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

What happens if the test is negative?

Students will be able to stay at Chatham Grammar and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if they do not hear they can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at the Academy tests positive?

A close contact of someone at Chatham Grammar who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to Chatham Grammar if they agree to be tested once a day for seven days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of Chatham Grammar who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at Chatham Grammar 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 or visiting www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call Reception on 01634 851262 or email receptioncg@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Wendy Walters
UKAT Principal