

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College
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Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
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25/02/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are working with the DFE to keep our school as safe as possible. You will be aware that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms has started across the country and in St Joseph's using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

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 school open in as safe a way as possible.

The most recent government guidance for schools' states:

- All secondary school and college students will take three COVID-19 tests as they return to the classroom from the 8 March at existing school testing facilities. Schools and colleges will have discretion on how to test students over that week to enable their return to the classroom. After the initial programme of three tests in school or college, students will be provided with 2 rapid tests to use each week at home.
- Secondary school and college staff will also be provided with 2 tests to use each week at home.

Testing is voluntary and your child will not be tested unless they (if they are aged over 18) or you (or another parent or carer) have given informed consent. We strongly encourage you and your child to take part, to help us break chains of transmission and manage the virus.

This guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mass-testing-for-secondary-pupils-as-all-schools-and-colleges-fully-reopenfrom8-march>

To participate in the testing process please register and complete the consent form linked below:

<https://forms.gle/vwsfNRSvijp9Q34N6>

If you have already completed this form there is no requirement to do so again.

Can I once again thank you for your continued support throughout this pandemic as we work together to achieve the best for our children.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr P Mitchell

Headteacher

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.