

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College
Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET
Telephone: 0191 428 2700



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Fax: 0191 428 4053

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

22nd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you will be aware that the government has announced that all secondary pupils on returning to school in September will be offered two lateral flow tests, in school, 3-5 days apart. This is to aid with the detection of asymptomatic Covid cases. Once each pupil has had two tests in school, they will be provided with home-testing kits and instructions to carry out their tests twice-weekly at home. This will take place initially until the end of September.

To allow for the roll-out of testing alongside the reopening of school for a new term, pupils will return on a phased basis during the week beginning 6th September. In order to reduce the amount of time pupils are out of school, we will begin to offer testing on the INSET Day on Monday 6th September as outlined in the table below. **The initial testing for all year groups will take place in the Sports Hall.**

In summary, pupils will return to school on a staggered basis. This phased return is necessary in order to facilitate the roll-out of LFD testing for those students that we have consent for and allowing for a gap of 3-5 days between tests.

Consent Information:

As in March this testing is voluntary and no students will be prevented from returning to school if they do not take part in onsite testing.

Pupils Joining in Year 7

Parents of new Year 7 students will need to complete the consent form via the link below.

<https://forms.gle/D1YBo7ZzN71CQDyc9>

Your child will be registered for their tests prior to their test days. If consent is withdrawn or your child is absent, they will not be tested. However, you may still receive confirmation of a registered test.

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

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Testing Timetable

Date	First LFD test	Return to school full time
Monday 6 th September	Year 12 & Year 13	Wednesday 8 th September
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 7	Tuesday 7 th September
Tuesday 7 th September	Year 11	Wednesday 8 th September
Wednesday 8 th September	Year 8 & Year 10	Thursday 9 th September
Thursday 9 th September	Year 9	Friday 10 th September

For year 7, the two LFD tests will be taken during the school day. Pupils will be taken through the process and shown what to do by experienced staff. After taking the test it takes 15 minutes for the result to come through - parents will be informed of the results via email and mobile phone according to the information on the consent form.

(For the first LFD test for year groups other than year 7, students will come to school during a designated time-period and return home once tested).

Please note, students do not have to consent to the test to return to school. Anyone who is not receiving an LFD test should return to school as outlined in the table above.

The two in-school LFD tests will be scheduled on the following dates:

Date	Test 1	Test 2
06-09-21	Year 13, Year 12	
07-09-21	Year 7, Year 11	
08-09-21	Year 8, Year 10	
09-09-21	Year 9	Year 13, Year 12
10-09-21		Year 7, Year 11,
13-09-21		Year 8, Year 10
14-09-21		Year 9

Sixth Form follow-up tests on Thursday 9th September may need to take place after 3:00pm.

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Any pupil that has tested positive for Covid-19 since 7th June 2021, will not be able to take a Lateral Flow Test in September. If this applies to your child please contact the school on office@stjosephs.uk.net if you haven't already done so, or if they test positive during the summer break before the return of pupils in September.

Kind regards

Mr P Mitchell
(Headteacher)

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