

Principal: Mr Mark O'Hagan  
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Date: 13/11/2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

You will no doubt be aware about the mass testing programme for Covid-19 that is taking place across the Liverpool region. Liverpool has experienced some of the highest rates of Covid-19 in the country, and testing for and isolating positive cases is vital in order to drive down the spread of this virus across our city.

Part of this process involves the testing of secondary school aged children, and you will have seen in the news the setting up of testing sites in certain secondary schools in the area. Testing is coordinated by members of our military and, as we are part of the second wave of this testing, we will have members of forces on site next week to implement this process. They arrived today and will start testing staff on Monday afternoon before moving on to start testing children on Tuesday. Once all consenting students have been tested, it is likely that the testing team will move on to set up in a new school in the area.

It is important at this stage to make some clarifications:

- No students will be tested without parental consent and we are relying entirely on parental consent to complete this process.
- Tests are self-administered. The children will be guided how to do it but it is not done to them. They do it themselves.
- The testing at school will not involve local community testing, it will only be for members of our school community.
- As a school we are fully supportive of this initiative as we see it as a key element of the strategy to help us return to some sort of normality. Although we recognise that some children (and adults) will be nervous about the testing process, we are well equipped to provide support and guidance to alleviate any concerns. However, as previously stated, only students who have provided parental consent will be tested.

I anticipate that we may have all of the testing done by Thursday. I have visited local schools where this testing has already taken place, the work and support of the military personnel has been astonishing to witness. Their efficiency, their discipline, their keenness to work with the schools, their ideas and innovation and more importantly, their general sense of courtesy and good-nature has been tremendous.

I would encourage all parents to consent to their children being tested as part of the citywide strategy to support our fight against Covid-19, but as ever will respect your wishes as parents and carers. I have attached some information as well as the consent form to this letter to help you consider all the options.

If you consent to your child being tested, please complete the attached form and send it back in with your child. If you have any questions or concerns about this process we would encourage you to contact us directly to discuss them.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark O'Hagan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mr Mark O'Hagan  
Principal

## **Everyone living, working or learning in Liverpool can now get a free Covid-19 test**

The more of us who get tested, the more we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our city.

We are inviting the young people in our city to take part in this process.

All students aged between Y7 and Y13 years old, where the appropriate recorded consent\* is provided, are eligible for the test.

This test involves taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose. This process may be uncomfortable for some people but isn't harmful. In most cases the test will be self-administered, but trained army personnel will be on hand to demonstrate and support.

We are working in partnership with the NHS and the military to deliver testing at our education settings in Liverpool.

We ask that you and your child discuss this to see if it is something you would like to participate in. If the appropriate consent\* (which can be provided by the student themselves in certain circumstances) is given, students will be tested twice over a period of about 10 days for COVID-19 as part of a national pilot. The results will be fed into NHS Track and Trace. Individual results will also be held by the school and provided directly to you or your child.

Anyone who tests positive, using either a lateral flow test or an existing swab test, must self-isolate along with their household immediately in accordance with national guidance which can be found [here](#). Those who test negative will need to continue to follow national guidance which can be found [here](#).

This pilot is being run in phases, starting week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at a small number of locations. We will work with the NHS and the military to ensure safe and suitable systems and processes are used across education settings.

Further details about the mass testing pilot can be found here:

<https://liverpoolexpress.co.uk/covid-mass-testing-your-questions-answered/>

To be able to participate in this pilot please complete the attached consent form and return it to your school by 16/11/20.

\*Further information regarding consent can be found at the [NHS website](#) and also at the [CQC website](#)

# PARENT/ STUDENT CONSENT FORM

## Mass Asymptomatic Lateral Flow Testing for Coronavirus/Covid-19

Please discuss this form with your child, then complete this form and return it to school by 16/11/2020. If we do not receive this completed form and recorded consent, your child will not be tested.

Students full name (first name and surname):	Home address and postcode:	
Date of birth:	School year:	School form:

<b>Please complete either box below for YES or NO and return the form to the school.</b>	
<b>YES</b> , I give consent to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19	<b>NO</b> , I do not give consent to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19
Name	Name
Signature	Signature
Date	Date
Any comments:	

