



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Returning to school - COVID-19 testing for students from Monday 8th March

To ensure all students can return safely, the government have asked schools to put into place a rapid testing programme for students when they return to school this term.

Mulberry UTC will be offering all students on-site testing for Covid-19 using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) from Monday 8th March. The aim of the testing programme is to identify people who are infectious but do not have Covid-19 symptoms, to help stop the virus spreading.

Testing in school will start on Monday 8th March and will be phased to manage the number of students passing through the testing area. Students will receive three on-site tests, 3-5 days apart, and will then be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing remains voluntary, but is strongly encouraged.

Students who are taking part in the testing programme will be able to join lessons once they have received a negative test result. However, the need to test all consenting students before they return is likely to mean that the start of lessons for students will also be staggered over several days. We will write to you with more information about this once we have received further guidance from the government.

At Mulberry UTC, rapid testing will take place in the school's hospital suite. This has been set up to effectively manage students moving one at a time through the area, with a one way system in place to support social distancing. There are three curtained areas where students will take their swab tests without being visible to other students who are waiting to be tested.

The Lateral Flow Device test involves a nose and throat swab, which students will self-administer under the supervision of testing staff. Staff will provide guidance whilst students self-administer their tests and will then process samples for analysis, with result will be visible between 20 – 30 minutes later.

Students with a positive LFD result will need to self-isolate in line with the guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection and parents will be informed. Those with a negative test result can continue to attend school.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this testing programme. Thank you for supporting the school in our efforts to make the return to school as safe as possible for all members of our community.

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Brian
Senior Vice Principal