

Dear parents/carers,

Covid-19 testing in response to rising number of cases

This is an important message to advise that a mobile testing unit will be at school from Wednesday 13 October until Friday 15 October. We are encouraging students to come forward for a PCR test, whether they have Covid-19 symptoms or not. The testing is a precaution and in response to a recent increase in the number of positive cases among our community. This testing, arranged through NHS Test and Trace with the support of Middlesbrough Council, will help us understand more about the spread of infection. It will also help us keep people safe by identifying those who need to isolate. Our responsible approach to Covid-19 has always been one of caution and we are taking this step with the safety of students, staff and the wider community in mind. The school follows all guidance set out by the Department for Education and Public Health England and has a number of measures in place to keep people safe. A number of local schools have been through the same process as part of local efforts to control the virus. The infection rate in Middlesbrough as a whole remains high. Your cooperation with this round of testing will help us break the chains of transmission and protect the whole community.

Students should continue with twice-weekly lateral flow testing. Twice-weekly testing of people without symptoms can help detect positive cases that would otherwise have gone unnoticed.

All students and family members should continue to be alert for the main symptoms of Covid-19. Anyone with a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to the sense of smell or taste should self-isolate and book a free PCR test by calling 119 or visiting www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

If you have already given consent for your child to have a lateral flow test on site (at the start of this term or in March of this year) then that consent counts for the PCR test. If you have previously given consent and would now like to withdraw it then you can do so by emailing: s.jackson@macademy.org.uk by today at 23.59pm. If you have not given consent previously and would now like to then you can give consent by using the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/4jufkd33>. The deadline for consent is today at 23.59pm.

Please note that any student who has had COVID in the last 90 days cannot have a PCR test. All test results will be emailed to the email address that you used when giving consent. Apologies for the short notice and to send this on the same day as the information on vaccinations but we have just spoken to public health about this.

Your sincerely,

Mrs R Coning
Head of School