

9th December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you and your family are safe and well.

I am writing to you today following the Government's recent announcement in regards to new Covid-19 in-school testing guidance.

Last week, the Government advised that secondary schools offer all students and staff an on-site LFT test, following the Christmas break and before the start of the new term.

Throughout the pandemic we have followed the Government guidance and we believe these temporary measures will help to break the chains of transmission of the virus, and help safeguard the health of the school community.

In line with this advice, on-site testing will be available at The Portsmouth Academy from Tuesday 4th January. Please see the below information on how your child can access a test.

LATERAL FLOW TESTING (LFT)

The Government have requested that schools make available an on-site testing facility to enable all students to access one LFT test before returning to classes in January. Testing will be available from Tuesday 4th January until Friday 7th January depending on the year group. **If you would like your child to take an LFT test in January please complete the consent form below, this is a new form that needs completing even if you have previously provided consent.**

CONSENT

While testing is voluntary, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing program, preferably on site, to minimise the chances of an outbreak in our school community.

My child is a new student since testing was completed in September, do I need to fill in a consent form?

Yes, all new students joining us at The Portsmouth Academy will need to have consent from their parent/carer via the below form before LFT can be administered on school site.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5ph4ry8vAa>

I haven't consented in previous rounds of testing but would like to now, which consent form do I fill in?

Please fill in this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/5ph4ry8vAa>

I already provided consent in previous rounds of testing; do I still need to fill in the form?

Yes, we do need you to give consent and confirm if your child will attend the school for an LFT. This will ensure we are staffing the testing sites accordingly. If you do not confirm a test for your child, we will not allocate a test time and assume you are conducting your test with a home test kit or not consenting to a test.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5ph4ry8vAa>

Please be aware that our school office is closed from 17th December, from January all students are again expected to test twice weekly using LFTs and report results through the Covid-19 government test site. Further guidance is due from the Government on their expectations for after January and these will be sent out when available.

DEADLINE FOR PROVIDING CONSENT IS FRIDAY 17th DECEMBER

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring a smooth transition back into school after the holiday. We will continue to monitor the guidance and keep parents updated. I would also encourage any parents/carers and/or children with any questions or concerns to get in touch with the school directly so that we can offer our support.

To ensure that testing can take place effectively, we will phase the students' return in January 2022 accordingly:

| Year | Tuesday 4 th Jan | Wednesday 5 th Jan | Thursday 6 th Jan | Friday 7 th Jan |
|------|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| 11 | On site testing | Return to school 8.30am | At school | At school |
| 10 | INSET | Online learning via Teams | On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments | Return to school 8.30am |
| 9 | INSET | On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments | Return to school 8.30am | At school |
| 8 | INSET | Online learning via Teams | On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments | Return to school 8.30am |
| 7 | INSET | Online learning via Teams | Online learning via Teams | On site testing and online learning via Teams assignments |

All students back on site on Monday 10th January, 2022.



The
Portsmouth Academy

All students will be expected to log on to live lessons using Teams as per home learning during lockdown. On days where students are being tested, sessions will not be live to allow for travelling to and from school over the course of the day, but home learning tasks will be set via assignments.

You will receive a personal communication specific to your child's tutor group during the last week of term to confirm the time at which your child should attend school for their on site testing. Please stick to this schedule. Students should attend the Sports Hall via the St Marys Gate entrance and then leave the site once their test is complete.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with the above. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a restful Christmas period and a Happy New Year.

Regards,

Mrs R Grey,

Principal