



Gospel Oak School

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17th December 2021

Our Ref: HT KH 2752

Your Ref:

Dear Parent / Carer,

Re: Arrangements for Mass Testing – Yr 9

Further to my letter sent last week I would just like to confirm the following arrangements for the start of term in order to accommodate the mass testing process.

We will begin testing students on **Tuesday 4th and 5th January**. If you gave consent for your child to be tested previously you **do not** need to consent again, if **consent was not given to us previously** and you would like to give consent now, please email info@gospeloakschool.co.uk stating students full name, year group and date of birth, can you also please confirm preferred email for test results.

By completing the consent form, you will give your consent for us to register you on the NHS track and trace website and consent for the tests to be carried out by your child.

Arrangements for the start of term

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday 4th January 2022 | Year 9 students stay at home due to staff inset day |
| Wednesday 5th January 2022 | Year 9 students will come to school for their first lateral flow test and then immediately return home. Does my child wear school uniform? No What time does my child need to come in for? Look for their tutor letter and arrive at that time How long will my child be in school for? Just for the length of the test, approx. 30 min in total |
| Thursday 6th January 2022 onwards | All year groups will start at 8:25am and remain in school for the rest of the day. Does my child wear school uniform? Yes, full school uniform is expected. |

Arrangements for testing

Students in Year 9 will:

- ✓ Enter through the main gate and make way down to the Sports Hall entrance by Reception
- ✓ Register for testing
- ✓ Be tested at a designated bay
- ✓ Exit through the doors nearest the car park and return home

Testing Schedule Weds 5th January

| <i>Testing Schedule – Sports Hall</i> | | | |
|--|---------|---------|--------------|
| <i>Day 2 - Weds 5th January</i> | | | |
| Tutor Group | Arrival | Testing | Testing area |
| 9A | 10:30 | 10:45 | Sports Hall |
| 9B | 10:40 | 10:55 | Sports Hall |
| 9C | 10:50 | 11:05 | Sports Hall |
| 9D | 11:00 | 11:15 | Sports Hall |
| 9E | 11:10 | 11:25 | Sports Hall |
| 9F | 11:20 | 11:35 | Sports Hall |
| 9G | 11:30 | 11:45 | Sports Hall |
| 9H | 11:40 | 11:55 | Sports Hall |
| 9I | 11:50 | 12:05 | Sports Hall |

Key questions?

Why are we testing people without symptoms of COVID-19?

Up to one in three people who have coronavirus (COVID-19) do not display any symptoms. Therefore, regular asymptomatic testing helps to identify positive cases more quickly and break chains of transmission. This helps to reduce transmission of the virus.

Is this compulsory?

Testing is **voluntary**, and individuals should not be prevented from going into the setting if they do not take part. However, **staff pupils and students are strongly encouraged** to participate as testing regularly helps to reduce the spread of the virus in educational settings.

Can children and young people swab themselves at home?

Pupils/students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Pupils/students aged 12-17 should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary. Children aged 11 (who attend a secondary school) should be tested by an adult. Children below the age of 11 should not be tested.

How often do staff and students need to test?

Staff and students in year 7 or above should conduct testing at home, twice every week, 3-4 days apart. Staff and students should ideally test in the morning before coming into their educational setting.

What happens if a pupil, student, or member of staff's antigen LFD test result is positive?

If a pupil, student or member of staff conducts a LFD test at home or receives a supervised school/college-based LFD test as part of the rapid asymptomatic testing programme, and it is positive then they need to follow NHS Test and Trace guidance.

All positive results from rapid tests, whether conducted at home or at a school or college will then need to be confirmed with a PCR test within two days of the positive lateral flow test. Following a positive LFD test, a confirmatory PCR test should be booked immediately either online or by calling 119. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the staff, pupil or student and their close contacts should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the staff, pupil or student can return to school or college.

We will support pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 0121 556 1351 (however this will just be an answer machine until 4th January) or email info@gospeloakschool.co.uk

Have a safe and restful Christmas and New Year.



Helen Tanner
Principal