

19th May 2021

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A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parent, Carer and Student

RE: Quality Assurance Exercise – NHS Test and Trace

As you may already know, the Department for Education has instructed all secondary schools and colleges to offer mass testing to all students and staff. The aim of this is to make our education community safer and limit the transmission of COVID-19.

This Academy is undergoing a Quality Assurance exercise to support NHS Test and Trace and I am writing to you to let you know what this involves.

Dual Testing Quality Assurance is due to run from Monday 24th May and will finish on Thursday 27th May after which the Academy will revert to the current testing protocols.

What does Dual Testing involve?

We will invite Sixth Form students aged 16 and above who already perform LFD tests at home to pick up a single use PCR kit from the Academy during lunchtime on either Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th or Wednesday 26th May in the Franklin Sixth Form Centre, so that they can perform a PCR test alongside their usual LFD test. This is so NHS Test and Trace can compare results from these testing technologies or methods. Ongoing quality assurance is a key aspect of clinical oversight for the NHS Test and Trace testing programme and enables DHSC to verify that test kits are safe and effective, tests are conducted in a safe and correct manner and that the results are correctly reported and acted upon.

As with current LFD testing processes, the PCR test is carried out at home and not on our premises.

The PCR kit will include instructions on how to perform the PCR swab and instructions will be supplied to students on how to return PCR swabs with PCR kits.

I would like to stress that whilst we encourage all students to take part in the Quality Assurance exercise, participation in this programme is voluntary.

I hope that the information attached will give you re-assurance that the tests are safe, reliable and will help keep COVID-19 transmissions to a minimum within the Academy and wider community.

The information attached to this letter will explain the Quality Assurance exercise in more detail. Should you have any questions, please contact James Whitehead at the Academy or alternatively, please email Jameswhitehead@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Dan Greenwood

Assistant Principal

