



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher: **Mrs L Walton** BA (Hons)



**www.ripleyacademy.org**  
01773 746334  
enquiries@ripleyacademy.org

Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for students**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff who want to participate from week commencing 11 January 2021 and the children of critical/key workers who are attending school at present from 18 January 2021. We will begin the mass testing of all students on their full return to school next month. Initially students will take two tests, 3 to 5 days apart, and thereafter a once weekly test.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the electronic consent form using this link: [consent form](#). You will need to complete separate consent forms for each child. The terms of consent are shown below this letter. Please read them carefully before completing the consent form. Please could I ask that parents/guardians who wish to consent to their child/children being tested complete the electronic consent form by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January at the latest.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared via text message with parents or legal guardians where participants are under 16.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

**The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.**

## What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those conducted in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while your child awaits the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to follow the [government guidelines to self-isolate](#).

If the PCR test returns a positive result your child will have to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

## What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

## What if a close contact at school tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

## What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Jayne Scattergood  
Deputy Headteacher

## Terms of consent

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [12/01/2021] and the attached Privacy Notice.
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for lateral flow tests. My child will self-swab if my child is able to, otherwise I understand that assistance is available. In the case of under 16s or pupils who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the testing with my child and they are happy to participate and self-swab.
4. I understand that there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for my child. If, on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then I understand they will not be made to do so and that consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
6. I understand that if my child's result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
7. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing. They will follow the instructions on the PCR Kit to return the test the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
8. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that my child is removed from school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind they may have some anxiety following a positive test result.
9. I consent that they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
10. I agree that if my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school and I understand that my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
11. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but my child has tested negative, they will continue to attend school but will be tested every day at school for 7 working days.