

23rd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family had a restful half term break.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, we are planning to bring students back on site during the week beginning 8th March. In order to ensure the safety of all students and staff, we are required to follow the Government's mass-testing programme in schools. The guidance states that we will need to test all students three times before a full return to ensure that we comply with this critical safety measure to keep our school community safe.

To ensure we are ready to undertake testing we are asking you now to provide your consent for:

1. Testing to take place, and
2. For us to submit some of your contact details (first line of address, postcode and mobile telephone number) to the DfE LFD Testing Service. Please note, we will not be submitting this data until we are told by the DfE to do so.

The consent form can be found via this link: <https://forms.gle/mRCq3oEysjFPzCTE9>

Please support us in this endeavour by completing the consent form by return or **by the 26th February at the latest** so that we can finalise the on-site return plans and share them with parents and carers.

Once this form has been received we will be able to test your child prior to any face-to-face lessons. Further consent forms will not need to be completed if subsequent testing is required.

The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab from the students' noses and throats. The NHS have provided information about this type of testing:

<https://parents.southfieldsacademy.com/site/data/files/documents/89ED66D301B67D356F38E3FC5E6D5B51.pdf>

<https://parents.southfieldsacademy.com/site/data/files/documents/8349B493BD13047F3D4170159EB744FE.pdf>

The test will be carried out by students on themselves but will be supervised by trained staff. We have successfully carried out more than 1,000 tests on students and staff to date.

The results will be ready half an hour after the test takes place. If negative, your child will be able to attend school. If the test is positive, we will make contact with you and send your child home to isolate for 10 days. Once your child has arrived home you should arrange for a full PCR Covid test. Once registration and recording of your child's test has been completed you will receive a text message from the NHS confirming their test result.

Once again, I would encourage all parents to submit the consent form as soon as possible to support us with our aim of all students returning to classroom-based teaching as quickly and safely as possible after reopening. We will not be able to provide remote teaching once the Academy reopens. Should there be any Covid outbreak in the Academy community, those who have tested negative will be able to remain on-site and continue lessons as usual.

If you have any questions about the testing programme at the Academy, please contact testing@southfieldsacademy.com

Thank you for your co-operation and support for the safety of students and staff in school.

Yours sincerely



David Holt

Deputy Headteacher – Covid Testing Lead



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Academy**

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