

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



9th July 2021

Testing Programme Information

Dear parents and carers,

You may have heard that testing in schools in the autumn term 2021 will commence again using the COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our school. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission.

Is the testing compulsory?

The testing is **entirely voluntary** – but is strongly encouraged. Students whose parents do not consent for them to take part in the testing programme **will still be able to attend school as normal below**:

| Year group | Return date | Pupils in school |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Year 7 | Wednesday 25 th August | Y7 |
| Year 11 | Thursday 26 th August | Y7, 11 |
| Year 10 | Friday 27 th August | Y7, 10, 11 |
| Year 8 and 9 | Tuesday 31 st August | All pupils |

How the tests work:

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The student will also receive either a text or email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace, they should go for a confirmatory PCR test in the first instance.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Students will be informed of negative test results via text or email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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 (including 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ben Rackley
Assistant Headteachers: Mr David Allard, Mr Dean Baines, Mr Ed Wilson
Telephone: (0116) 2717421 Fax (0116) 2720148
Email: admin@gartree.leics.sch.uk Website: www.gartree.leics.sch.uk

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact the office by emailing admin@gartree.leics.sch.uk

Next Steps:

How do I give consent?

You will find consent letters on the School website <https://www.gartree.leics.sch.uk/lateral-flow-testing>
Please read these carefully. You can then give consent by completing the consent form and emailing it to covid@gartree.leics.sch.uk (If you have multiple children for whom you wish to give consent, you will need to complete a separate consent form for each child). Alternatively, please ensure that your child hands this into reception as soon as they arrive at school on 25th August. Students will not be tested if parents have not given their consent.

Privacy Notice

A privacy note is attached explaining how your data is handled during the process.

Yours faithfully,



Sonia Singleton
Headteacher

Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton
Deputy Headteacher: Mr Ben Rackley
Assistant Headteachers: Mr David Allard, Mr Dean Baines, Mr Ed Wilson
Telephone: (0116) 2717421 Fax (0116) 2720148
Email: admin@gartree.leics.sch.uk Website: www.gartree.leics.sch.uk