

Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE
CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Station Road, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, ST10 1LH
Telephone: 01538 493777
Email: office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk
Web: www.painsley.co.uk

21st December, 2020

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing

Dear Parent or guardian,

As you know, we are working to keep our college as safe as possible. As explained in my letter last Friday, 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 college 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 college open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but **I would encourage everyone to take it.**

We will be testing staff and students who want to participate from week commencing 4 January 2021. We cannot guarantee the regularity of the tests but will prioritise any student who has close contact with a positive case. This will remove the need for close contacts to self-isolate. All tests will be completed under supervision with the vast majority being self-swab tests. Support will be given as required.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information but please note that most tests will be self-administered.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please follow the instructions on the attached Consent Form. Any student who is over 16 years of age can self-consent but I would encourage you to discuss the tests if this applies to your child.

You will need to access your Parent Pay account to give consent. We cannot accept emails or other forms of communication instead of the Parent Pay response as we know that only you have access to your Parent Pay account. If you would like a paper copy of the consent form please contact office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk on Monday 4th January. No test will be conducted on your child if they are under 16 and we have not got your consent. Similarly, we will only conduct tests on those students who are over 16 with their written consent.

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.

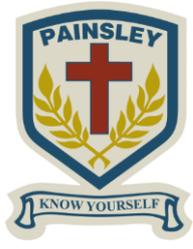
We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral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

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?



The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in
England & Wales with company number 08146661.
Registered Office Address: Station Road, Cheadle, Staffordshire ST10 1LH.



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Participating pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually (and normally within 30 minutes of the test). 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 done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We believe that college will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to 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 waits for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Your child will be able to stay in college 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/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to college 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 college who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer your child to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at college 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact office@painsley.staffs.sch.uk on Monday 4th January if you need any further assistance. Please do not worry about this in the meantime. We will tackle this challenge together and will get through this.

Do try to enjoy your Christmas!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Waugh



National Teaching School
designated by
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Artsmark
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