

Alderbrook School

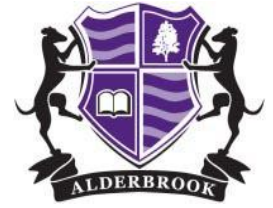
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COT/HAC

20 July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We are very much looking forward to our new Year 7 cohort joining us in September, and welcoming them into our school community. I am writing to provide you with some information on the COVID testing programme that will begin at the start of the new academic year, and through into the autumn term. Secondary School students have been carrying out bi-weekly asymptomatic testing this year, and whilst this is paused for the summer holidays, it will resume from September.

Testing for Students attending Summer School

Year 6 (new Year 7) students attending our Summer School in August will **not** have to carry out any testing before or during the time that they spend in school.

Testing from the start of the new academic year

Testing and the return of students to school will begin on Friday 3 September. Start dates for year groups will be staggered as the Government has requested that schools offer all students two Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests on site, spaced three to four days apart. Testing is voluntary and students will be allowed to attend school even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly – particularly as most students will not be testing for a long period over the summer and will need to re-establish the habit of regular twice weekly testing.

Following the first of two LFD tests, students can return to school. Please note that the Government guidance in September is for schools to cease contact tracing, and not to close classes and bubbles. So we strongly encourage all our students to be tested during this period.

Consent

Parent consent **must** be given in order for students to take part in the testing programme in school. Consent can be given via the link below, using the directions in the FAQ section at the end of this letter.

[Registering on school screener](#)

The deadline for parental consent is Monday 9th August 2021, deadline of 3pm.

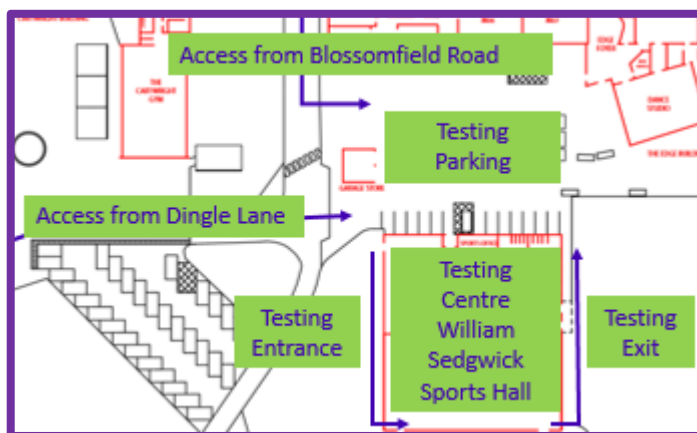
Dates and times for testing and full return to school

In order to allow for this testing, there will be a staggered start for all year groups in September. The table indicates for Year 7 students:

- The dates of your child's first Lateral Flow test (for students with consent)
- The start date for full time, on-site, teaching for all students.

No student will be penalised for not testing, all students in a year group return on the same day (Lateral Flow Testing for each year occurs the day before each particular year group returns). If your child is not being tested – they do not need to attend school until the date of full return for their year group.

Year 7 Testing Schedule	
Friday 3/9/21	
Surname A-C:	1.00 - 1.30
Surname D-H:	1.30 - 2.00
Surname I-O:	2.00 - 2.30
Surname P-S:	2.30 - 3.00
Surname T-Z:	3.00 - 3.30
Full Time Return to School	
Monday 6/9/21	



Information about on site testing

- The Testing Centre will take place in the Sports Hall (The William Sedgwick Building).
- Students should arrive at their allocated time slot. Members of staff will be on hand to greet them and give further guidance and support during the testing procedure.
- There will be parking for parents on the school site. This will be on the playground in front of the Sports Hall. Pedestrian access to the school site will be possible via the pedestrian gates on Blossomfield Road (Main Entrance) and Dingle lane.
- Students must make their own way into the Testing Centre.
- Students must keep to their allotted time, in order to maintain a manageable flow of students in the Test Centre.
- Students arriving on site for their first Lateral Flow Test, will **not** be required to wear uniform.
- All students that enter the test centre will be required to wear a mask, so please ensure your child has one. Wearing of a mask whilst in the test centre is compulsory. The testing process is quick and there will be staff to support students through the process.
- The Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test device kits for on-site testing are the new Orient Gene LFDs. These require a **nasal swab only**. Staff will be on hand to support students with this process.
- Once your child has been tested they can return home ready to begin the new academic year. If they record a negative result, they can return to school on their planned, staggered return date (see above).
- All results come straight from the NHS and so, you will receive a text message or an email following the test (normally within 1-hour). In addition, if your child tests positive, we will call you as soon as we know – and follow the Covid-19 guidelines.

We hope that this provides some clarity on the process for welcoming students to Alderbrook in September. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer period. We are excited about our return in September and we look forward to being together as a school community again.



Yours sincerely



Tom Coggan
Assistant Headteacher

FAQS

How do I give consent?

We are obtaining information about consent via our online School Screener service. Below is a step-by-step access guide.

Step 1: School Screener Registration - For Years 7-13, click on this [link](#), select **register now** and enter the details required.

You will be emailed a link to confirm your email address. If you do not receive this email to your inbox, please also check your junk folder

- Please continue to use the same email to log any results and access your account
- There is one consent account per child.
- Follow this link and set a password
- Your account is now set up
- Please log out

Step 2: Please LOG BACK IN to Give Consent - Click on this [link](#)

- Enter your email address and password and click login
- You will now see a box titled 'Covid Testing'
- Select 'Fill in the questionnaire' form
- Make sure the correct school is selected in the 'Create a Submission' box, and then click Next
- Enter all of the required information about the person who will be tested. Once this is complete, click Save and Continue
- You will then be provided with information about the Covid Testing.
- Once you have read this, please record your consent at the bottom of the page. Then add your name and click Submit (on the right hand side of the screen)

If there are any queries with this process, please email covidscreener@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk

What if my child tests positive?



If your child tests positive on a lateral flow device, you will be notified via the automated text message/email (sent to the details you provide when registering). We will also make contact with you via telephone. Students with a positive LFD test result need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards and these can be booked online by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) the student will need to self-isolate.

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

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 come to school and resume their activities as normal. Results will be shared via the automated text message/ email (sent to the details you provide when registering).

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>.

What if I do not give consent?

Testing remains voluntary but we are strongly recommending that all students participate in the programme in order to reduce the risk for all. If you do not give consent, you will need to follow the steps above and indicate this using the School Screener service. Students who are not tested will return to school at the same time as their year group.

We will support our students throughout this process, but please do contact us if you have any questions via covidscreener@alderbrook.solihull.sch.uk