



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

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2nd March 2021

Re: COVID-19 testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

We look forward to our return to school next week and, hopefully, restrictions being lifted as soon as possible. To ensure as safe a return as possible, we have outlined some further guidance and reminders in this letter.

Remain Vigilant

In order to continue our united fight against COVID-19, we urge you to remain vigilant. Do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household is experiencing symptoms or isolating following a positive test.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are the recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If you have symptoms, arrange to have a PCR test if you have not already had one. Stay at home while you are waiting for a test site appointment or a test result. Do not use the rapid lateral flow testing service, as this is only for people without symptoms.

Some other symptoms appear to be common in children, although children may also be asymptomatic, so we urge you to get a test before returning your child to school.

Testing for parents or households of pupils

From 1st March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil, you can get a twice-weekly test. We urge all households to access these tests as this will help ensure all pupils coming in are free from COVID-19. Our staff are already testing themselves, using these kits, twice a week.

There are four main ways to get a test.

1. Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.

Your workplace may offer rapid lateral flow testing to you. Contact your employer to find out more.

2. At a local test site

You can take a rapid lateral flow test at a local site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator.

Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site. <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

3. Collect test kits

You can collect 2 packs of home test kits at a local collection point. Each pack contains 7 tests.

Anyone 18 or over may collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go.

Find your nearest home test kit collection point. <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>



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4. Order home test kits online

If you cannot get tested at your work, get to a test site or collect test kits, you can order a home test kit online. Do not order online if you can get a test through any other method. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests/) <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests/>

What twice-weekly testing involves

You will be asked to:

- take a test twice a week (every 3 or 4 days apart)
- report every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test
[Report your test result online](#) or by calling 119.

If anyone tests positive or gets Coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible Coronavirus infection](#)

A negative result means the test did not find signs of Coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have Coronavirus, so you should keep following all [Coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

Above is for adults only. Pupils are not expected to get tested unless they have symptoms.

New start/finish times (until Easter)

Alongside the testing and vigilance around the virus, may we remind you to observe our amended start and finish timings (see Mr Pearson's letter). This is vital to ensure social distancing and to limit the number of people on site at the same time. Dropping and collecting siblings at the same time is to be used only as a last resort.

Follow lockdown guidance

Our final plea is that you all continue to follow the government restrictions which currently include no household mixing (other than support bubbles). Mixing of households, even outdoors, puts everyone in school at risk. If we become aware of any household mixing, we will contact you and may need to take further action.

All of these measures are for the safety of all pupils, staff and households. We appreciate they may be an inconvenience, but we have come so far and we need to make sure we stay safe until the end of all restrictions. We thank you massively for your continued support.

Please contact us via the office email with any queries or questions.

We look forward to welcoming you all back safely next week!

Yours sincerely,



Mr Alex Pearson
Executive Principal