

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Covid-19 Lateral Flow Testing in Autumn term

We are really looking forward to welcoming students back in September.

As you might be aware, to ensure the safest return possible, we are required by the Department for Education to test all consenting students, with two lateral flow tests, three to five days apart on their return to school.

- Lateral flow testing is simple, quick, and not invasive. It consists simply of a student taking a swab of their nostril or throat.
- This is then tested in school in by our staff, nothing is sent off to a third party. The only information that is sent off to the NHS is whether the test is positive or negative.
- Should your child test positive on a lateral flow test they will be required to self-isolate at home, as well as taking a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test result is negative and is taken within 2 days of the lateral flow test, this result will override the lateral flow test result and your child will be able to return to school immediately. Should the PCR have a positive result, they will need to continue to self-isolate for 10 days.
- From 16th August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test.

We are, in effect, an NHS testing site and I am extremely grateful to the large number of Ark Academy staff who have stepped forward to support the safest return of all students to school.

All testing will take place during the school day, however testing arrangements will vary for each year group, this has been outlined below:

Year	Testing Dates	Arrangements
7	Tues 7 th & Fri 10 th Sept	Tests administered by trained school staff
8	Wed 8 th & Mon 13 th Sept	First test administered by trained school staff, second test self-administered under controlled supervision
9	Thurs 9 th & Mon 13 th Sept	Tests self-administered under controlled supervision
10	Thurs 9 th & Mon 13 th Sept	Tests self-administered under controlled supervision
11	Thurs 9 th & Mon 13 th Sept	Tests self-administered under controlled supervision
12	Mon 6 th & Fri 10 th Sept	Tests self-administered under controlled supervision
13	Tues 7 th & Fri 10 th Sept	Tests self-administered under controlled supervision

Please click [here](#) for a digital consent form for the lateral flow tests. Please can you return these forms, as soon as possible, and in advance of your child's first day of school in September.

Can I reassure you that we have taken every precaution possible and prepared our school very carefully for the return of our students.

My best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Delia Smith', written in a light grey or blue ink.

Delia Smith
Principal