



Mr G Panayiotou – Executive Headteacher
Mr John McNichol – Chair of Governors

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Our Ref: GP/NF

22nd July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

In our last letter, we mentioned that the Department for Education have asked that schools provide on-site lateral flow tests when pupils return in September. This is one of the measures that will be in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils in the new term.

As with the previous on-site tests, pupils who take part in testing will be required to take two tests, 3 to 5 days apart. For this reason, schools have been granted the flexibility to have a phased return of pupils in September and also to start testing in the week prior to the first week of term. Those pupils who test negative can return to school on their specified day (please see below).

Why test on-site?

The tests conducted on-site are the same test that pupils use to test at home, however, on-site tests take place under controlled conditions and therefore tend to be more reliable than at home tests.

What happens if my child tests positive?

Those pupils who test positive will be asked to take a PCR test and isolate in line with government guidance.

What if I am on holiday or do not consent to my child being tested?

All pupils who either test negative or do not take part in testing will be able to return to school on the dates outlined below:

Dates for Lateral Flow Tests

	Test (exact times TBC)	Return to school
Thursday 2nd September	Year 7, 10, 12, 13	
Friday 3rd September	Year 8, 9, 11	
Monday 6th September (PM)	Year 7, 12, 13	
Tuesday 7th September	Year 10, 11	Year 7
Wednesday 8th September	Year 8, 9	Year 7, 12, 13
Thursday 9th September		All Year Groups
Friday 10th September		All Year Groups

(Please note: Year groups refer to your child’s year group in September 2021 and not their current year group)

Parental Consent

To allow us to plan for September, it is important that we know how many pupils will be taking part in on-site testing. Once we have an idea of numbers, we will let you know the time of day that the test will take place. To give consent for your child to be tested on-site, please complete the questions on the link below by **Monday 16th August**:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=p5E3uwQAMk6DoDT-y8kpvxbYUfn-qOxBtbs64L-bQu5UNFizUjNCMVdWNV01MFIRVFOyV002MU9XMS4u>

Please only complete the above form if you consent to your child taking two on-site lateral flow tests on the dates outlined above.

Can my child be tested on a different day?

No, unfortunately, the registration process and gap between testing is very specific therefore we are not able to accommodate testing for pupils outside of the dates outlined above.

Can my child do their LFT at home?

Lateral flow tests will still be widely available over the summer. We encourage your family to maintain your routine testing arrangements. There is no need to inform the academy if your child receives a positive test during the summer holiday, unless it would impact on their return to school in September. The academy will receive additional home test kits to distribute to those who use them in September.

If you have any questions regarding lateral flow testing that have not been addressed in this letter, please see the Lateral Flow Testing section of the website or contact admin@castlefordacademy.com.

We will write to you over summer with a further update on the safe return to school for all pupils. In the meantime, we would like to wish you and your family a safe and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing all pupils in September.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Panayiotou
Executive Headteacher

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Cook
Associate Headteacher

