



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

We hope this letter finds you and your family well.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the academy on Tuesday. We are sorry for those who could not make it but we are very much looking forward to welcoming all of Year 7 to the academy in September.

We are writing to you to make you aware that the Department for Education (DfE) have published up to date guidance regarding pupils' returning to school in September. In response to increased mixing of groups of people over the summer holiday, the DfE have asked all secondary schools to conduct on-site coronavirus tests prior to pupils returning to school.

This is something that occurred in secondary schools across the country when schools reopened in March however, we are aware that this was not the case in primary schools. We wanted to write to explain the process involved and offer parents the opportunity for their child to take part in testing, if you wish to do so.

When will testing take place?

The testing involves pupils taking two lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart. To avoid any delays to the start of term, Year 7 testing will take place on **Thursday 2nd and Monday 6th September**, prior to pupils returning to school on Tuesday 7th September.

What does the test involve?

Many of you will have experience of lateral flow testing. The tests conducted on-site are the same test that pupils would use to test at home (including a swab of the throat and nose) however, on-site tests take place under controlled conditions and are therefore considered 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 attend school as planned on Tuesday 7th September.

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-bQu5UMkhVTBIV1hZWkNMSFdWSTBKOTg5TktLWS4u>

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. Lateral Flow Tests will be distributed by the academy at the start of the new term (to those who wish to receive them). On-site tests are considered more accurate however both tests will give an indication of any children who have coronavirus but are not displaying any symptoms.

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

