



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: Covid-19 Testing in Schools

As you may already be aware, we have been testing staff and students attending school, for Covid-19 since the beginning of the Spring term. As you will appreciate there has been lots of work and literature to digest and we thank you for your patience whilst we have put procedures in place for this scheme to work effectively. We are very fortunate to have our Lab Technician, Kate Duckmanton, who has previous experience of running a scheme like this and will be heading up our testing centre at STFS.

I wanted to write to you to outline the procedure for testing students and staff at the school. You will see in my email that I have given you a link to a consent form, which can also be found [here](#). This form will need to be filled in to let us know whether you give permission or not. We will not test any child that we have not received a consent form for. A form needs to be filled out for each child that you have at the school. I want point out that this test is voluntary – parents do not have to consent to their child being tested, neither will they be refused entry to school if they do not wish to participate.

It is my understanding of the current guidelines, that students (if consent has been given) will be tested three times in school (3-5 days apart). Students will then be tested twice a week at home by a parent or carer.

Your child/ren will be registered by us using a barcode to register with an online platform. Each student will receive a lateral flow test. Where possible they will do the test themselves but there will be assistance if they need it. This will involve them swabbing their nose and throat. Guidance on how to do this will be given to them. Results will be available within 30 minutes. The results of the test will be sent to the mobile phone number provided on the Covid-19 Testing Consent Form. Should the result come back as invalid, the student will need to retake the test.

If a student tests negative, they will be able to remain in school. If a student receives a positive test result, we will ask you to collect your child immediately and book a PCR test via [the NHS website](#). This will confirm the positive result of the lateral flow test taken at school. Your child/ren will then have to isolate as per the current guidance from the [NHS](#). You will need to inform us of the result of the PCR test at [receptionist@sirthomasfremantle.org](mailto:receptionist@sirthomasfremantle.org)

We are hopeful that the scheme will cause less disruption to your child/ren's education; by testing staff and students, we can identify asymptomatic cases within our cohort and hopefully prevent further spreading of Covid-19.



There is a lot of information here to take in. In order to proceed with the scheme, you will need to do the following:

- Please read the [terms of consent](#), along with the [Covid-19 Testing Privacy Statement](#) and our [school's privacy statement](#)
- Please complete the [Covid-19 Testing Consent Form](#) by **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**
- Please talk to your child/ren about the test and the process so that they are aware of what will happen and they know what to expect. We will be there to help them, so please let them know this.

**We want to be clear that this scheme is not a replacement of the current Covid-19 guidelines in place. If your child develops symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), or if a member of your household develops symptoms or tests positive, you will need to keep them off school and isolate.**

I hope this letter explains everything you need to know. If you have any concerns or questions about this process, please email me at [emma.smith@sirthomasfremantle.org](mailto:emma.smith@sirthomasfremantle.org)

Yours faithfully,

Emma Smith  
**Office Manager**

