



# Perschore High School

Quality education  
for all in a  
challenging,  
supportive and  
safe environment

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You will have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We have started the programme this week by testing all the staff who have been in school and starting on Monday we will provide it free for those students who wish to participate and are in school as part of the provision for vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers. Students will be tested twice between 3 and 5 days apart. Should they be identified as close contacts of a positive case in school they will be offered daily testing over 7 days as an alternative to 10 days self-isolation.

When we reopen to more students we will follow NHS and DfE advice regarding testing of all students who consent/parents provide consent and I will update you regarding the programme before students return to school. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

I enclose an instructional leaflet together with other documentation and a consent document which contains the links to the consent forms.

So that we have accurate information regarding consent I am asking everyone to consider taking part in the programme and to record either their consent or refusal to consent now. This will enable us to prepare the documentation we need ready for mass roll-out. Those students attending next week should do this by midnight on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> January. Links to the relevant consent form can be found in the attached consent document.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and students participating. The result is shared to the mobile phone number provided at the time of testing. Students will also need to complete an NHS registration and must use the same email address and phone number recorded in the consent form – ideally this should be their own as they will need to confirm their email during the NHS registration process. If they have a mobile phone they should bring it with them to complete their registration in our test centre.

We are using the gym as our test centre and I have attached a photo of the set-up on the next page to hopefully reassure students.



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I hope that you/your son/daughter will consider taking part in the programme and ask you/them to complete the relevant consent form as soon as possible to enable us to plan the testing. Please note that when students can return to school they can do so regardless of whether they take part in the lateral flow testing programme.

Best wishes



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher



Pershore High School Gym Testing Centre