



August 2021

Dear Year 7 Parent/Carer

COVID-19 voluntary Lateral Flow Testing and collection of Chromebooks - September 2021

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students to Ashlyns in September. Please find below some information relating to lateral flow testing in advance of the official beginning of term.

You may be aware that, at the end of the summer term, the Government informed secondary schools they were required to carry out mass asymptomatic testing of students when they return to school in September. The testing, along with the other protective measures we have in place, will help to keep staff and students safe. The test is voluntary, but students are encouraged to take it.

We are inviting all students joining Year 7 to come into school on Thursday 2 September (one day in advance of their start of term) to take their first Lateral Flow Test and collect their Chromebook (if ordered from FreedomTech). Students who are unable to attend on Thursday 2 September will be invited to take their first Lateral Flow test on Friday 3 September.

The table below details when students should arrive at school; they are not required to wear school uniform. The testing and Chromebook collection will take place in the Sports Hall at the rear of the school and, hopefully, should not take much longer than half an hour. Parents should drop their child at the entrance to the Sports Hall and will be able to park and wait in one of the adjacent bays. Students arriving on foot should walk directly to the venue for their allocated time.

Thursday 2 September	Arrival time
Year 7 students with surnames beginning A to G	11.30am
Year 7 students with surnames beginning H to R	12.15pm
Year 7 students with surnames beginning S to Y	1.00pm

Participating students will need to have their second test 3 to 5 days later. There is no need for students who have had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 in the last 90 days to take a test. However, they, along with other Year 7 students not taking the test, will still be able to collect their Chromebook at the time detailed in the table above if you would like them to do so.

Please complete the online form [HERE](#) (one per student) indicating whether or not you would like your child to be tested, and if they will take the first test on Thursday 2 September. We request that all parents/carers complete the form by Friday 27 August, whether or not they are providing consent. The form must be completed in order for a student to be tested.

Please see the school's COVID-19 Testing Privacy Statement [HERE](#).

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a double nasal swab. We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause some anxiety for some children and their families, particularly for some of those with SEND. Please rest assured that our experienced staff will be on hand to support your child. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void.

What if my child tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. If a test result is positive, parents will be informed and further instructions provided. The outcome of the test will also be reported to the online NHS system. If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days, follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace and take a confirmatory PCR test. If the result of the PCR test is negative they will no longer have to self-isolate and will be able to return to school.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

I recognise that this is not the way we would ordinarily wish to welcome new students to school; however, it is essential that we take the necessary steps to help make the school environment as safe as possible for September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher