

17th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware that *NHS Test and Trace* have been working with Redbridge local authority to support with greater testing of secondary school aged children. Several schools were prioritised based on COVID19 rates, which led to mobile testing units (MTUs) to be based at these schools at the beginning of this week. Although we were not selected to receive an MTU, most schools have asked for one to be located at their site. The aim is to enable our students and families to test and trace for COVID19 before the holidays. Below is the letter we received from *NHS Test and Trace* to send to all our families.

NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 testing for students and family members

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are working to keep our schools and colleges as safe as possible. From today, we are surging additional mobile testing units into your area to complement the existing MTUs, regional test sites, and local test sites. The NHS Test and Trace team will be testing staff, students and their family members who want to participate.

Along with the other measures we are taking, these tests will help reduce the risk of people without symptoms transmitting the virus. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage all students and family members to get tested.

*All you need to do to be tested is to arrive at the mobile testing unit which will be **on site at Isaac Newton Academy on Friday 18th December** between 9am and 3pm.*

Please note Year 7 students must be accompanied by a parent/carer as they are not able to self-swab.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories and is totally safe. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

What if someone tests positive?

*If the results of the test is positive, everyone will need to self-isolate. For the person who has a confirmed case of Covid-19, self-isolation will be needed for 10 days, and household members for 10 days. **Please inform us as soon as you receive this test result via info@isaacnewtonacademy.org***

We recognise this may be disruptive for your family, but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus. There is more advice on self-isolation at <http://bit.ly/Govukselfisolate>



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What if the test is negative?

The household will be able resume their activities as normal. If the student is contacted due to being in close contact with another individual who has tested positive, they may need to take a repeat test, but this will also be voluntary. If they test positive, they will need to self-isolate.

It is important to stress that our staff will not be supporting this testing as staff will be having a virtual inset day on this. All staff have been given home COVID19 testing kits to ensure we are entering the holiday period safely. Please refer to the guidance above if you have any questions.

Lastly, I want to express that this measure has been intentionally taken by the academy to help further safeguard our students, families and community. Ultimately, with the aim of ensuring we all stay safe and healthy, enabling us to return in the new year ready to go.

Please see below for timings for each year group to attend the testing facility. The MTU have advised us that they only have a total of 500 tests available for the day and will therefore not be able to test all secondary students, alternatively you can book a test using <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Year Group	Time to attend MTU
11, 12 & 13	09:00-11:00
9 & 10	11:00-13:00
7 & 8	13:00-15:00

Yours sincerely

Morgan Haines
Principal