



## ST MARY'S COLLEGE

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

Dear Staff/Student,

As you may already know, the Department for Education has instructed all secondary schools and colleges to offer mass testing to all pupils, students and staff. The aim of this is to make our education community safer and limit the transmission of Covid-19.

St Mary's College is undergoing a Quality Assurance exercise to support NHS Test & Trace and I am writing to you to let you know what this involves.

Dual Testing Quality Assurance is due to run from 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 and finish on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 after which time we will continue to test at home twice per week with the Lateral Flow Tests.

### What does Dual Testing involve?

We will invite staff and students aged 16 and above who are already performing LFD tests at home to pick up a **single use PCR kit** from SM6 reception, The Academy or Main Reception so that you can perform a PCR test alongside your usual LFD test (on any of the days you normally test before 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021).

This is so NHS Test & Trace can compare results from these testing technologies or methods. Ongoing quality assurance is a key aspect of clinical oversight for the NHS Test and Trace testing programme and enables DHSC to verify that test kits are safe and effective, tests are conducted in a safe and correct manner and that the results are correctly reported and acted upon.

As with current LFD testing processes, the PCR test is carried out at home and not on our premises.

The PCR kit will include instructions on how to perform the PCR swab and instructions will be supplied to pupils/students on how to return PCR swabs with PCR kits.

The information attached to this letter will explain the Quality Assurance exercise in more detail.

I would like to stress that whilst we encourage everyone to participate in the Quality Assurance exercise, no one will be forced to dual test, and I would like to make clear that doing so is optional.

I hope that the information attached will give you re-assurance that the tests are safe, reliable and will help keep COVID 19 transmissions to a minimum within the school and wider community.

Kind Regards,

Mr G Fitzpatrick  
CEO

St Mary's College  
Cranbrook Avenue  
Hull, HU6 7TN

Tel. 01482 851136  
Fax. 01482 804522  
Email. [admin@smchull.org](mailto:admin@smchull.org)

@SMCHull  
 @SMCHull  
[www.smchull.org](http://www.smchull.org)

Executive Head/CEO.  
Mr G Fitzpatrick

Head of School  
Mrs M Stead



## **Information on Quality Assurance Dual Testing at Home**

### **Why do we need Quality Assurance?**

Quality assurance helps us monitor the following:

- Test kits and supplies provided are safe and effective
- Tests are conducted in a safe and correct manner
- Results of the testing are reported, and acted upon for positive cases
- Testing is accessible and acceptable to students and staff in schools
- There is sufficient uptake of testing to help reduce transmission of Covid-19 through asymptomatic spread

Quality assurance will be ongoing and is an essential part of NHS Test and Trace in schools.

### **What does this mean for me?**

- This programme will focus on home self-tests and is optional.
- Those who opt in for Quality Assurance will be provided a single use PCR kit, in addition to their LFD kits to take home.
- You will be asked to dual test using both tests – the PCR swab will also act as a confirmatory PCR test if the LFD result is positive.

### **The PCR and LFD test must be linked together via a web page which takes less than 5 minutes to complete.**

Instructions on how to do this can be found in the Participant Information Sheet and Addendum Sheet which will be supplied by the school/college.

- The LFD and PCR results will be processed allowing NHS Test & Trace to understand the performance between the two tests.
- The PCR test also acts a confirmatory PCR test if the LFD result is positive – further registration will be required, and instructions will be in the Participant Information Sheet & Addendum.

### **What will you supply in addition to the LFD tests?**

- 1 x PCR kit bag (Grey bag containing instructions on how to complete the PCR swab including a pre-paid Royal Mail flatpack box).
- 1 x Participant Information Sheet
- 1 x Addendum one page document (Simple instruction page on how to take the PCR test at home, how to link the LFD serial number and PCR serial number together via the QA Web portal, the method of returning a PCR swab based on LFD result taken).

All testing is on a voluntary basis. individuals can opt out of dual testing and still attend school unless:

- They are symptomatic (they will need to perform a PCR test and if found to be positive, please inform the school as soon as possible and continue self-isolating in line with the national guidance.)
- Someone they live with tests positive (or has symptoms and has not been tested yet) or
- They've been traced as a contact or someone who tested positive.