



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Wednesday 16 December 2020

Dear Families

COVID-19 TESTS FOR ALL FAMILIES AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN LAMBETH

I am writing with some information that the government shared with schools late yesterday and forwarding to you an important letter from Lambeth Public Health Team about an opportunity for secondary students and 16-19 year olds and their families to book COVID tests via the NHS online booking service if they are asymptomatic. This means that you can check whether you are COVID positive before Christmas. If you are, you must self-isolate along with any contacts.

In addition, secondary school and college staff can also make use of this opportunity.

When booking your test, you will need to tick the box which says you have been asked by your local authority to take the test even though you are asymptomatic.

For more details, please read the letter which is being sent separately, called Lambeth Public Health Team.

Coronavirus testing for schools and colleges from January

Yesterday the government announced that from January teachers and students will have access to [rapid testing to help keep schools and colleges open](#) throughout the spring term.

The government has said:

"From January, and starting with secondary schools, including all special schools and alternative provision, the education workforce will be eligible for weekly on the spot tests. This will help identify asymptomatic cases – which make up a third of all cases – limiting the spread of the virus. This will be backed up by daily testing for staff who have been in close contact with a positive case therefore eliminating the need for self-isolation; allowing them to continue to come into school or college. Students and pupils will be eligible for daily testing if they have been in close contact with a positive case."

You can read the [press notice](#) and a [detailed Q&A for parents](#), but here is a summary of the key details of the announcement:

Teachers and students will have access to rapid testing from January

- Staff who are in close contact with cases will be eligible for daily testing, eliminating the need for immediate self isolation. Only if a daily test returns a positive result will the staff member need to isolate.
- Testing will roll out as rapidly as possible from January, starting with staff and moving quickly on to serial testing of students.
- It is the decision of the individual school or college when they would like to begin accessing this new dedicated testing capacity.

Detailed [operational guidance and training materials](#) are available to secondary schools and colleges so they are able to use the new testing capacity from the first week of the spring term.

Headteacher Mrs Beverley Stanislaus B.Ed. NPQH

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



We will be working with the Lambeth Education Authority and Lambeth Public Health tTeam over
the
next couple of days so that we have further information and a plan going forward for January.

In the meantime, please read the letter and the government guidance via the links that I have put in
this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Beverley Stanislaus', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher