



19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Secondary school and college– summer and autumn testing arrangements

### Summer Holiday Arrangements

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results until the end of the summer term.

The asymptomatic testing programme is being paused for students in secondary schools that will be closed over the summer holidays, which includes Minsthorpe. However if you wish to access rapid lateral flow testing, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

### Autumn Term Arrangements

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, testing may restart on return in the autumn. If it does, we expect to offer your child **two voluntary** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home.

Each year group will be offered an appointment 'window' to attend for their first LFT during the College INSET Days, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September or Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Students will be invited during lessons to attend their second LFT on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September or Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

If you wish for your child to be tested on-site in September, please complete the online consent form <https://forms.office.com/r/TyWRaYQz1K>. We need your consent again **by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**, even if you have previously provided it, to allow us to plan the testing provision.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation. We will be writing separately to the parents of the new Year 7 students over the summer holidays with more details on what testing entails.

**You must report your child's test results, even if their result is negative or void.** You should also keep a note of and share your child's results with the College  
<https://forms.office.com/r/gadhSCGQzu>

In September your child will be provided with home test kits to continue testing at home until further notice. You should report your child's results with the NHS [report a COVID-19 lateral flow test result](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm  
Please also share your results with the College online <https://forms.office.com/r/gadhSCGQzu>

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.

If you have any further questions regarding testing please see the frequently asked questions below and information on the College website. Alternatively you can contact us on [enquires@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:enquires@minsthorpe.cc) or through the School Gateway app.

Yours sincerely,

*S Adams*

Mrs S Adams  
Assistant Principal



## FAQs

- 1. Why are schools being asked to do on-site testing in September?**

This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission in College after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people.
- 2. Do I have to send my child to College for testing or can they be tested at home?**

You do not have to give consent to your child being tested on-site if they would prefer to do two home tests at the start of term. All testing is voluntary.
- 3. Do I have to give consent again, even if I provided it in the Spring term for previous on-site testing?**

Only if your child wishes to be tested on-site in September. The numbers giving consent will help us to plan the testing programme.
- 4. Where can I get home test kits from?**

Test kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- 5. Can my child just have their second on-site test when they return to College, planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> September?**

Yes. Your child does not have to attend on the INSET days for Test 1 if they are going to test at home, but we still need your consent for Test 2, if they do wish to be tested in College.
- 6. Does my child have to test on-site to return to College in the Autumn term?**

No. Testing remains voluntary but is encouraged to help break chains of transmission.
- 7. Can siblings attend Test 1 together during the INSET Days, even if their allocated windows are different?**

Yes. We will accommodate students attending with siblings outside their test window.
- 8. My child starts in Year 7 in September. Do they need to be tested?**

We are offering on-site testing to the new Year 7 students who start in September. There is no need for primary age pupils (those currently in Year 6 and below) to start testing before starting at Minsthorpe. We do strongly recommend that the current Year 6 students take up this offer to assist them with the testing process.