



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for secondary pupils

Following the announcements on Step 4 this week, the government is asking secondary schools and colleges to test all students at an on-site asymptomatic test site (ATS) on return following the summer holidays. This approach is based on the latest public health advice and will help us break chains of transmission in education settings after the summer holidays when students may have been mixing with lots of people. These tests need to be carried out on site as testing participation rates amongst students via ATS are much higher than when testing at home.

The Government is also asking that schools encourage students to continue twice-weekly testing at home for the rest of this term and in the autumn, following the two initial on-site tests. They will then review the continued need for testing, based on public health advice at the end of September.

The measures we will have after summer, including testing, strike the right balance as we learn to live with the virus so children can continue in face-to-face education. The evidence on which our autumn testing policies are based can be found via the following links:

- [Evidence summary: COVID-19 – children, young people and education settings](#)
- [COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021: roadmap reviews](#)
- [SPI-M-O: Summary of further modelling of easing restrictions – roadmap Step 4, 9 June 2021](#)

In September we will start phased testing for all secondary students. If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the Google Form; the link is at the bottom of this letter.** If your child has joined Atlantic since January 2021, or will be in Year 7 in September this is particularly important to you. If you have already given consent for the testing we carried out between January and April, you do not need to complete the form again. Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff.

Tests will take place on the following dates:

Year	First Test	First Test : Date	Second Test	Second Test : Date
7	Test & stay	Friday 3rd September 2021	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P1)
10	Test and leave	Friday 3rd September 2021 at 10:00am *	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P2)
11	Test and leave	Friday 3rd September 2021 at 11:00 am*	Test & stay	8th September 2021 (P3)
8	Test & stay	Monday 6th September 2021	Test & stay	10th September 2021 (P1)
9	Test & stay	Monday 6th September 2021	Test & stay	10th September 2021 (P2)

\*On 3rd September, Y10 and 11 students need to come in at the allocated time only for their test, they will only be in school for approximately 30 minutes to complete the lateral flow test and then they will return home. Year 10 and 11 students need to wear **full school uniform** when they come in for their test on Friday 3rd September.



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## Lateral Flow tests

- The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff will oversee the swab process.
- Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be emailed/texted to the email address or phone number given when logging into the NHS Website
- We have been advised that these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

## NHS App

In order that your child's result can be registered quickly please set them up with a NHS account by following this link [NHS Website](#) Students will need to know their log in details when they complete their lateral flow test.

## What if a student tests positive?

- Students who **test positive** will be informed about their results **individually**. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.
- Students will need to book a further '**PCR test**' with the NHS as soon as possible.
- While they wait for the PCR result (via text/email) **they will need to self-isolate**. If the PCR test returns a positive result, students will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on [01305 820262](tel:01305820262) or email [zfowler@atlantic-aspirations.org](mailto:zfowler@atlantic-aspirations.org).

## Registration and Consent

To process the test, we will register all participating students but we will need **parental consent** for children under 16. Please fill in the [Registration & Consent Google Form here](#)

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Bishop  
Principal of Secondary