



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students**

The Government now requires every secondary school to have a COVID-19 testing centre for its students. These centres use technology different from the one commonly used at the established NHS Testing Centres. We have been equipped to use the Lateral Flow Test; a large number of the necessary testing kits are now available to the school.

This new arrangement does not replace the work of the NHS Testing Centres. Its purpose is to pick up some of the COVID cases in the school where the infected person does not display any symptoms. It is thought this may be true in up a third of all cases. Such people, however, are still capable of passing on the infection.

Schools have been asked to work out their own way of offering three tests to each student in the first fortnight after the general reopening. The first test is to be offered the day before the student returns to school; two more will follow at prescribed intervals.

### **Testing at the High School**

We have had to take two steps in order to provide tests for the large number of students on roll. One is to spread the return to normal attendance across the whole of the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. (I outlined this in my letter of 25<sup>th</sup> February.) The other is to set up two test centres. We will continue to run the small one on site in the former caretaker's bungalow. Most testing, however, will be carried out at the Leisure Centre. (We are very grateful for the co-operation and support of the manager and his staff in making this possible.)

Both centres will operate in a similar way. They will be staffed with suitable adults who have had some basic training but who are not medical specialists. Most of them will be either our own support staff or staff of the Leisure Centre. A senior member of staff from the school will supervise each site.

The actual testing, however, will be self-administered. This involves using a swab in the nose and throat. The leaflet attached explains how this should be done and a video demonstrating the technique can be found here:

<https://website.droitwichspahigh.worcs.sch.uk/index.php/back-to-school-2021/>

It would be very helpful if your son/daughter could read this information and watch the film before they come for their first test.

Students will come in tutor groups for their first test according to the times on the sheet attached to this letter. They do not need to wear school uniform and should go back home straight after their test.

## Test Results

The result of the test becomes available about half an hour afterwards. We will only inform a student directly if the result is positive. We will, however, upload all the results to the NHS Lateral Flow test site.

Your son/daughter will be given a registration card similar to the one shown with a bar code already attached. You will be able to see the test result for yourself by scanning the QR code and then the bar code at any time during the 24 hours following the test.



## What if my child tests positive?

If a student tests positive they will be told immediately and isolated until they can be collected. They will need to self-isolate at home in line with the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

## Giving or Withholding Consent

Schools are required to set up lateral flow testing facilities; parents and students, however, may choose whether or not to use them. Participation in this scheme is voluntary.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part you will need to give consent using the Arbor Parent App or complete the consent form attached and send it with your child when he/she comes for the test.

## Giving Consent using the Arbor Parent App

Arbor is the system we use to hold all of our student information, family contact details, attendance and assessment grades. There is an Arbor Parent App (and there is also a web version) that displays certain aspects of that information to parents and allows you to update it or contribute to it.

You can download the Arbor Parent App for iOS from here:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/arbor/id1448707412>

or for Android from here:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.arboeducation.parentapp&hl=en>

or, alternatively, you can access it using a web browser by clicking here:

<https://droitwich-spa.uk.arbor.sc/> (there is also a link on the "Go to.." menu of our website).

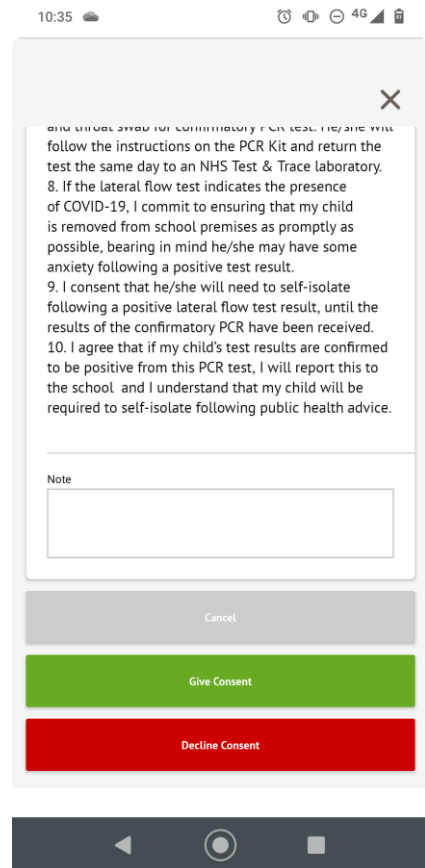
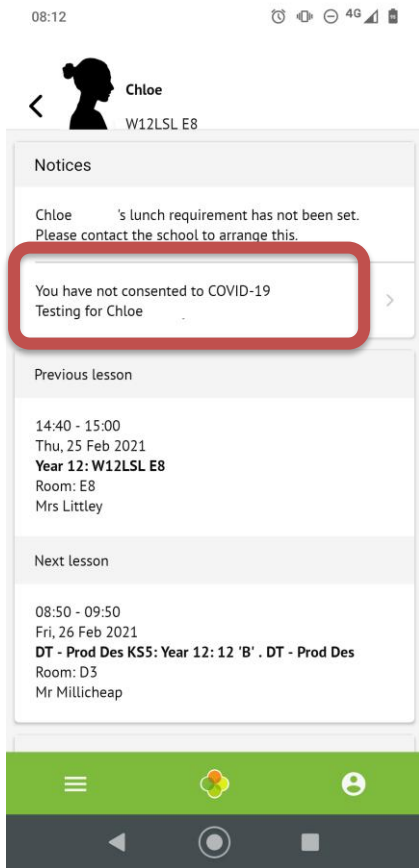
More than half of our families now have an Arbor Parent App login. If you already have a login then:

- You will be alerted separately via another email to log in and/or push notification to give or withhold your consent
- Please skip this section and go to "Giving Consent once you are logged in"

**If you don't currently have a login** you will shortly receive another email from us. In it will be your username for Arbor and instructions on how to log in.

**Giving Consent Once You Are Logged In**

1. Tap on the COVID-19 Testing for <<Student Name>>.
2. You will be provided with the details of the consent on the screen that follows. After reading the information provided scroll down to the bottom and tap either 'Give Consent' or 'Decline Consent.' If you do not either give or withhold consent you may continue to be prompted by the app and/or via email
3. If you more than one child at the high school you can use the < arrow to select each child in turn. It is important to give or withhold consent for each child.



**What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature, a new and continuous cough or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Yours sincerely,

*N. J. Waters*

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