



In all things faithful

St Damian's RC Science College

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Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), M.Ed., NPQH

8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Regarding: NHS Test and Trace: COVID testing for staff and students

As you are aware, there are plans to mass test both pupils and staff for those without Covid symptoms across the country using '**lateral flow tests**'. The Department of Education have confirmed that testing should continue throughout the current lockdown. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would strongly encourage everyone to take it. Testing will be offered free of charge. The reason for the test is to quickly identify anyone who may be asymptomatic so that they can be quickly isolated and go for a PCR test.

We aim to test all staff and the children of key workers from week commencing **11th January 2021**. Testing for other pupils will be when they return to school. Consent forms will be required for all pupils. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the CONSENT FORM. Please ensure you have completed and returned your child consent form by no later than 9am on Monday 11th January.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

I also enclose the following for your perusal;

- An instructional leaflet with some more information.
- COVID-19 Privacy Notice.
- Consent Form [must be completed by a parent]

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need any more information please telephone school 0161 330 5974 or email admin@stdamians.co.uk

Mr Logue

Headteacher

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