



19<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**NHS Test and Trace: Covid-19 Testing at Montpelier High School**

I hope you are enjoying the summer holidays.

Further to my last letter in July, I am writing to provide more information about the testing service that we are providing at Montpelier High School and V6. The Department of Education have asked all secondary schools to conduct two in-school Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests 3-5 days apart as part of the safe return of students to school in September.

At Montpelier High School we will be testing students on:

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September year 13 only (students will attend school just to be tested)

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September years 7-12 (students will attend school just to be tested)

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September all years (years 7 and 12 to stay on site for their Induction Days; all other year groups to attend school just to be tested)

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September all students' first day of school (all students to attend even if they have not been able to attend the in-school testing)

Please see table below for information on your child(ren)'s arrival time. We expect students to be on site for 10-20 minutes. Students need to arrive and line up outside our 'Glass Doors' and will exit from our Grass Crete Road gate (just down the road from the Glass Doors).

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September year 13 only

Year group	House/Tutor	Arrival time
Year 13	Surnames A-C	1.30
	Surnames D-H	1.40
	Surnames I-M	1.50
	Surnames N-Z	2.00

Students will be on site for 10-20 minutes and stay only for the test.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September

Year group	House	Arrival time
Year 7	Austen	8.15
	Curie	8.25
	Frank	8.35
	Johnson	8.45
	Parks	8.55
Year 12	Surnames A-C	9.15
	Surnames D-H	9.25
	Surnames I-M	9.35
	Surnames N-Z	9.45

Year 8	Austen	10.20
	Curie	10.30
	Frank	10.40
	Johnson	10.50
	Parks	11.00
Year 9	9.1	11.20
	9.2	11.30
	9.3	11.40
	9.4	11.50
	9.5	12.00
	9.6	12.10
Year 10	10.1	13.00
	10.2	13.10
	10.3	13.20
	10.4	13.30
	10.5	13.40
	10.6	13.50
Year 11	Austen	14.00
	Curie	14.10
	Frank	14.20
	Johnson	14.30
	Parks	14.40
Year 13 Monday only	Surnames A-C	14.50
	Surnames D-H	15.00
	Surnames I-M	15.10
	Surnames N-Z	15.20

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September all students will be on site for 10-20 minutes just for their tests.

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September years 7 will remain on site for their Induction day; year 12s moving to V6 for 10.30am. Students in years 8-12 will be on site for 10-20 minutes and stay only for the test.

Testing is entirely voluntary; although we strongly recommend that everyone, who can, does take a test. If your child is unable to attend in-school testing they are still welcome to return to school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Where this is the case we would ask parents/carers to ensure that tests are taken at home instead and the results reported to [school](#) and the [NHS Website](#).

#### New quicker and easier tests

Testing in September will be using new, quicker Covid-19 tests (Orient Gene Rapid tests) that only require a nasal swab. Students will be registered and directed into our testing centre to private booths where our trained staff will guide them through self-administering a nasal swab. Our staff will process the results and upload them to the NHS track and trace.

We will only inform parents/carers and students of a positive result.

#### Consent for testing

As new parents/carers to Montpelier High School and V6 we need consent to be able to test your child. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill a consent form (one per student). We have attached a privacy statement for you to know how personal information from testing will be stored and used. If your child is over 16, they must complete the form themselves. You can give consent in one of the following ways:

- completing this [consent form](#)
- downloading, completing, attaching and sending the attached word version to [MHS-info@montpschool.org](mailto:MHS-info@montpschool.org)
- printing and posting the attached form
- collecting a paper copy of the form from the school office



Please note that school is closed throughout the week of 23-27<sup>th</sup> August with our reception reopening on 31<sup>st</sup> August. If your child is under 16 please do not send them to school for testing without providing consent first. If your child is in year 7 and you do not consent to testing they will need to arrive at school for 9am for the Induction Day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

What if a student tests positive?

Positive results will be shared with students or their parents/carers (where the student is under 16) via the mobile number and/or email address they entered on the consent form. A confirmatory PCR test should be [booked](#) and the result shared with school via a call to 0117 9424328 option 1 or email [mhs-attendance@montpschool.org](mailto:mhs-attendance@montpschool.org)

While waiting for the PCR result they will need to self-isolate until they get their result. If it is negative, they can return to school. If the result of this secondary test is positive, the student will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines.

Please inform us as soon as you receive the test result. We will continue to support students with their education remotely.

What if my child is a close contact?

Schools will not be contact tracing from September. NHS Test & Trace will contact those who test positive – or their parent/carer for under 16 year olds – to identify close contacts. They will ask a series of specific questions to help the individual understand what is meant by a close contact, making it easier for them to be identified. Being in a setting with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact. The NHS expect there to be a very small number of close contacts on average for each case and for these to come from social settings e.g. sleepovers.

What if my child develops symptoms?

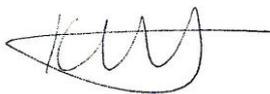
This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a PCR test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support students and their families throughout, please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions.

We are working over the holiday to prepare school in line with the new COVID guidance from the Department of Education (DfE). I have attached a letter that explains the new guidance; including information from the DfE about the changes in the way schools have been asked to manage positive cases. The government has also produced this [guide](#) 'What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges.' A copy of our risk assessment will be placed on the COVID update page of our [website](#) for the beginning of September. Due to the narrow corridors in parts of our building we will continue to ask students and staff (who can) to wear face masks in the corridors. Please ensure your child brings a plain black/white or blue face mask – fashion masks are not permitted – to school every day.

We understand that the relaxation of restrictions will be welcomed by many but also cause concerns for some of our community. If your child requires additional support or has additional vulnerabilities please email us at [MHS-info@montpschool.org](mailto:MHS-info@montpschool.org)

Best wishes,



**Kerry McCullagh** Principal

