



St Joseph's Catholic Academy
Member of the Newman Catholic Collegiate

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Principal- Mrs L Hamilton

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear Parents

As we prepare for our full reopening on Monday 8th March, the Government have announced that testing will be available to all parents/carers with school aged children and anyone in a support or childcare bubble with primary school children.

The government announced;

"Testing will continue to be a vital part of our response to coronavirus (COVID-19), supporting the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister earlier this week. As we cautiously ease restrictions in England, starting with the return of schools and moving towards more social mixing at the end of March, we need to be sure that each COVID-19 case is found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control while keeping children and young people in school."

You may be aware that all staff in school have the opportunity to test twice weekly. Our staff are doing this to keep your children safe. I am now asking that you join us with this regular asymptomatic testing to keep our school community as safe as possible. If we all play our part, we will be able to create a school that is safe for all and hopefully will avoid any further closures.

As you know, children in Primary School will not be testing and so this makes it even more important that adults from their household or bubble do test.

You can either:

- visit a local asymptomatic testing site twice per week to be tested there
- collect a pack of home tests from a test centre and test yourself at home twice per week
- order home tests to be delivered to you at home (please note that you should only do this if you are unable to get to a test centre so that test delivery is available to those who really need it)

To collect a pack of home tests from a test centre, please use the link below:

[COVID Test Finder \(test-and-trace.nhs.uk\)](https://test-and-trace.nhs.uk)

You will need to enter your postcode to be taken to a map of testing centres in your area. Clicking on a test centre will show you the times that you can collect test kits from this centre. I am assured that you do not need to book or show any proof of your school aged child, you can just turn up at the test centre.

Please be assured that lateral flow testing, although not particularly pleasant, is easy, straight forward and painless. I really do hope that you will join us in testing regularly to support us in school in ensuring that our community is as safe as possible.

Please remember this is asymptomatic testing. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 **MUST** book a test online or by calling 119.

Yours sincerely

L. Hamilton

Mrs L Hamilton
Principal

