



**Midhurst Rother College**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

9 July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Asymptomatic testing in September**

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you for your continued support over the past year regarding asymptomatic testing at Midhurst Rother College. I would also like to make you aware that schools and colleges across the country have been asked to test students twice on their return in September. This is something that we will do, in a similar way to 8 March 2021 (when all students returned to face-to-face education). This letter contains information regarding a staggered start to the year and the future of testing as coronavirus restrictions ease and we move to Step 4.

### **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing**

Regular testing using LFDs is part of the government's strategy to reduce the spread of the virus through finding asymptomatic cases. We have trained volunteers and our own staff who will facilitate the LFD process and test students onsite in line with DFE guidance.

For this process to happen, students, for whom we have consent, will be tested twice, 3-5 days apart on their return. The tests will be conducted in the sports hall and then students will wait in the theatre for their results, which will take about 30 minutes. Students who have a negative result will go to their lessons and start the academic year, whereas anyone with a positive result will be isolated from their peers and parents / carers will be contacted to collect them. Please can parents / carers make sure that students have a book to read whilst they are waiting for their test result.

Students whose parents / carers have not given consent should attend College on the morning of the day that their year group is requested to return.

### **A staggered start**

I appreciate that staggering students' return to College may cause transport issues for some students and apologise for any inconvenience this causes but feel this is unavoidable if we are to get students back into College quickly. Once we have gathered consent information, we will be able to share details of how this will work with all parents / carers. Our aim is to have all students onsite by the end of Tuesday 7 September 2021.



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## Giving consent

For your child(ren) to be tested, we are renewing our testing consents as we welcome a new cohort of children into the College. This means that we require all parents / carers (and age appropriate sixth form students) to read our [privacy notice](#), and refer to the [LFT How to Do Your Test Process](#) on our website .

For students in **Years 8-13** we will ask you to give your consent for your child(ren) to be tested via Arbor. **Details of how to do this, can be found as attachments to this letter.**

With the end of term looming, we require a very quick turnaround on this information, so that we can schedule the staggered start date and times for all students. The deadline for our consent form to be completed is **Tuesday 20 July 2021**. At this point, we will then write to you again and inform you of the start date and time for your child, this is likely to be year group based, and then alphabetically by surname. We will also detail where your child should go when they come onto site and the procedure they must follow.

## Home testing

Following their second test onsite, students will be given home testing kits to carry out twice weekly at home (3 to 4 days apart). Parents / carers should follow the guidance on the packaging and report results using the NHS app. Staff will continue to be tested twice per week, also from home. This will be reviewed by the government at the end of September.

Thank you once again for your support regarding testing. We will be in contact shortly after the consent process closes at the end of **Tuesday 20 July 2021**.

If you have any queries regarding testing, then please contact your child's pastoral leader in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Phillip Lloyd  
Vice Principal