



7 January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

We are working to keep our Academy as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. 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 encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and students who want to participate. As part of the process we will help pupils to register on the NHS portal.

Please see the attached Privacy Notice.

<https://www.huishepiscopi.net/site/data/files/documents/0342BC4243A8AB5E12307D90280C9152.pdf>

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete and submit the consent form below:

<https://form.iotforme.u.com/210042487851352>

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.

We know these tests work – in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Tests will be offered free of charge.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Wade**  
**Principal**

**Huish Episcopi Academy**

Wincanton Road, Langport, Somerset TA10 9SS

Tel: 01458 250501 Fax: 01458 250262

Email: [office@huishepiscopi.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:office@huishepiscopi.somerset.sch.uk) Web: [www.huishepiscopi.net](http://www.huishepiscopi.net)

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