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**THE MILTON  
KEYNES ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

Friday 8 January 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are working hard to keep MKA as safe as possible. As you will know, the Secretary of State and the Department for Education have directed schools to undertake testing for staff and students.

Guidance from the Secretary of State and the DfE is that the purpose of the Lateral Flow Test in our school is to improve the chances of detecting the presence of the virus, even where there are no symptoms. The lateral flow test used will be self-administered, but trained staff will be on hand to ensure that your child follows the correct procedure. We are unable to administer tests on pupils and students directly as we are not health-care professionals.

The lateral flow test is used because it produces a result within 30 minutes. However, we are aware that the level of accuracy of these tests can vary. Accordingly, if the virus is detected, you will be notified immediately, your child will be sent home and you will be requested to take your child for the more sensitive PCR test, which will confirm whether or not your child has the virus

You will not be notified if the test is negative. However, due to the accuracy level of the test, the fact that you are not notified does not mean that they are free of the virus. You should continue to look out for the symptoms of the virus and take appropriate action if any are noticed.

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.

Along with the 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 from week commencing 11 January 2021.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please read the enclosed consent statement (one per student) and fill in this [form](#)

Testing will be offered free of charge.

As a reminder – if you, your child or anyone you live with has the following symptoms you must follow guidance to stay at home:

- A new, continuous cough, and/or
- A high temperature
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you have any questions, please direct them to the following email address: [covidalert@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk](mailto:covidalert@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk). It would be helpful if you can mark the subject of the email as *Consent Query*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L Phillips'.

**Lauren Phillips**  
Vice Principal