



High Tunstall College of Science

Inspire | Support | Achieve



Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

HCR/DBP/MTI
January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are pleased to inform you that we have opened our COVID testing centre this week in college and have successfully started to test all staff and students attending college who have provided consent. As instructed by the Government we will test all students twice after each college holiday during a 3-5 day period. Therefore, those students who were tested on Monday and Tuesday this week will be tested again on Friday 15th January. Those students who were tested on Wednesday or later this week will be tested again next week. The Government currently do not have plans for us to test students weekly, however if this changes, we will let you know. In line with Government guidance staff will be tested weekly.

When your child has been tested by us you will receive a text with the results, please note you do not need to inform us of this result. This week we have noticed on some occasions texts haven't been received, please do not be alarmed if you do not receive a text as we will contact you if your child's result is positive to provide more guidance, as your child will be required to self-isolate and will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible).

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in college 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 college open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

If you are happy for your son/daughter to be tested when they are in college, but haven't yet given consent please fill in the consent form [here](#) (one per student).

What if a close contact at college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to college if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of the College who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my son/daughter develops symptoms?

This testing programme at college is for people with no symptoms. If your son/daughter develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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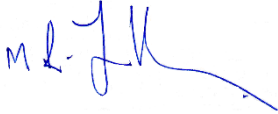
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Partner School 



If you have any questions regarding testing in our college please contact Mr Pickford, Assistant Headteacher at the college or via email dpickford@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk.

If you wish to amend the consent you have already provided please contact Hazel Crowe, Office Manager via email hcrowe@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.R. Tilling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark R Tilling
Headteacher