



# High Tunstall College of Science

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Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

HCR/DBP/MTI  
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Dear Parent/Carer

Our testing centre in college continues to be successful and we are now testing staff in college twice per week. Students will continue to be tested twice, during a 3-5 day period following each college holiday, providing consent has been given.

## Update on the secondary school and college testing programme – change to confirmatory PCR tests

We are continuing to use lateral flow tests to identify cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst staff and students who are asymptomatic.

Following new advice, NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England are temporarily pausing the need for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive result with a lateral flow test in secondary schools and colleges. This now means that following a positive lateral flow test result in college, an individual will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance, and contact tracing will need to be undertaken.

Confirmatory PCR testing was introduced to minimise the chance of false positive results with lateral flow tests. When coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence rates are high, however, Public Health England has advised that the performance of lateral flow devices and PCR tests are broadly comparable for infectivity and expected to be indistinguishable when used at test sites, significantly reducing the need for routine confirmatory testing.

## Consent for testing

Consent for testing in college was previously sent in communication to parents/carers, however we do need a reply for every student, therefore if you haven't yet completed the consent, even if you wish your child to opt out, please complete the online form [here](#). This will aid our planning for when the college fully re-opens.

Thank you for your continued support and the work you are doing at home to support your child's learning.

Yours faithfully

*D. Pickford*

**Mr Pickford**  
**Assistant Headteacher (COVID Lead)**

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