

Covid-19 Academy based Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

The government has asked all schools to test students three times during the initial two weeks of their return. Since the start of term we have been successfully conducting lateral flow tests on students and staff who have been attending the academy. We have a fantastic team of fully trained support staff who have been doing an exceptional job carrying out these tests whilst putting students and staff at ease.

Government data shows areas that carry out mass testing are able to monitor and suppress the spread of the Covid-19 virus more effectively. Whilst testing is voluntary, we strongly encourage parents/carers to give [consent](#) to test their child in order to help us keep everyone in our academy and wider community safe.

After the initial three tests have been completed in the academy, the government has recommended that parents/carers should test secondary school aged children twice each week at home.

What does on-site asymptomatic testing involve?

Students are supervised by fully trained academy staff as they undertake a lateral flow device (LFD) test. The student swabs themselves (throat & nasal swab lasting less than 30 seconds) and the staff will collect the swab, process the test and record the results. Staff will offer reassurance and guidance to students.

Why can't I test at home?

It is very important that initially students are supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly. This is why testing will initially take place on-site.. As a result, Magna Academy will offer students three tests whilst in the academy, three to five days apart, upon their return. Testing on-site initially is a condition of being able to transition students to test at home.

Will my child be tested without my permission?

Testing is voluntary and can only go ahead if the academy has received a completed consent form from the child's parent/carer. Students are still allowed to attend the academy even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

Why is the academy using lateral flow device tests instead of PCR tests?

The government provides all testing equipment for schools. The LFD tests produce results much quicker than PCR tests. With lateral flow tests, a result is available after 30 minutes rather than 1-2 days as is the case with PCR tests. The rapid turnaround has a significant impact on transmission reduction that might occur in the time gap.