



**The South Wolds  
Academy  
and Sixth Form**

21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **IMPORTANT – COVID-19 TESTING AT The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form**

As you will already know keeping our children safe in every way is always our highest priority at The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form. You will also know the extensive actions our community has taken in keeping our children safe within the Covid-19 pandemic and we thank you again for your valued support in this.

Nottinghamshire County Council and Public Health England (PHE) has informed us that coronavirus (COVID-19) cases have been identified in the school are increasing due to transmission in the community and we are now experiencing an outbreak, notable by an increase in reporting of positive lateral flow device (LFD) tests and positive PCR tests.

I understand you might be concerned about this - there have been a number of cases of a new delta variant identified across the UK, so, whilst not uncommon, we are very keen to identify all cases if possible. Therefore, it is very important for everyone in the school to take part in the voluntary testing to stop any onward spread.

The risk of ongoing transmission in the school is believed to be **LOW**, but, as a precautionary measure, PHE and Nottinghamshire County Council would like to identify if there has been any asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 by asking our school community (students and staff in school at this stage) to take a PCR COVID-19 test.

We should all welcome this opportunity to engage with testing to keep our community safe both within and outside of our school. All it takes is a few minutes to support the further spreading of COVID-19 and we strongly encourage all children to take part to prevent further spread.

Before taking the test you will be required to register your consent online. Please follow [this link](#) to give consent. Please note this is a new requirement for consent and does need action from you as a parent or legal guardian for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10: previous consent has been requested for LFD testing on site but not for PCR tests. Year 12 students are of an age to give their own consent and must still complete the online form, following the link above.

**We strongly encourage all students to take a test in order to help stop any potential spread.**

Tests used will be PCR tests which involve taking a swab from the back the throat and nose, in exactly the same way as LFD tests are being carried out at home. Tests are not painful but they can be temporarily uncomfortable. By using PCR testing, positive results can be sent for genomic sequencing at specialist laboratories, helping us to identify variant of concern cases and their spread.

We are setting up mass testing in the sports hall and this will begin on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 for everyone who is on site and has been given consent by a parent or legal guardian (if they are under the age of 16).

Please action this as soon as you can to enable you child to access a PCR test and help to keep the transmission of the virus as low as possible.

**If you have any questions regarding this please contact our admin team via [office@southwolds.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@southwolds.notts.sch.uk) who can direct your query to the appropriate member of staff.**

If you, your child or anyone in your household does develop any symptoms of COVID-19, please treat this as a new possible infection and follow the usual NHS and government guidance on self-isolation and get tested.

If anyone in your household tests positive and needs help (financial, food or medicine) to self-isolate for 10 days, support is available. Please visit this site [click here](#).

It is essential that students and their households continue to test twice weekly with the Lateral Flow tests made available via the school, community test sites or your local pharmacy. You can find details of your nearest facility at: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Please be assured we are following the national guidance about reducing the spread of infection and will continue to work closely Public Health England as required.

Thank you for your support with this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H Angus".

Halina Angus  
Head Teacher