

“It takes a whole community, to bring up a child”



# Ark Boulton Academy

Dear Parent or Guardian,

## Ark Boulton Academy summer and autumn testing arrangements

Thank you for your continued engagement and support with helping to keep Ark Boulton a safe place to learn through consenting to the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results on the NHS covid testing site until the end of the summer term.

If your child is starting at Ark Boulton, in September, they should start testing on arrival at the academy, in the autumn.

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, we expect testing to restart on return in the autumn.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021, we will provide on-site testing for all students. They will take 2 rapid lateral flow tests 3-5 days apart, then continue by regularly testing at home. We can only test your child if you have consented. Consent can be given by completing this short [form](#). **This form must be completed even if you have given consent before.**

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result and guardians will also be informed. You will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

You must report the results of the tests that your child takes at home, even if their result is negative or void. You should also keep a note of and share your child's results with Ark Boulton Academy. You can do this by completing this [form](#) after every test.

Reporting results is easy. Go to [NHS website](#) or call 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language.

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.

Yours faithfully,

Ark Boulton Academy

*Herminster K Channa OBE JP – Executive Principal*

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“Growing together, reaching higher”