

4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this note finds you and your family well. I am certain that you wanted to hear more about the testing programme that we will be launching at Jewellery Quarter Academy, from Monday 11th January for Year 11 students, and all other year groups: week beginning 18th January.

As we have done since September, we will do everything we can to help keep staff and students safe, and in the classroom. Following the Government guidance, my team and I have already begun to develop plans for testing and will be using the early days of term to fine-tune them. Here is what we know so far about the rapid testing programme recently announced:

- Students who are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be eligible
- All staff members will be eligible
- While testing will be optional, we strongly encourage staff and students to take part
- We will not ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate)
- Those students returning to the Academy first will be offered testing first
- If someone tests **negative**, they will still need to follow our social distancing and hygiene measures, which includes maintaining a safe distance from 'others' at all times and to wear appropriate face shields – except for in the classroom setting. All students should hand wash and sanitise frequently.
- If someone tests **positive**, we will ask them to self-isolate in line with government guidance

I will be able to share more details in the coming days including a consent form and an instructional leaflet.

Students have responded exceptionally well to the COVID arrangements we have introduced this year - I am very proud of them and confident they will react maturely to this latest measure.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and co-operation during these challenging times, and to wish you and your family a safe and Happy New Year.

Kind regards.



Mr. G. Williams

Headteacher