

Furness Academy  
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16 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the letter Mr Laheney sent out on Monday, you will be aware that we are working with the Local Education Authority and Cumbria County Council as a pilot school for the Lateral Flow Testing for students and staff. The testing will take place on Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 January 2021. Students will be invited onto the school site to undertake the test on one of these days by prior appointment. It is estimated that the testing procedures will take between 30 minutes to 1 hour to complete.

The County Council has already taken delivery of over 400,000 test kits and we are in daily contact with them as the procedures for the test days are being finalised. The success of this process will be aided by having the largest number of students and staff possible tested. In order for us to process further with dates and time slots, we do require to gain consent for your child to be tested.

Although conducting mass testing has many positives for our school and community, this testing is optional. You as parent/carers and your child both need to be in agreement that you wish to proceed with the testing. Once we have collated numbers for the Local Authority, we will be able to confirm the date and time of your child's test.

You will find detailed information about the actual test below. Please read and discuss it with your child. Mr Laheney did hold a virtual assembly on Tuesday to all students explaining and demonstrating the lateral flow process. Once you have discussed it with your son/daughter, can you please follow the link at the end of this letter to let us know what you have decided. This must be completed whatever your decision. Although I realise that this is a very tight turn around, we must have the form returned by **Thursday 17 December 2020 at 5.00pm** to ensure we can give the Local Authority the information that they require and for us to start the final planning.

At present, we have put aside three days to do 1,275 tests which includes all students and staff at Furness Academy. If there are significant numbers of students that do not consent to a test, we will adjust the number of days accordingly.

On the day of the test, parents/carers may park on our school site and wait for their child to return. However, they must wait in the car to minimise the number of contacts in the school building. Students will be kept 2 metres from all others at all times and should arrive wearing a face covering. Those carrying out the testing will have medical PPE. Obviously, due to the need for social distancing, until the testing is carried out we cannot allow students to come to the test centre on public or school transport. Students will need to either walk and ensure that they do not come into contact with others, or preferably be driven to school by a parent or carer. Members of Furness Academy staff will be supervising students and assisting with testing at all times, ensuring there will be someone they recognise in the test pod itself.

In order to process forward, we require you to complete the form via the link below by Thursday 17 December 2020, at 5.00pm

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=POxdRVMlek-3rHlzMkosRej0EVAmF9xMu4FRaliVSHIUMUdHWkwwMFFPTII1R0IWRks4RkpWRjZLRi4u>

Further information will be sent out as soon as we have collated the responses and confirmed with the Local Authority that this will go ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Robinson  
Deputy Headteacher



Furness Education Trust  
Company No. 06895426  
Registered Address: Park Drive, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA13 9BB



## Lateral Flow Testing in School

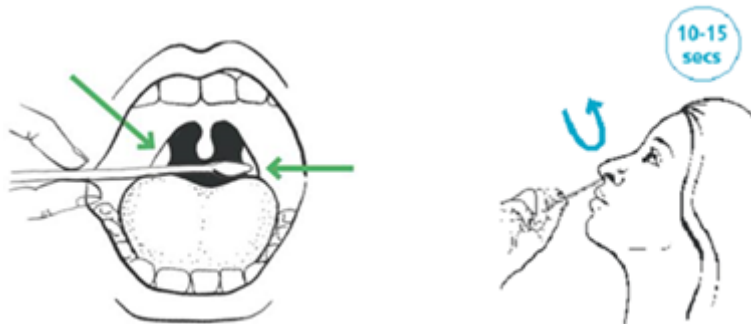
### Aim and Process

Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) are rapid tests that can process COVID-19 samples on site without the need for laboratory equipment and are able to generate results in around half an hour. They help identify COVID-19 infections for asymptomatic people (those who may be affected but do not display symptoms). The fast turnaround of these tests allows positive people to self-isolate quickly and further reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

Testing will take place in a dedicated area which will be set up in school following strict safety guidelines.

On arrival students and participating staff should wear or will be provided with a face covering at all times and will be directed by school staff when to attend for testing. Trained personnel will welcome them to the test area and provide full information on how to register and complete the test.

The tests involve taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose. This can be done by the person themselves depending on age and ability to do so.



The sample taken is transferred to an absorbent pad on the testing device by a trained test assistant. After half an hour this then shows the result in a small window (similar to a pregnancy test)

Step by step instructions will be provided to all together with support throughout the process.

Following each test, staff will let each person know how and when they will receive their result.

If a test is positive, the person will need to take and register a confirmatory PCR test. A PCR test is conducted in the same way by taking a swab from the throat and nose but this sample requires to be sent away for laboratory testing and this needs to be sought via the normal NHS booking arrangements.

Then they should return home and isolate immediately. If their confirmatory PCR is positive, their household or bubble will also need to self-isolate and NHS Test and Trace may be in touch to contact trace.

The whole process is guided and samples processed by trained personnel following safe operating procedures and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

The tests are completely voluntary, free of charge and will require parental consent for students.