

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge with you all how grateful we are for such a fabulously quick return of the Lateral Flow Testing consent forms. At the time of writing, we have had 1,077 replies from a possible 1,081; thank you so much as these numbers are essential to enable us to do the planning that is required. Consent has been granted by you for over 1,000 students, which means that over 93% of our total school population will be tested. This is a monumental show of solidarity from our school community and, once again, demonstrates our collective responsibility to do what we know is right. We should be proud that we take our civic duty so seriously.

We have already taken delivery of all of the necessary equipment and PPE provided by the Local Authority, including 5,000 Type II fluid repellent face masks, so that we can be fully Covid secure during the testing days.

You may have read about the ridiculously late announcement from the Department for Education for mass testing after the festive break in all secondary schools and colleges nationally. Unlike the schools in this Cumbrian pilot, which includes all the secondary schools in Barrow and Dalton, these schools will have had no time to plan or even think about the complexities of a task this big. I would like to acknowledge on your behalf, my gratitude to Colin Cox, Director of Public Health Cumbria, and Dan Barton, Assistant Director of Education and Skills, for their forethought and strategic thinking that has allowed this Cumbrian pilot to come to fruition. Given their soothsaying capabilities, I might be tapping them up for this week's lottery numbers.

As you are aware, we will be closed to all students on Monday 4, Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 January to enable the lateral flow testing to take place. All students will receive a letter giving them a precise time to attend the academy for their test. Parents can accompany their child, if they choose to, and stay with them throughout the process. Even though the registration and test process will only take 10-15 minutes, it will be sensible to assume there could be some waiting required and, therefore, be prepared to give up more time.

We intend to process the testing in the following order:

<b>Date and session</b>	<b>Group tested</b>
Monday 4 January - am	All Furness Academy staff
Monday 4 January - pm	Year 11
Tuesday 5 January - am	Year 9
Tuesday 5 January - pm	Year 8
Wednesday 6 January - am	Year 10
Wednesday 6 January - pm	Year 7

We understand that there will be some anxiety felt and so, in the same way that we created a short video when we re-opened after the first national lockdown, we will create and post a short video of what students can expect on arrival for their test and how the process in school will work. This will go on the normal social media channels and be emailed to you in advance.

I hope that you find this information useful and if there are any questions about any of this, please do send your query to [masstesting@furnessacademy.co.uk](mailto:masstesting@furnessacademy.co.uk) and I will get back to you.

Thanks, again, for your cooperation and support, it will always be very welcome. Have a peaceful, restful break and a merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.P. Laheney', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Simon Laheney  
**Headteacher & Chief Executive Officer**