



# KESH

KING EDWARD VI  
SHELDON HEATH ACADEMY

King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy  
Sheldon Heath Road, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 2RZ.  
Tel: 0121 647 2471  
enquiries@keshacademy.com  
www.keshacademy.com

12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent

As you may already know, the Department for Education has instructed all schools and colleges to offer mass testing to all students and staff, which took place at the start of term, thank you for those that consented.

The aim of this is to make our education community safer and limit the transmission of Covid-19.

This academy is undergoing a Quality Assurance exercise to support NHS Test & Trace and I am writing to you to let you know what this involves.

Dual Testing Quality Assurance is due to run from 15.12.21 and finish on 31.1.22 after which the academy will revert to the current testing protocols.

### What does Dual Testing involve?

We will invite parents of students who already perform LFD tests at home to pick up a **single use PCR kit** from the academy reception on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 between 830am & 4.30pm** so that their child can perform a PCR test alongside their usual LFD test on the Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January.

This is so NHS Test & Trace can compare results from these testing technologies or methods. Ongoing quality assurance is a key aspect of clinical oversight for the NHS Test and Trace testing programme and enables DHSC to verify that test kits are safe and effective, tests are conducted in a safe and correct manner and that the results are correctly reported and acted upon.

As with current LFD testing processes, the PCR test is carried out at home and not on our premises.

The PCR kit will include instructions on how to perform the PCR swab and instructions will be supplied to pupils/students on how to return PCR swabs with PCR kits.

The information attached to this letter will explain the Quality Assurance exercise in more detail. Should you have any questions, please contact Denise Hopkins or Jack Ashford at the academy info@keshacademy.com.

I would like to stress that whilst we encourage everyone to participate in the Quality Assurance exercise, no one will be forced to dual test, and I would like to make clear that doing so is optional.

I hope that the information attached will give you re-assurance that the tests are safe, reliable and will help keep COVID 19 transmissions to a minimum within the school and wider community.

Kind Regards,

Yours faithfully,

Ms R Elcocks  
Principal



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Principal: Ms R. Elcocks

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## Information on Quality Assurance Dual Testing at Home

### Why do we need Quality Assurance?

Quality assurance helps us monitor the following:

- Test kits and supplies provided are safe and effective
- Tests are conducted in a safe and correct manner
- Results of the testing are reported, and acted upon for positive cases
- Testing is accessible and acceptable to students and staff in schools
- There is sufficient uptake of testing to help reduce transmission of Covid-19 through asymptomatic spread

Quality assurance will be ongoing and is an essential part of NHS Test and Trace in schools.

### What does this mean for me?

- This programme will focus on home self-tests and is optional.
- Those who opt in for Quality Assurance will be provided a single use PCR kit, in addition to their LFD kits to take home.
- You will be asked to dual test using both tests – the PCR swab will also act as a confirmatory PCR test if the LFD result is positive.

The PCR and LFD test must be linked together via a web page which takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Instructions on how to do this can be found in the Participant Information Sheet and Addendum Sheet which will be supplied by the school/college.

- The LFD and PCR results will be processed allowing NHS Test & Trace to understand the performance between the two tests.
- The PCR test also acts a confirmatory PCR test if the LFD result is positive – further registration will be required, and instructions will be in the Participant Information Sheet & Addendum.





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### What will you supply in addition to the LFD tests?

- 1 x PCR kit bag (Grey bag containing instructions on how to complete the PCR swab including a pre-paid Royal Mail flatpack box).
- 1 x Participant Information Sheet

All testing is on a voluntary basis. individuals can opt out of dual testing and still attend school unless:

- They are symptomatic (they will need to perform a PCR test and if found to be positive, please inform the school as soon as possible and continue self-isolating in line with the national guidance.)



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