



# Northgate High School

*Inspiring excellence, fulfilling potential*

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**Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA: Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent or guardian,

We hope you've all had a pleasant Christmas break and Happy New Year to you all. Thank you for your patience whilst we navigate the developing directives from the Government. We're aware these are likely to change again, but at the time of writing we are looking forward to welcoming back Year 13 and 11 ONLY on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and the Years 12, 10, 9, 8 and 7 from Monday 18<sup>th</sup>.

If, however, your son/daughter is classified as being the child of a critical worker, or a vulnerable student, they can attend from tomorrow and will follow the same curriculum in school as others are from home. Students should start the day in their own Year group area and will remain in 'bubbles' for the duration.

All work will be set via Satchel:One, the same system that all students already use to access their homework. All completed work should be uploaded to Satchel:One when completed unless students are specifically directed to do otherwise. Where appropriate, tasks can be completed by hand and then a photo of the work uploaded to Satchel:One. One of the benefits of using Satchel:One is it will allow us to see who has logged into the programme and who has accessed individual lesson work. The school/college will be in contact with students and families if it looks like students have not been accessing the work.

If students and families have issues accessing Satchel:One, Miss Brooks ([cbrooks@ng6.unity-ed.uk](mailto:cbrooks@ng6.unity-ed.uk)) is the first person to contact. If students are unable to access their school email account they should contact Mr Newman ([tnewman@unity-ed.uk](mailto:tnewman@unity-ed.uk)) who will be able to provide further assistance.

After attempting the initial work, students in Years 11 and 13 may also be given the opportunity to take part in an online video tutorial with their teacher. Teachers will send out the details of the dates and times of these sessions when the initial work is set on Satchel:One.

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students**

We are working to keep Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school and college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no



symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our sites open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all staff and secondary school and college age students who want to participate from week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We have also emailed an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the online consent form by following the link <https://forms.gle/S5wMEj4bfoTwJFM9A>

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). We may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home if necessary or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

They will be able to stay in school or college and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?**

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school or college if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of our school and college who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at Northgate is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119

(England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Yours faithfully,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left is 'Z. F. Galley' and the second signature on the right is 'D. Hone'.

Mrs Z Galley and Dr D Hone  
Heads of Northgate High School, Dereham Sixth Form College and DESA