

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 and Year 10 Students

The Government announced on Friday that plans were being made to roll out mass testing in parts of North East London due to the rise of positive COVID cases among secondary school age children 11-18 years old. I can now confirm that Elutec Academy will be amongst the first secondary schools in Barking and Dagenham to offer mass testing to students. We are prioritising years 10 to 13 as this is where infection rates in young people are highest. The NHS Test and Trace team will be testing students who want to participate. Along with the other measures the government are taking, these tests will help reduce the risk of people without symptoms transmitting the virus in the community. The test is voluntary but I would strongly encourage all students to get tested.

We will have a mobile test unit at Eastbrook School on **Thursday 17th December**.

Each student will need to:

- bring a mobile device to register
- wear a mask

Important information for students.

This is a throat and nose swab which is self-administered and is undertaken under the direction and supervision of the testing team.

You should not have a test if you have been tested positive in the last 90 days. This is because dead virus remains and is likely to give a false positive.

As this is a test for those without symptoms (asymptomatic) you do not need to self-isolate while you are waiting for the result.

What if the test is positive?

If the results of the test is positive, you will need to self-isolate. For the person who has a confirmed case of Covid-19, self-isolation will be needed for 10 days, and household members for 10 days. **Please inform the school as soon as you receive this test result by emailing Principal@elutec.co.uk**

In order to carry out the test during school hours we need your consent. Please return the reply slip on the accompanying letter.

I do hope that all year 10, 11, 12 and 13 year students at Elutec Academy are tested. The reassurance this gives each family, the school community and the support it provides our borough in fighting this virus is truly immense. If as a family you can get tested together at a local test centre, we would encourage you to do so particularly if you are meeting with elderly relatives over the Christmas period.

Yours sincerely



Ms K Donovan
Principal