

March 2021

Dear Families

### **Year 7 and Year 9 ONS Testing at Dixons Kings Academy**

Dixons Kings Academy are taking part in a study to monitor infection and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in a sample of Primary and Secondary schools.

#### **Why?**

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Public Health England (PHE) are carrying out the study to find out how many students and staff have the infection, how many have already developed antibodies against the virus and how this changes over the course of the year. We carried out the first round of testing with staff, Years 7 and 9 in December 2020. The information collected will help inform policies that protect students and staff.

#### **What does it involve?**

If you consent for your child to be tested, you will need to sign up using the following URL: <https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup?id=cisschools&referralcode=137277> and then complete a short questionnaire about your child and other household members. The study workers will visit the school on Monday 22 March 2021 and undertake the tests in the same way as the return to school tests have been carried out. Students will conduct the tests themselves, taking a nasal swab and then a saliva sample to test for both coronavirus and antibodies. This will be a very short process and your child will miss no more than five minutes of their lesson.

#### **How can my child take part?**

1. Read the information provided on our website: <https://www.dixonska.com/news-events/news/schools-infection-survey-update>
2. Use the following URL to access the sign up and questionnaire: <https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup?id=cisschools&referralcode=137277>
3. Please validate your email address by clicking the link in the sign up validation email
4. Log in to the system using your email address and password
5. Click on 'Child Registration Page' and register your child. Our school code is: **137277**
6. After registering your child, click on 'Home' to complete the registration

Participants that test positive for the virus will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace as soon as possible. All results will also be made available on the Schools Infection Survey portal (SIS), and you will be emailed as soon as these become available.

We would really appreciate your consent and support with participation in the programme. This will contribute towards keeping the whole school safe and open, and on a wider scale, support other schools in the country with their management of safety regarding the coronavirus in school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K Lang  
Senior Vice Principal

