



THE DEAN TRUST
Lord Derby Academy

Chief Executive: Mr Tarun Kapur CBE
Academies Director: Mr Barry Bridden MEd MSc
Headteacher: Miss Victoria Gowan NPQH

5th November 2020

To all Parent/Carers of Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that Lord Derby Academy has been randomly selected to take part in the COVID-19 Schools Infection Survey. This study has been commissioned by the Department for Health and Social Care, the School of Tropical Medicine in London and the Office for National Statistics to monitor infection and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools across England and to learn more about the virus.

We are one of 150 schools in England that have been invited to take part in this study (including another Dean Trust secondary school). We have accepted the invite to take part and our school has been registered.

I have enclosed a letter and information sheets to ensure that you are fully informed prior to making any decisions in relation to participating in the study.

Please take the time to read all the information attached. Pupils will also watch a video explaining the process. This can be viewed using the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/467359125/22bbe81c3b>

As part of the study, staff and pupils from across Year 8 and Year 9 will have the opportunity to take part in a repeat testing programme which will be undertaken at half-termly intervals throughout the school year. For the Autumn term, the first round of testing will be undertaken in schools starting on 19th November 2020.

Please note that participation in the study/testing is completely voluntary and you may choose not to have your child take part or to withdraw them from testing at any point - with no questions asked.

If you choose to opt in to the study then firstly you will be required to complete a consent form for your child and an online questionnaire (all details can be found in the attached letter) You may also use the link below to register your child:

<https://www.oc-meridian.com/Desktop/Portal/signup?id=cisschools&referralcode=140412>

Testing for pupils will include a Covid-19 Test via nasal swab and also an Antibody Test via an oral fluid swab (all details of how the tests will be conducted is attached to this letter. Both tests will be completed at the same time and only positive cases will be communicated to you and to the school. Any positive results are also reported to the NHS Trace and Trace system.

Believe Achieve Succeed

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w: www.thedeantrust.co.uk

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Our school contact for this project is Miss Ward - therefore if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

You do not need to notify school of your intentions but you must complete the online consent and registration by 10th November 2020 in order for your child to be included in the study.

Yours sincerely,

Miss V Gowan
Headteacher

Enc

- *Letter to Parents from PHE/Office for National Statistics/London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine*
- *Parent Information Sheet*
- *How to take a nose swab sheet*
- *How to take an oral fluid swab*

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