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About your North Ken News

North Ken News is a dedicated newsletter for North Kensington communities produced by Kensington and Chelsea Council.

Have you got news for us?

We are always on the lookout for good news stories, whether they are about an event you are running, a local hero who is working wonders in your community or a programme or course that local residents could benefit from.

If you would like to get in touch with an idea or story, please email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Tell us what you think

We're interested in hearing your feedback about North Ken News. We want to produce a newsletter which you enjoy reading and you find useful, so please let us know what you'd like to see more of. Email us at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Covid-19

Information on our Coronavirus response and guidance is correct at the time of going to press. For the latest updates, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/coronavirus

Staying in touch

There are other ways to keep up to date with borough-wide news as well as news and announcements from Kensington and Chelsea Council.

 [@RBKC](https://twitter.com/RBKC)  www.facebook.com/royalborough


 www.nextdoor.co.uk

 www.instagram.com/kensingtonandchelseacouncil

For updates on Grenfell

 [@GrenfellUpdates](https://twitter.com/GrenfellUpdates)

 www.rbkc.gov.uk/grenfell

 To stay up to date with the latest news and events sign up to our newsletter mailing list, visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search K&C Life

If you would like to opt out of receiving North Ken News or would prefer to read it online, please let us know at northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk

Register to vote ahead of local elections

The local borough elections are on Thursday 5 May 2022. This is your chance to vote for your local ward councillor. Details on all the candidates standing in the election will be published on our website.

A councillor's primary role is to represent their ward and the people who live in it. They provide a bridge between the community and the Council. So, if you want your voice to be heard, make sure you are registered to vote.

The last date to register to vote is **Thursday 14 April** and the quickest way to do this is online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

If you want to apply for a postal vote or need to amend your current one, you have until 5pm on **Tuesday 19 April**.

If you are unable to vote in person but would like someone to do this on your behalf, you have until 5pm on **Tuesday 26 April** to apply for a proxy vote.

More information on the different ways you can vote can be found on the Electoral Commission website
www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter

You can also download the relevant application form from the same website.

Alternatively, you can contact the Kensington and Chelsea Electoral Services team at elect@rbkc.gov.uk or via telephone on 020 7361 3444 from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

What's next for North Ken News?

This North Ken News (February 2022) will be the last monthly edition of the newsletter. Following this edition, we will be producing North Ken News every other month, meaning you will receive editions for April, June, August, October and December this year.

Thanks to your comments and feedback to our survey, we'll be able to make sure the newsletter is better suited to the wants and needs of readers as we settle into the new schedule. Over 450 people took the time to respond with their comments on North Ken News and we'll be sharing a report on our findings in the coming months.

Your responses were extremely helpful and we really appreciate everyone who took the time to get in touch. **We'll be contacting the winner of the £50 One4All voucher in the coming weeks.**

GET INVOLVED

We want to make sure you continue to shape North Ken News. If you would like to be more involved in the production of the newsletter, please see the following links and contact details:

▶ Submit stories

If you have a story for North Ken News, please email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk to let us know more. You can submit full copy or simply some bullet points explaining the story. While we can't feature every story that's submitted, we do our best to give a platform to submissions that will benefit the community. Also consider sending images alongside your submission.

▶ Join the content call-out

If you don't have a story right now but would like to receive our content call-outs, email northkennews@rbkc.gov.uk to request that your email is added to the call-out list.

▶ Read previous editions

If you'd like to find out more about the newsletter or view all the previous editions of North Ken News, you can find them on the Council website at www.rbkc.gov.uk/newsroom/north-ken-news



Courses in English, Business Admin, IT and more with Nova

If you're looking to build your confidence and skills in English Language (IELTS & ESOL), IT, Business Admin, Personal Finance or Democracy and Law, Nova may have a course for you.



Their highly experienced tutors host small and friendly classes which can focus-in on your specific needs. There are both online and face-to-face options available in either the daytime or the evening.

Nova will provide a range of strategies, tests and materials that prepare you for exams needed to secure real qualifications.

All courses are free following a £35 admin fee per term. Some exemptions apply.

Contact Nova to find out more about how they can help you build your skills.

Visit www.novanew.org.uk email admin@novanew.org.uk or call 020 8960 2488



Carve out a career in construction at the Building Lives Academy

An academy dedicated to teaching young people in Kensington and Chelsea the skills they need for careers in construction is open for applications.

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis – sign up by emailing your contact details to Maria Roye at m.roye@londonlc.org.uk or calling London Learning Consortium on **07940 751767**.

The Building Lives Academy, based in North Kensington, is an 11-week programme designed to prepare 16-to-24-year-old residents of the borough for a move into an apprenticeship, job or higher-level training in construction or logistics.

Trainees are fully funded and can gain qualifications in areas including construction skills, health and safety and employability as well as benefiting from on-site experience, access to personal branding workshops and the chance to learn maths, English and digital skills.

The Academy launched in January 2022 from Kensington and Chelsea Council-owned premises provided to Willmott Dixon under a social investment lease.

You can also find out more at www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/traineeship/-700354



The future of Grenfell Tower

Grenfell community update from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

The Secretary of State for DLUHC, Michael Gove MP, wrote in December to bereaved families, survivors and residents. He said that he will not be taking a decision about the future of Grenfell Tower at this time.

Out of respect to those who have not yet had their say about the future of the tower, more time is being given for conversations. He will write again shortly with further details about what you can expect from these conversations. You can see the letter at www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates

For more information on the tower site, and to ask questions and share concerns, join the next monthly community online Q&A meeting on:

- ▶ Tuesday 8 February 2022, 6pm to 7pm
- ▶ Join on Microsoft Teams with this link: msteams.link/9P9T
- ▶ Or dial in on **020 3795 5763** and enter conference ID: **590 428 549#**

If you have been affected by the Grenfell Tower tragedy and would like support, please contact the Grenfell Health and Wellbeing Service on **020 8637 6279** or go to www.grenfellwellbeing.com

Tower site update

As part of the ongoing works to keep the tower safe and stable, additional metal supports or 'props' are being installed in the tower. The next phase of works will extend these into the basement and include putting in a small lift through the west side of the tower at basement level so that heavy equipment can be removed.

Small sections of the outer tower wrapping may need to be briefly removed and replaced to fit the lift. The work is expected to end in March and will be done as sensitively and considerately as possible. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the site management team at GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call **030 3444 0011**.

Building safety

Last month, the government set out a new plan to protect leaseholders by making industry pay for the cladding crisis. To find out more, visit www.gov.uk/search/news-and-communications and search 'cladding crisis'.

Substation move

The relocation of the electricity substation from the ground floor of Grenfell Tower to near Kensington Leisure Centre is expected to be complete later this month. You can read about the move at www.gov.uk/grenfell-community-updates

For more information, please contact the Council's Lancaster West Neighbourhood Team at lancasterwestoffice@rbkc.gov.uk

Local opportunities

Would you like to shape the opportunities that DUK, the Grenfell Tower site contractor, provides to the local community? If so, please email GrenfellTowerSite@communities.gov.uk or call **030 3444 0011**.



Still time to have your say on housing allocations

There's still time for you to have your say on how Kensington and Chelsea Council allocates its limited supply of social housing by taking part in a consultation into a new Housing Allocations scheme.

The 12-week consultation is seeking your feedback on issues including who can join the Council's housing register, how they should be prioritised and how homes are ultimately allocated.

A fair and effective Housing Allocations scheme is vital in a borough with more than 3,000 households on its housing register and only around 400 homes – the majority studio or one-bedroom properties – available each year.

Have your say on housing allocations

Share your views on how we allocate homes by **24 February 2022**.

The consultation is open now and will run until Thursday 24 February 2022. To take part, visit consult.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/housing-allocations-scheme

Transform your community with City Living, Local Life

Do you have an idea for a community project? Or are you looking for support with a project to make your area a better place to live? Get in touch with a member of the City Living, Local Life (CLLL) team on VoluntarySector@rbkc.gov.uk to find out how to apply and make your idea a reality.

CLLL brings local people together to discuss needs, share ideas and offer support to help you deliver projects that serve your community.

Think you have an idea worth putting in place? Ward councillors are at the heart of this work and help prioritise projects and activities that are led by the community.

Visit www.rbkc.gov.uk and search City Living Local Life.



North Ken startup combines learning with gaming

Xplorealsms, an Acklam Road-based educational tech startup, has been working with local schools, children, businesses and residents to deliver a range of exciting and educational games for young people to download. Its latest game features the Tudors and they are currently working on a game about the challenges facing us in tackling climate change.

The immersive games are fun, interactive, and align with the national curriculum for seven-to-14-year-olds. Play testing sessions have taken place at Bevington School, receiving rave reviews from testers.

There's already a range of games available on the Xplorealsms app, using artificial intelligence gaming technology and augmented reality.

If you or your child enjoys gaming and wants to get ahead in their learning, download Xplorealsms to experience it for yourself.

To find out more, visit www.xplorealsms.com or email hello@xplorealsms.com



Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission

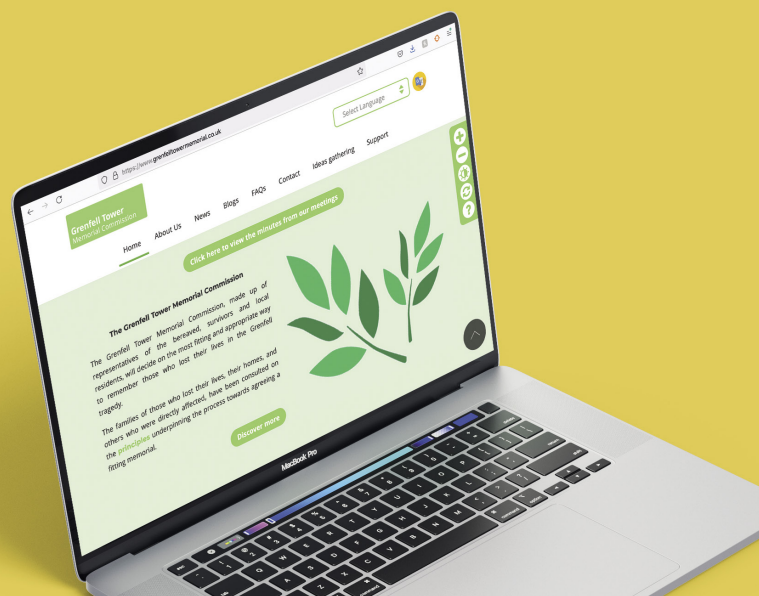
For the latest news from the independent Memorial Commission, including about its upcoming community meetings, please visit www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk

**Grenfell Tower
Memorial Commission**

▶ To sign up to the group's newsletter or send a message through its website, visit their contact page
www.grenfelltowermemorial.co.uk/contact

▶ To contact the Commission directly, email GTMCSecretariat@communities.gov.uk or call **0303 444 4831**

▶ For regular updates, follow the Memorial Commission on Twitter [@GrenfellTowerMC](https://twitter.com/GrenfellTowerMC) and Instagram www.instagram.com/grenfelltowermc



Help decide how £1.3m could benefit the Grenfell-affected community

Would you like to influence how the remaining £1.3m Curve budget should be spent to benefit the North Kensington community? If so, don't miss The Curve Community Meeting on **Tuesday 15 February from 7pm to 8.45pm at The Curve, 10 Bard Road.**

This is a chance for the Grenfell-affected community to come together and start the process of co-designing the new Curve Residents' Steering Group. This steering group will have responsibility for establishing an independent Community Trust comprising members of the North Kensington community. The Trust will oversee the remaining Curve budget and ensure it is delivering projects and initiatives that the community want and need.

Last year a 'Community Conversation' took place to discuss the future of The Curve after confirmation that the lease for the current Curve building on Bard Road is due to end in July 2022. The conversation asked how the community wanted The Curve's remaining budget to be spent when the Curve ceases to operate from Bard Road on Thursday 31 March 2022.

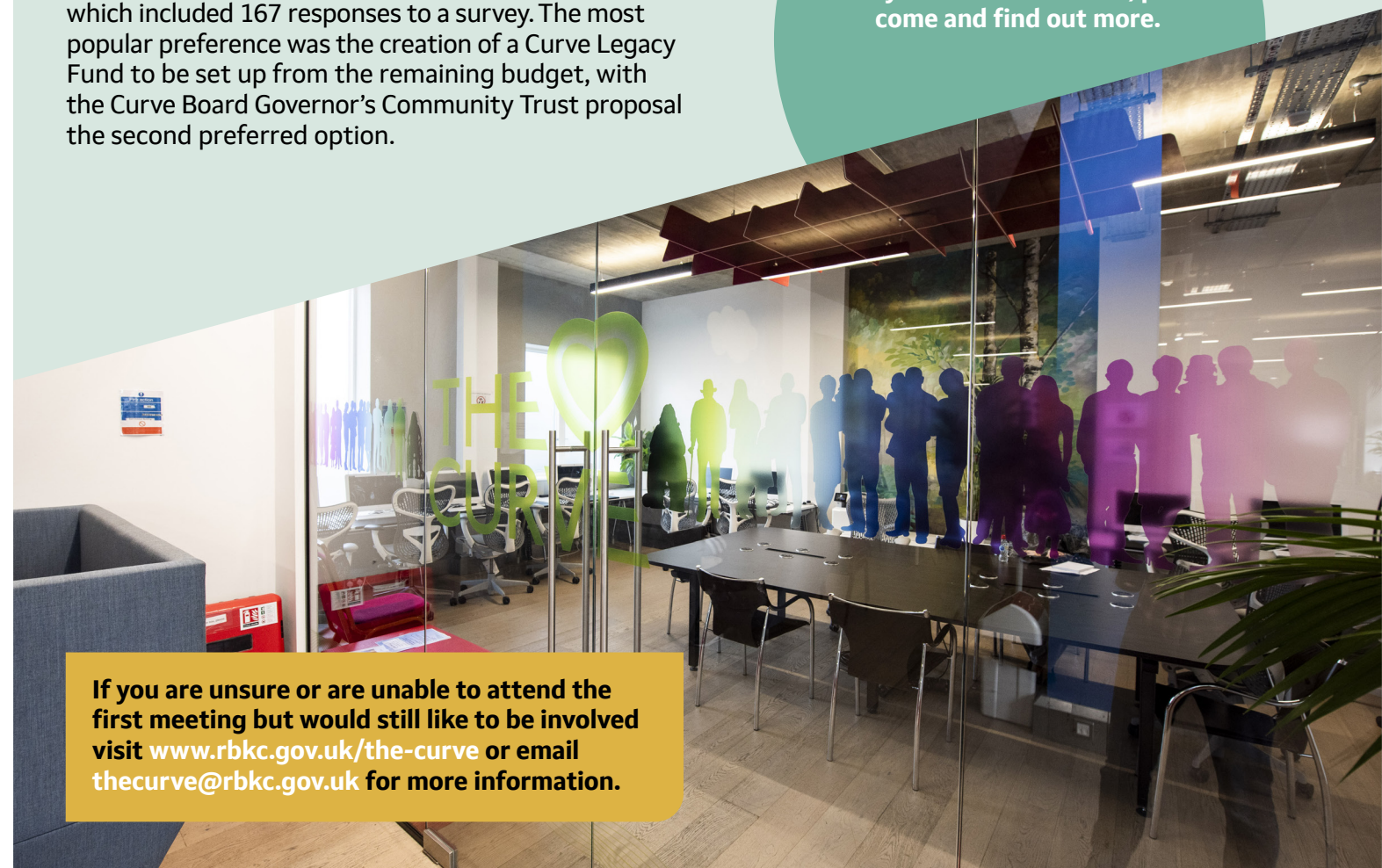
A total of 218 residents took part in the consultation which included 167 responses to a survey. The most popular preference was the creation of a Curve Legacy Fund to be set up from the remaining budget, with the Curve Board Governor's Community Trust proposal the second preferred option.

This community meeting will be the first in a series of meetings where you can:

- ▶ Hear more about how you can be involved in the future of the Curve Fund and ask any questions you may have
- ▶ Start the process of co-designing the Curve Residents' Steering Group
- ▶ Start the discussion around who and how local residents should be appointed to the Steering Group
- ▶ Hear from the Curve's Board of Governors and the Council's Head of Community Participation

If you're passionate about ensuring the Grenfell-affected community gets to decide how this money could benefit them, please come and find out more.

If you are unsure or are unable to attend the first meeting but would still like to be involved visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/the-curve or email thecurve@rbkc.gov.uk for more information.



North Ken exhibition to shed light on Windrush generation

An artifact exhibition called **Windrush Generation: London is the Place for Me** is coming to North Kensington Library on **Windrush Day**, from **Wednesday 22 June until Friday 28 October**, and to the **Harrow Road Library in Queens Park**, celebrating the lives of the borough's Windrush heroes.

The Windrush Generation are the Caribbean men and women who aided the reconstruction of Britain post WWII and beyond. This exhibition will give insight to the lives and experiences of these everyday heroes. It will also offer the opportunity to hear individual accounts of their contributions to the borough and to British culture.

We want to hear about the triumphs and struggles the Windrush Generation overcame as they navigated their way through post-war London. The Windrush Taskforce invites those who lived through this period to contribute to the exhibition by sharing their experiences and artefacts, such as passports, photographs, letters, travel tickets, newspaper clippings, books, suitcases, clothing, Dutch pots, records, and any other notable items from the Windrush Generation, along with their accompanying stories.



If you would like to take part in the exhibition please email windrush1@rbkc.gov.uk or windrush@westminster.gov.uk

We will share more information about the exhibition in the summer as it prepares to open.



m.v. 'EMPIRE WINDRUSH' 14,651 tons



To register, please visit
gca_community_safety.eventbrite.co.uk

February's Grenfell Community Assembly to be held in-person

The next Grenfell Community Assembly is being held this month on Tuesday 22 February from 5.30pm until 8pm.

Due to public health concerns, we planned to host the event online via Zoom. However, given the change in government guidance and our understanding that residents prefer to attend the Assemblies in-person, we have decided to proceed with February's event face-to-face at **Al Manaar Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, Acklam Road, W10 5YG.**

The Assembly will focus on community safety, a topic that was selected by North Kensington residents, and offer attendees refreshments and access to information stands from 5.30pm.

From 6pm, a number of roundtable discussions will be held covering the following themes:

- ✓ Serious youth violence
- ✓ Violence against women and girls
- ✓ Modern slavery
- ✓ Antisocial behaviour
- ✓ Hate crime
- ✓ General community safety

These discussions will give residents the opportunity to share their thoughts with members of the Grenfell community, representatives from the Council and officers from the Met Police.

Following the event, we will create a document detailing how the Council and its partner agencies plan to respond to any issues raised throughout the Assembly.

Heat network to deliver clean energy in North Ken

A renewable heat network will deliver affordable and cleaner energy for residents in North Kensington. Kensington and Chelsea Council has received funding from the Government to design and deliver a renewable heat network to help reach its goal to be a carbon neutral council by 2030.

The Council has been awarded over £1.1 million through the Government's heat networks investment project (HNIP). Large air source heat pumps and an electric boiler will be able to provide renewable heating and hot water to 826 existing homes in North Kensington and several buildings and businesses. The scheme is expected to save 1,400 tonnes of carbon per year over the first 15 years of operation.

Around 80 per cent of the homes that will connect to the network are currently heated by two heat networks which are over 40 years old, and the remainder use individual combi boilers. By using air

source heat pump technology the Notting Dale heat network will be zero carbon from 2030, supporting the Council's plans for the borough to become net zero carbon by 2040.

It is hoped that the Notting Dale heat network will act as a blueprint for the rest of the borough, with funding already secured for a £150,000 research project which will find additional renewable energy sources available to the Council to generate clean, flexible and locally generated energy for social rented homes.

The ultimate aim is to expand this renewable energy network across the entire borough helping decarbonise its housing stock of just over 9,000 homes as well as public buildings such as schools and leisure centres.

Find out more

Visit www.wearew11.org/en/heat-network



Covid update

Changes to what to do after a positive Rapid Lateral Flow Test (LFT)

If you get a positive LFT result and you don't have Covid-19 symptoms you do not need to take a follow-up PCR test. You must self-isolate immediately and report your result on www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. If you want to apply for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment, you will need to get a confirmatory PCR test. Go to www.rbkc.gov.uk and search financial support during covid.

Changes to isolation period following a positive test

The isolation period following a positive test result has changed. You can now leave self-isolation after five full days, **if you do a rapid lateral flow test (LFT) on days five and six of your self-isolation period and:**

- ▶ **both tests are negative**
- ▶ **you did the tests at least 24 hours apart**
- ▶ **you do not have a high temperature**

If you leave self-isolation on or after day six, you are strongly advised to:

- ▶ **wear a face covering and limit your close contact with other people in crowded or poorly ventilated spaces**
- ▶ **work from home if you can**
- ▶ **minimise your contact with anyone who is at higher risk from Covid-19**

Where to get vaccinated

The best way to protect yourself from serious illness or hospitalisation from Covid-19 is to be vaccinated. Although the booster jab gives you the most protection, if you are unvaccinated the first and second jabs will give you significantly more protection than being unvaccinated.

You can book your first, second or booster dose at www.nhs.uk or by calling NHS 119.

The Science Museum in South Kensington is open as a vaccination centre for walk-ins and pre-booked appointments. It is open seven days a week from 8.30am to 7.15pm.

You can also go to St Charles Health and Wellbeing Centre and a number of local pharmacies in the borough, or the vaccine bus which is at locations around the borough. Go to www.rbkc.gov.uk and search Coronavirus FAQ for more details.

Testing

If you have Coronavirus symptoms you can book a PCR test at the forecourt at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX between 9am and 4pm, seven days a week, go to www.nhs.uk or call **NHS 119**. You must book a test and bring your phone when getting the test.

Only get a PCR test if you have Coronavirus symptoms or have been asked to get tested. If you have symptoms, self-isolate immediately. Don't wait for a test or a test result before doing so. If you have no symptoms you should get tested at least twice a week and before periods of higher risk using a Rapid Lateral Flow Test (LFT) in order to prevent asymptomatic people spreading the virus without realising.

You can get this test or collect home tests at Kensington Town Hall Customer Service Centre, Hornton Street, W8 7NX:

- ▶ **8am to 4pm Monday**
- ▶ **10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday**
- ▶ **Closed Saturday and Sunday**

Please do not attend this site if you have Coronavirus symptoms. You can also go to www.gov.uk and click on Coronavirus to order home testing kits.

New travel testing requirements

If you are under 18 or qualify as fully vaccinated, you no longer need to:

- ▶ **take a pre-departure test before you travel to England**
- ▶ **self-isolate when you arrive in England (you should still book and pay for post-arrival tests)**
- ▶ **you can take a lateral flow test instead of a PCR test on or before day 2 after you arrive in England (you must book the test before you travel). If the test is positive, you must self-isolate and take a free NHS PCR test to confirm the result.**