



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Parent /Carer,

9th December 2021

Consent Letter for Lateral Flow Testing – JANUARY 2022 TESTING

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is starting again across the country using COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Schools have been asked to set up the asymptomatic testing stations on site again.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school 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 school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We will be testing all secondary school students who want to participate.

- **If you have** previously given consent for your child to be tested there is no need to complete an online consent form.
- **If you haven't** previously given consent but now wish for your child to participate in the school's testing programme, please contact covid19testing@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk and a link to the online form will be sent to you.

Important information about the testing process in school at the start of the Spring term 2022

Covid-19 vaccinated students

Any student who has had a Covid-19 vaccination within the last 14 days leading up to your allocated testing date, will not be required to have a test in school.

Testing positive for Covid-19

If you have previously given consent for testing in school but have tested positive for Covid-19 within the last 90 days leading up to your allocated testing date, you will not be required to have a test in school. Please advise the school via covid19testing@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk with this information.

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

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a student tests positive?

For students who test positive parent/carers will be informed about their results individually. Students 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). School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform

at home or you can go to 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 follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Parent/carers will only be informed if the test is positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students 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?

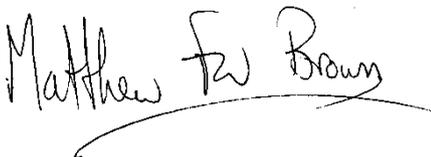
There is no longer a period of self-isolation for close contacts. Again, NHS track and trace will be in touch with you if your child is identified as a close contact of a positive case.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the school or email covid19testing@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher