



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

Headteacher Matthew Brown BA(Hons) DMS(Ed)

Blackfen School for Girls,
Blackfen Road,
Sidcup, Kent.
DA15 9NU
T: 020 8303 1887

E: admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk
www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk

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Autumn testing arrangements

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme.

The asymptomatic testing programme was paused for students in secondary schools and colleges that were closed over the summer holidays.

Testing will restart on return in the autumn. We expect to offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home.

Students who have been provided with consent will have 2 tests in school. Following the 2nd test in school, your child will receive a pack of tests to administer twice a week at home. I urge you, if you have not provided consent yet, to do so as soon as possible. Without consent, we cannot test and your child cannot therefore be given the home testing kits. I realise that some of you have questions about the test but we have been given clear direction that testing is important for the safety of all the school community. It is one of a range of measures being taken to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19.

The first test for your child will be before they return to school. You will receive further correspondence specifying a time for your child to attend school for their test. Once they have had the test, they are to leave site and return home. They will be on site for 20-30 minutes maximum., the gates will be open and you can drop your child off in the car park, for the test.

For the second test, students should attend school as normal and they will be taken out of a lesson to be tested, if they have consent.

This is the most effective way to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education. We recognise, however, the need to minimise any disruption to education and to continue to support your child's mental wellbeing. The government will continue to review the future need for testing in light of any changes to the public health situation.

Testing twice weekly is helping us stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and plan our response. The preparations that schools and colleges are advised to take are subject to further public health advice and the latest position on prevalence of the COVID-19 virus.

Consent. Any parent/carer who has previously provided consent does not have to complete the



on-line form again. However, if you wish to withdraw your consent you must notify the school as soon as possible. The consent form can be accessed as follows. Please ensure this is completed by no later than Wednesday 1st September 2021:

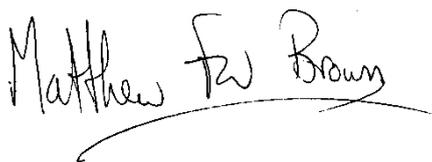
LINK TO THE CONSENT FORM <https://forms.office.com/r/h9S8jWHjVD>

With this letter I attach the following documents:

1. Schedule for testing for each year group. Your child should only arrive at school during their scheduled appointment time. They do not need to be wearing school uniform. Testing will take place in the performance space.
2. Privacy notice.
3. Letter about consent with important information.

We look forward to seeing your child at the start of the new academic year.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher