



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear parents/carers,

17th March 2021

The testing in school has gone really well and I would like to thank you for your support with this.

The Government has recently announced that all secondary aged students will be offered regular asymptomatic COVID-19 tests to take at home. All secondary aged students will be offered tests to take home so they can test themselves twice a week, so that we can help to reduce the spread of the virus.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this by asking students to carry out tests at home twice every week.

Testing students at home

We understand that each child has individual needs. Many children will adapt to testing becoming part of their routine, others will find it more challenging. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all children will be able to attend school whether they take part or not. We hope that the option to take the test in the morning **or** the evening will support families to test at home.

Test kits will be collected from school on **Friday** this week (distributed to students during the school day). Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 4 boxes of tests with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results. Each box has 3 tests in it. This is enough tests for each student to test themselves twice weekly until the start of the summer term. Students will need room in their bags for the boxes.



The results of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. **Parents will also need to tell the school the result of each test via a Microsoft form.** There will be a link to the form on the school website. If a student has a positive test result, they will need to stay home and self-isolate.

Please contact the school in the first instance. If the result of the test is unclear (void) they will need to do another one. Students have the option to take the test and report the evening before school, but no earlier.

Taking part

We will also be offering, for those struggling to do this at home, an option to attend the testing centre in school. This will be open from 7.45am to 8.45am every day. Students just turn up to be tested.

What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days.

You need to report your result to both NHS Test and Trace and the school via email to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.

You should order a confirmatory PCR test if you are testing at home (confirmatory PCR tests are not needed if the test was conducted at the Asymptomatic Test Site at school).

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test.

Negative and void results should be reported to both NHS Test & Trace and school.

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus, you should follow national guidelines on self-isolation and testing.

Why take part

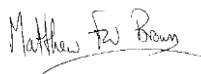
Please note that students must have completed three tests at school in order to receive home testing kits from school. If your child did not take part in the school testing programme but you now wish them to have three tests in school and then become part of the home testing, please contact the school via email to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk.

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part in the national testing programme.

Please contact the school via email to admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Brown
Head Teacher