



11th January 2021

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Principal: Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the course of Christmas holidays, we have been preparing and training for the delivery of mass testing on the school site. We now need to ensure that we open the testing centre, offering lateral flow tests as a priority to the staff and students who are physically accessing school at the moment. Once we have plans in place for the return of all students to school, the tests will be offered to all students accordingly.

Initial testing will mean that students need to have two tests, approximately three days apart. For all vulnerable and keyworker students, currently accessing the school site, initial testing will be undertaken on Tuesday 19th January 2021 (1st Test) and Friday 22nd January 2021 (2nd test).

Our test site will be situated in the sports hall. When students arrive at the test site, they will be welcomed and asked to register for the test. They will be given a QR Code card along with a barcode and asked to register themselves, using their mobile phone, on the government Track and Trace website. If they do not have a device, we can do this for them in school.

Once registered, the students will then be directed to a testing bay where they will be supported by a Test Assistant to carry out the test themselves, which involves a swab of the back of their throat and their nose. They will then be asked to wait in the waiting area for 30 minutes, in order to be notified of their result.

Students who test negative will return to their designated classroom. Students may receive an invalid result and will therefore need to complete the test again. For students who receive a positive result, their parents or carers will be contacted and they will need to be collected from site immediately. We will give them a PCR Test to complete at home. They should self-isolate until the test result is returned and if it is still positive, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days. Should the test be returned negative, they no longer need to self-isolate.

We feel that it is so important that students conduct the tests with people that they know and trust. We have therefore taken the decision as a school that only St Bernard's staff will run the test site and administer the testing process. This will hopefully mean that our students feel calm, comfortable and safe in their environment. All staff involved in the test site will be in full personal protective equipment.



Following on from initial testing, we will only offer tests to students who are close contacts of a positive case. Once students are attending school, should your child come into contact with a positive case, they will be offered a test every day, for seven school days. As long as they test negative, they can remain in school and attend lessons as normal. If they test positive at any time, they will need to be collected immediately from school. If you do not wish to give consent for your child, they would need to self-isolate for 10 days from the point of contact.

It is really important that we now create a database for permission for the testing programme. For parents of students who are accessing school at the moment, this consent will allow students to access the testing programme from next week. For parents of students who are accessing remote learning at the moment, this consent will allow students to access the testing programme from when they return to school. We are asking parents to complete the Google Doc coming out to you ***only if you do give your permission*** for your child to access the testing programme. This will need to be completed by no later than ***Thursday 14th January 2021*** to allow us to begin setting up the Test Centre.

I really appreciate your fast response to this information. We are working very quickly to try to ensure that the testing is effective, swift and allows our students to return to some normality as quickly as possible. There is further information regarding the Privacy Statement and Frequently Asked Questions on our website on the following link: <https://www.sbch.org.uk/welcome-sbcs/parental-communication/whole-school/>

If you would like to discuss the testing process with us, then please do contact any member of the Senior Leadership Team and we can do our best to answer your questions and queries.

Thank you everyone and God Bless,

Siobhan Kent
Principal