

July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the measures to keep pupils, their families and school staff safe the government has asked all schools to once again put in a testing system for their return in September. The tests will be the Lateral Flow Devices and are designed for people who do not have symptoms. This means that we are being asked to provide two tests for all students and staff. After this the government are clear that students will have enough knowledge and confidence to do the tests at home rather than in school and will be making two home tests a week available to all students and staff.

In order for these tests to be carried out, we need you to give your consent. If you have previously consented we will take that consent, unless you advise us that you now do not wish your child to be tested. For our new year 7's joining us, please complete the consent form, which can be found on the link below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=HCBDF7GB0EOqWbJW_OwBUWL51uLhughFsqdb91K1B3NUOUIFQU9XRzIJMklJJSVdSQ0ZSVk1QN1JUQi4u

Are these tests compulsory?

No they are not. It is up to you to give informed consent to carry these out.

If I do not give consent will my child be allowed in school?

Yes. No child will be denied their place in school because they haven't had a test unless they have symptoms.

There is a lot in the media about the unreliability of the tests so why have them?

As we now know, many people have this virus and remain well and without any symptoms throughout but they are still infectious to those around them. Even with symptoms you can be infectious for two days before the symptoms come on. These tests will give more chance of identifying people in school who are infections and will therefore help to protect others in school as well as our friends, family and community outside school.

Who will do the tests on my child?

Your child will take the swab for the test themselves. They will be talked through it by one of the team made up from trained staff and volunteers who will ensure that they take the swab correctly, help them if they need it and reassure them if they are anxious. Taking the swab can be a bit uncomfortable but isn't painful.

All of our staff have received NHS training in the running and processing of LFT (Lateral Flow Test)

Becki Jones, is our COVID Coordinator and is a Science technician in the academy and also one of the school first aiders, she has years of experience of working in hospital laboratories and has overseen the set up and daily running of this facility.

Jane Dyson, is normally the academy DT technician and school first aid officer and is one of the team leaders running the test facility on a daily basis



Bev Chadburn, is the academy's Senior Science technician and a qualified first aid officer. She has been working on a daily basis as a team leader in the test facility.

Kelly Turner is a member of the academy Services Team and has been working in the test centre since we opened in January and has been mainly processing the samples.

These staff are able to work in all areas, and will oversee the rest of the staff

What if my child tests positive?

If your child tests positive on a lateral flow device, we will inform you immediately. You must then take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. The school may be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home. During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school/college and resume their activities as normal.

Who will get the results?

The tests are processed on site immediately and the results are usually back in about 30 minutes. The results are known to the academy test centre. The school has to inform Public Health England of any positive cases.

When will my child's test take place?

We are staggering the return back to school to enable us to complete testing of all year groups. During the first few days, in order for us to get through the whole school in a small amount of time we ask that your child attends school with their tutor group, or for year 7's their surnames and reports to the Dance Studio, through the main reception. Students must wear a mask at all times. Students will leave via the exit door of the Dance Studio and will go home as soon as they have had their first test.

Friday 3rd September (Done by Surname)								
	10am	10.30am	11am	11.30am	12pm	1pm	1.30pm	
Y7	A-B	C-D	E-G	H-J	K-P	Q-S	T-Z	
Monday 6th September (Done by Tutor Groups)								
	9am	9.30am	10am	10.30am	11am	11.30am	12pm	1pm
Y8	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Y11	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Tuesday 7th September (Done by Tutor Groups)								
	9am	9.30am	10am	10.30am	11am	11.30am	12pm	1pm
Y9	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Y10	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H



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Integrated Resource Students, please register and liaise with Jo Anderson and Karen Green regarding your time slot.

Students will return to school the next working day after they have taken their first test and received a negative result. The second test will be done during the school day.

Home testing

Once two tests have been completed at school, your child will be sent home with some testing kits for them to complete at home. The results of this will need to be registered with NHS Test and Trace along with the school.

I hope that this has answered your questions and that you feel you can make an informed decision about the testing process. Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions. We have a dedicated email address for all COVID issues – coronavirus@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Gina Newton
Headteacher

