

SchoolComms message to parents 20 July 2021

Dear parent,

Thank you for your continued engagement in the Covid-19 testing programme. Please continue to encourage your child to test twice weekly and report the results until the end of the summer term.

The asymptomatic testing programme is being paused for students in secondary schools and colleges that will be closed over the summer holidays.

If you wish to access rapid lateral flow testing, you can continue to do so by ordering LFD test kits from GOV.UK or by collecting kits from your local pharmacy.

We are unsure about the Covid situation we will face in the autumn, so we want to be prepared for all scenarios. Subject to public health advice, testing will restart on return in the autumn. We expect to offer your child **two** tests on-site before continuing regular testing at home.

We are planning to test new year 7 on Thursday 2nd September, year 11 on Friday 3rd September and then year 8,9 and 10 on Monday 6th September. The second tests will take place 3 to 5 days later. The test being administered will be slightly different to the one administered in January and requires only the nose to be swabbed. The Department for Education have confirmed that we do not need to seek consent again for students that have previously consented to being tested at school, however if you have recently joined us, or would like to consent when you haven't in the past, please complete this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=31OpMtMWC06NBME2rgYIpVmcOEcUEFIGp3GuX8re0B5UOThaOTJXMU84NE4zSk1ROEwyMihLN0YySS4u>.

Testing 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.

Yours faithfully,

David McDonald,
Assistant Headteacher,
Bradon Forest School