

23rd February 2021

Re: Full Opening from w/c 8th March

Dear Parents and Carers,



I am writing today to update you on our planning process for all students returning to school following the announcement from the Prime Minister yesterday evening. Though people have different views on whether restrictions are being lifted too slowly or too quickly it is great to know that our students can begin returning to school from 8th March 2021.

The reopening of schools to all is being prioritised due to the significant and proven impact caused by being out of school to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of young people.

I have now received some additional guidance about the full opening of schools from the Department for Education (DFE), though I still await specific details. Much of this new DFE guidance released yesterday evening is familiar to us, as it replicates what Bosworth Academy had in place for the autumn term.

Specific changes to our existing protective measures include:

- the use of face coverings in classrooms
- lateral flow testing expectations for students and staff

The huge logistical challenge we now face is around lateral flow testing of our 1669 students. Schools are expected to test all pupils returning to school prior to face-to-face teaching. **To enable this the government has given schools the discretion on how to stagger the return of their students over the week beginning 8th March to allow them to be tested on return.**

We are asked to prioritise vulnerable children and children of critical workers already attending school, and year groups 10 to 13. After an initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. At present we do not have any further detail on this. Our senior leadership team is working on our return plan to determine which day, during the week beginning 8th March, each year group will return to school for testing and returning to lessons. Remote learning will continue to be delivered until each year group of students return.

It is vital that parents and carers now make sure that you have provided consent for your child to receive a lateral flow test (LFT) by completing our consent form. The LFT is an additional risk mitigation step to ensure we keep students and our community safe on their return to school. The more students and staff that are tested the safer our community is. Information regarding the testing can be found later in this letter on pages 2 and 3. Please be reassured that for the past month, students and staff have been tested twice a week in our testing centre. Staff have all been trained and are ready to accommodate more students when we return.

Next week I will write to you again with specific details about testing arrangements and sharing which date during the week beginning 8th March each year group will be returning to school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Brown
Headteacher





Re: Consent form for Lateral Flow Testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. **With the news yesterday, it is now critical we have consent forms completed;** this will allow us to plan the phased return and testing for all students. **We will share the plan as soon as we can.** The school will complete three tests, after which, students and staff will be provided with home testing kits. More information regarding these kits to follow.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

We have been testing all staff and students who have been attending school. I enclose a link to an [instructional leaflet](#) with some more information.

To consent to your child being tested, please fill in the google form below and the enclosed consent statement (one per pupil) - please click on the correct year group form. If you have more than one child you will have to complete the form for each child using the correct year group form. I enclose a link to our [privacy guidance](#) regarding the information we are collecting.

[Year 7 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 8 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 9 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 10 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 11 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 12 - Consent Form](#)

[Year 13 - Consent Form](#)

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. For under 18s, staff can oversee the swab process.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with parents.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.





What if a pupil tests positive?

Pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Parents/Carers will be contacted. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results. If the test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or email <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call the office on 01455822841 or email office@bosworthacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Brown

Headteacher

