



9 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Students**

We are working to keep our campus 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'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help students and staff 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, after the lockdown period. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

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. Testing will be offered free of charge.

**Vulnerable students/children of critical workers:** We will be testing all those who want to participate from week commencing 11 January.

**All Other students:** Tests will be undertaken when they first return to campus (and daily for 7 days if required due to close contact).

**Please see the [privacy notice](#) and [instructional leaflet](#) links below:**

[Privacy Notice - COVID 19 Student testing at BGLC](#)

[Instruction Leaflet.](#)

**If your child is currently learning remotely, we will invite you to complete the consent form at a later date, when they are due to return to campus, so this letter now is simply for your reference.**

**However, if you currently have a child attending campus on a daily basis (vulnerable students/children of critical workers) please complete the form below by Wed 13 January:**

[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.

### **What if a student tests positive?**

Students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). BGLC will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while the student waits for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result the student will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

### **What happens if the test is negative?**

The student will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student 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 students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

### **What if a close contact at BGLC tests positive?**

**A close contact of someone in school who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to stay at school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative.** If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. Further details will be provided at the time, but if they would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, they can.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at BGLC 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.

To do this please call by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

**Please Note:** If your child develops symptoms during an evening or weekend they **MUST NOT** be sent into school to get a test, but instead must isolate and book a test via the NHS system above.

We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can email us if you have any queries- [Reception@brookvalegroby.com](mailto:Reception@brookvalegroby.com).

Yours sincerely



W Teece  
Headteacher