



27/07/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: COVID-19 Testing for Staff And Learners

We are working to keep staff and learners at Beacon Hill Academy as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is resuming across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'orient gene lateral flow tests'.

Mass Testing:

This will involve all learners and staff having two tests over a three-day interval. We anticipate this will happen towards the return date of school. (dates and times will be issued in due course following government advice).

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and learners 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 academy open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but as an academy, we would like to encourage as many learners as possible to participate in testing to minimise disruption to learning.

Our vision is to complete 1 test for all staff and learners before they return to school and we will communicate with you how and when this will take place over the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we need to ensure that we have consent from all parents. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the consent form by clicking on the attached link which will take you to the BHA Registration Form: [COVID-19 Testing 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. For those under 18, staff can oversee the swab process.

Where positive results (which take around 15 minutes from testing) will be shared directly with staff and learners participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

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 a higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.



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Please click on the links to view our [Privacy Notice](#) and an [FAQ document](#) which will help answer some of the questions you may have.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact us at helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Dhani
Principal



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