



13/12/21

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'.

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 a school 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. Please refer to the letter 'Re-Opening Plans for January 2022'.

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: [BHA 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 under 18s, 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 higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

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



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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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