

Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

A Youth Sport Trust Lead School for Leadership, Coaching and Volunteering

Addison Road, Banbury

Oxfordshire

OX16 9DG

Tel: 01295 264216

www.bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Compassion

Respect

Truth

Service

Forgiveness



18 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid-19 testing for students who have opted in

I wish to say a massive thank you to all our Covid testers and our wonderful admin team who have helped to ensure that all our students who have opted in, have been tested for Covid-19 on their return to school. I am delighted to report that so far we have not seen a surge in cases which really does make us feel very safe. I would also like to pay tribute to our students who have been wonderful taking everything in their stride on their return to school.

I am writing to give you an update on home Covid testing and how it will be managed by BGN. Please note, this may vary from school to school, so please do follow our guidance when using the tests supplied by us.

What is home testing?

The government has offered regular testing for Covid-19 to all secondary school children, provided they have participated in the mass testing programme that took place at the beginning of term. The tests come in a kit which contains full instructions, together with everything which is required to carry out testing at home. A video is available which explains how to carry out the test at: [How to carry out a Covid Lateral Flow Test at home](#)

When will we receive the testing kits?

Students will be sent home with their first kit, containing three tests, this week. They should complete their first home test on Sunday evening and then follow a pattern of testing every Wednesday and every Sunday.

What type of test is used?

The tests are called rapid lateral flow tests [LFTs]. They are simple to use and provide a result in thirty minutes. They involve taking a swab from the throat and nose, using some liquid provided to extract a sample, and then allowing the sample to soak through a test strip to give a result.

When do I do the tests?

We are asking students to take the test twice a week, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. You then need to report the test result to the NHS at: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. It is important to report the test result, regardless of whether it is negative, positive or void. You will be given a leaflet with full instructions on how to do this. Once you have set-up the information on your phone, the reporting process is very straightforward.

Continued...2

Principal: **Ms Niamh Dolan, BSc (Hons)** headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

“The school’s contribution to pupils’ personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exemplary. Pupils go out of their way to do good things. They act as positive role models for younger children.” *Ofsted, June 2017*

What if a child cannot tolerate a swab down their throat, perhaps due to their disability?

A child or young person may find it difficult to take a throat swab due, for example, to their having difficulty in understanding instructions, needing to keep their mouth open during the period of swabbing or they have a strong gag reflex. In such cases, where a combined nose and throat swab is not possible, a nose swab from both nostrils can be taken as per the instructions with the test kit. Similarly, if a nasal swab is not feasible, a throat swab alone will suffice.

How will I know if my child has tested positive?

When you drop the liquid onto the test strip it will flow up through the paper of the test strip. You may notice a slightly purple colour at this stage; this will resolve after a few moments. There are two lines indicated on the test strip, labelled T and C. If no line shows up against the C the test should be treated as void. If the test is negative one line will show up at C. If the test is positive, there will be two lines: one at T and one at C. If two lines show up, it means that your child has tested positive for Covid-19 and you should inform the school. Please read the instruction leaflet carefully and look at the diagrams that it shows before beginning the test.

What happens if my child tests positive?

If your child tests positive, you should ensure they self-isolate and arrange for them to have a PCR test, using the usual NHS 119 system. This is required to confirm the result. Everyone in the family should also self-isolate until the result of the lab PCR test comes back. Do **NOT** send your child to school the next day and contact us immediately using the email: Covid@bgn.oxon.sch.uk. Please also telephone the school the next day to report your child's absence, stating they have had a positive Covid result.

What should I do if the test is void?

Follow the instructions in the leaflet. Wash your hands and repeat the test using an entirely new kit to avoid any cross-contamination.

How do I order new test kits?

We will calculate when you will need more test kits. Please do not give your child's test kit to anyone else because the batch number for each kit will be recorded. We are required to share this information with the Department for Health & Social Care (DHSC) so that if there are any issues relating to the test reliability we will know which batch of tests your child has used. We will record this information on your behalf, so you do not need to do anything.

Are LFD tests accurate?

Lateral Flow Devices identify people who are likely to be infectious. These individuals tend to spread the virus to many people and so identifying them through this test is important.

These tests have been widely and successfully used to detect Covid-19 in asymptomatic individuals and are approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency [MHRA]. The speed and convenience of the tests support the detection of the virus in asymptomatic individuals, who would not otherwise have got tested. The tests are highly specific, with low chance of false positives. They are also very sensitive and are able to identify the majority of the most infectious yet asymptomatic individuals. Extensive evaluation has been carried out on the tests and it shows that they are both accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community for screening and surveillance purposes.

Continued...3

Principal: **Ms Niamh Dolan, BSc (Hons)** headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

“The school's contribution to pupils' personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exemplary. Pupils go out of their way to do good things. They act as positive role models for younger children.” *Ofsted, June 2017*

It is important to remember that these tests are only an aid to help stop the spread of the virus and you should continue to follow other guidance on wearing face coverings and social distancing.

How are LFD tests different to PCR tests?

There are two main types of test to check if you have coronavirus:

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests check for the genetic material (RNA) of the virus in the sample - you send the sample for processing at a lab.
- Lateral flow device (LFD) tests detect proteins called ‘antigens’ produced by the virus - LFD tests give rapid results, in 30 minutes after taking the test.

How will personal information and test results be shared?

Once the test has been opened, you are consenting to taking the test and you are required to report the result to the NHS Covid website at <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. When someone reports test results online, they are sharing information with the DHSC. The DHSC may share the information with your GP, local government, NHS, and Public Health England. This is so that they can offer health services and guidance if someone needs to self-isolate. They might also use data anonymously (a person’s name or contact information) to research Covid-19, and improve our understanding of the virus. The data shared is exactly the same as if you were to have a Covid test at a local test centre.

Under UK law, a student’s school or college can collect and store test result data because it is in the ‘public interest’. The school is required to report any positive Covid cases to Public Health England to enable contact tracing and so that any school outbreaks can be monitored and the appropriate action taken.

Taking part in regular home testing?

Taking part in regular home testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part in testing or not. However, testing will give families the reassurance of knowing if their child is carrying the virus, without symptoms, so that any precautions necessary can be taken to protect everyone.

We appreciate this is a lot of information, but it is very important that we share all the necessary details with our parents. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Niamh Dolan
Principal

Principal: **Ms Niamh Dolan, BSc (Hons)** *headteacher@bgn.oxon.sch.uk*

An academy within The Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Company which is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity registered in England and Wales with company number 9113542 and registered address Addison Road, Banbury, Oxon, OX16 9DG.

“The school’s contribution to pupils’ personal, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exemplary. Pupils go out of their way to do good things. They act as positive role models for younger children.” *Ofsted, June 2017*