

Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

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

Addison Road, Banbury

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Compassion

Respect

Truth

Service

Forgiveness



11 August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Return of pupils to school for September 2021

I am now able to write to you with more detailed information about arrangements for the safe return of students to school in September 2021. Please see the attached schedule at the end of this letter for the detailed information as to timings for when your child will be offered a test and the different start dates for each year group.

What have schools been asked to do?

The government have said before students come back to school in September they are being asked to take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) in school. The reason for this is that students may have potentially mixed with many other contacts during the summer break and it is important that we minimise any cases of Covid-19 within school at the start of the new term. These tests have been sent to schools, with the aim of picking up students or staff who have the virus, but are not showing any symptoms. Please do not send your child to school if you think they have Covid symptoms. Instead, please ring 111 and arrange a PCR test in the usual way.

How many tests will my child take?

The government has asked that students take two LFTs in school and are then given a pack of LFTs that they can take home to use thereafter. As was the case before, having done two in school (one before they return fully), they will be familiar with what they need to do with their home testing kit.

How will this work at BGN?

We are planning to run our on-site test centre in a similar way to last March as this worked well at BGN. Therefore, there will be a staggered start for students coming back to school. For their first test, students will be invited into school on a particular day and time (please see the details at the end of this letter). Students will be tested in their form groups except for the new Year 7s who will be tested according to their surname; again, this is detailed in the below list. They will take their test and return home straight afterwards. Should their test be positive, a member of staff will contact you to let you know. Once students have done their first test, they will return to school the following day, providing they are not positive, and begin their lessons as normal.

Will my child remain in school on the day of their first test?

No, students are only required to be in school at their allocated time, to take their test and then leave the school site. They do not have to come into school wearing uniform on the day of their test.

Continued...2

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

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What happens on the day of their test?

Students must only come in for the time allocated. They must go directly to the Sports Hall, where they will be met by members of staff. They will be directed as to what to do on arrival. Once their test is completed, they must leave the school site immediately.

Can I drive my child to school?

Yes. Please arrive on to the school site via the Springfield Road entrance and leave via the Addison Road gate. Please park on the school playground (there will be a member of staff available to direct you) and refrain from parking in Springfield Avenue or Addison Road and please do not congregate on either of these roads whilst waiting for your child. Instead, please wait in the car on the playground for your child to return after they have had their test.

Can I come into the test centre with my child?

Parents do not need to accompany their child into the test centre. There will be a number of BGN staff who can reassure them if they are anxious. We will also have trained staff who will be talking them through how to self-swab. However, any new students who are at all concerned about the testing process in school, should speak to a member of staff on arrival and arrangements can be made for additional support.

Does my child need to bring anything with them on the day of their test?

They will need to bring a face covering. We would advise appropriate clothing, as they may need to queue outside the Sports Hall. They do not need to wear school uniform.

What happens if my child tests positive?

A member of BGN staff will contact you to inform you. You will also receive a message from NHS Track and Trace to the phone number held on the school system. Your child will then have to have a PCR test, and if this proves positive you and your household will need to follow current government guidelines.

What if the test result is negative?

You will not be contacted. Please note a negative test result means your child is not positive on that day.

What happens after my child has been tested?

After your child has been tested, they will return home immediately. However, we will expect them to be in school as normal for their lessons the following day onwards. They will need to wear full school uniform for Years 7 through to 11.

Will the school bus operate as normal?

No. The school bus will be available as follows:-

- Monday 6 September – Year 7, Year 12 and Year 13
- Tuesday 7 September – Year 7, Year 10, Year 11, Year 12, Year 13
- Wednesday 8 September onwards – all year groups

Please note your child is not allowed to travel to and from school on the bus the day of their test.

Continued...3

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What happens if I do not give consent?

We will check that we have parental consent for every student as they arrive to be tested. Any student for whom we do not have consent will not be permitted to take a test and will be asked to return home.

What happens if my child does not want to take a test on their allocated day?

We would respect this. No child will be forced to take a test. However, in order to receive home testing kits from school, students have to be tested twice in school.

What happens if I do not want my child to be tested?

We would strongly encourage all parents to allow their child to have a test. It is a simple and quick procedure. There will be lots of staff in school to support students. However, if you decide you do not want your child to be tested, they must remain at home on the day their year group is being tested. They should come into school ready for lessons the next day, with the rest of their year group.

When will students receive their second test?

We will have carried out all initial tests by the end of Tuesday 7 September. We will co-ordinate the second tests by taking children out of lessons. They will remain in school unless they test positive, in which case you will be contacted by the school to make arrangements for them to get home safely to self-isolate.

Are there any changes to the school day?

Students will return to the original timetable in place prior to Covid. In short, this means there will be a two week revolving timetable (Week A and Week B). The start of the school day for all students will be 8.40 am and all students will finish at 3.20 pm, except for Wednesdays, which will be a 2.20 pm in both weeks.

We will also ask students, staff and visitors to please continue wearing face coverings in communal areas where large groups are present, if they are able and feel comfortable to do so.

What if I have children in different year groups?

Unfortunately, due to the fact that children need to be tested in their year group bubbles, they must ONLY attend for testing on the appropriate day for their year group. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Continued...4

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What do I need to do now?

Please follow the instructions that will be emailed to you separately, at a later date, and complete the **online consent form** as soon as possible thereafter. These will also be available on the school website. Please note you must complete an individual consent form **for each child in your family**. Sixth Form students are allowed to complete their own consent form. Please find below the individual timetables for each year group which details when they need to be in school for their tests.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Niamh Dolan
Principal

Year 7 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Friday 3 September
9 am	Surname A-C
9.40 am	Surname D-H
10.10 am	Surname I-M
10.50 am	Surname N-S
11.30 am	Surname T-Z
All Year 7s begin lessons on Monday 6 September 2021	

Year 12/13 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Friday 3 September
12.30 pm	12/13A
1 pm	12/13B
1.30 pm	12/13C
2 pm	12/13D
2.30 pm	12/13E
All Sixth Form begin lessons on Monday 6 September 2021	

Continued...5

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Year 10 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Monday 6 September
9 am	10A
9.40 am	10B
10.10 am	10C
10.50 am	10D
11.30 am	10E
All Year 10s begin lessons on Tuesday 7 September 2021	

Year 11 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Monday 6 September
12.30 pm	11A
1 pm	11B
1.30 pm	11C
2 pm	11D
2.30 pm	11E
All Year 11s begin lessons on Tuesday 7 September 2021	

Year 9 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Tuesday 7 September
9 am	9A
9.40 am	9B
10.10 am	9C
10.50 am	9D
11.30 am	9E
All Year 9s begin lessons on Wednesday 8 September 2021	

Continued...6

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Year 8 Test Times	
Arrival Time	Tuesday 7 September
12.30 pm	8A
1 pm	8B
1.30 pm	8C
2 pm	8D
2.30 pm	8E
All Year 8s begin lessons on Wednesday 8 September 2021	

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