



# St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



Biddick Lane, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 8AF  
Tel: (0191) 716 1700 Email: [school@str.bwcet.com](mailto:school@str.bwcet.com)

Head Teacher: Mr. D. Juric  
Chair of Governors: Mr. G. Moorhouse

9th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The government has published initial guidance for next school year. The broad tone of the guidance is to return much more closely to normal practices in schools, but within a safe environment. I shall be writing to you next week with reference to this guidance and what it means for students and parents/carers, along with certain other information relating to next year. However, I wish to address one specific part of the guidance in this letter, namely that of **student testing**.

The government has stated that schools should offer on-site lateral flow testing to all students, twice, at the start of term. They have suggested that this will necessitate a slightly staggered start to the term for some students. Although participation in the testing is voluntary, I am encouraging all students to be tested. Home testing will then recommence in the same way as it has been in place this year, once this initial in-school testing has taken place.

## How the tests work

In-school tests will be supervised by trained staff. Most students will be used to the process by now, but we assure new Year 7 parents and carers that we will be particularly careful with the supervision of their children, for whom this may be new. Students will swab themselves. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, this time using a double nasal swab. Results (which take around half an hour) will be shared with the individual participant. Parents/carers will also be informed of positive tests.

## Consent

We are sending out the electronic consent form and a privacy notice alongside this letter for you to opt into testing. We ask for consent returns please to be completed by **Friday 23 July**.

## What if a student tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they and their parent/carers will be informed immediately by school and they will have to self-isolate for 10 days. They should also take a further PCR test to confirm the result within 48 hours. If the PCR test is also positive, they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace. A negative PCR result would cancel out the positive lateral flow test result. In the case of a positive test, the school itself will also register the test online and you will receive a text or email notification of the result from the online NHS system.

## What happens if a student tests negative?

Students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. The school will not inform parents/carers of negative results. We will not register the test online, but you may do so yourself later that day.



## **Testing Arrangements**

Please note the following:

- **You must not attend if you are displaying symptoms of Covid, or are isolating due to receiving a positive Covid test, being identified as a contact of a positive test by NHS Test and Trace, or due to a period of household Covid isolation.**
- **If your child has received a positive Covid PCR test within the previous 90 days, they are exempt from testing at present and should not attend.**
- **Only those students whose parents/carers have given consent through the electronic form will be tested.**

Testing is voluntary, but all students are encouraged to participate. Not being tested does not stop your child from attending school from their allotted start date (given below). If on the day a student does not wish to be tested, they will not be forced to participate. If you previously gave consent, but change your mind, you must tell your son/daughter not to present themselves for testing.

Below are the testing days for each year group. Students will arrive for the time shown below and will commence lessons straight after their test result has been processed (unless they have tested positive). Students not being tested will go straight to lessons. The one exception to this is Sixth Form, who will leave the site once they have their result and will come into lessons the following morning. We shall send out a reminder of days and times during the summer holidays, along with more detailed guidance of where exactly students should go upon arrival.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** (School INSET Day)

**Year 7** (Arrival 8:45am – conducted as part of their induction day).  
**Years 12 and 13** (Between 12:20pm to approx. 5:30pm – exact timings to be sent out during the summer).

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 8** (Arrival 8:45am).  
**Year 11** (Arrival 12:20pm).

**(Years 7, 12 and 13 in school as normal.)**

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 9** (Arrival 8:45am).  
**Year 10** (Arrival 12:20pm).

**(Years 7, 8, 11, 12 and 13 in school as normal.)**

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

**All students in school as normal.**

**Years 7, 12 and 13 will have their second test during the course of the day.**

### **w/c Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

Remaining year groups will have their second test Monday or Tuesday.

## **Consent**

In the message you have received you will find a link for the consent form which must be completed by **Friday 23 July**, if you wish to take part in the on-site testing at the start of term. Please note that if we do not have electronic consent for a student, they will not be able to take part. We cannot take verbal parental consent on the day. We have also attached the relevant Privacy Notice for your information.

Please note the following:

- **For students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- **Students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent** - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Any student who does not have the capacity to provide informed consent** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.

The terms of consent can be found by clicking on the consent form link. Having read the terms, if you then wish to proceed please complete the form and submit it as soon as possible, and at the latest by **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021**.

We will of course support our students throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can do so by emailing [school@str.bwcet.com](mailto:school@str.bwcet.com).

Yours faithfully



**Mr D Juric**  
**Head Teacher**