



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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

7th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

The government has published initial guidance for COVID testing in January 2022. The government has stated that schools should offer on-site lateral flow testing to all students, **once**, at the start of the spring term 2022. 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.

We ask that you test your child at home on the morning or the evening prior to your child's return to school (your child's return date to school is listed later in this letter).

How the tests work

In-school tests will be supervised by trained staff. Most students will be used to the process by now. Students will swab themselves. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake using a double nasal swab. Results (which take around fifteen minutes) will be shared with the individual participant. Parents/carers will also be informed of positive tests.

Pupils are then encouraged to take a further test at home 3-4 days after their initial test onsite.

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 **Monday 13th December (noon)**.

We cannot accept consent if submitted after this deadline.

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 the student must return home immediately. They will have to self-isolate for 10 days and can then return to school after 10 days of self-isolation provided the student is symptom free.

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 and they can return to school. 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:

- We ask that you test your child at home on the morning or the evening prior to their return to school (see dates below).
- Your child must not attend if they are displaying symptoms of Covid.
- If your child has received a positive Covid PCR test within the previous 90 days, they are exempt from testing for now and should not present themselves for testing.
- Only those students whose parents/carers have given consent through the electronic form will be tested (with the exception of 18 year old students who can consent themselves).

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/time (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).

Tuesday 4th January

- Year 7** **Arrival 8:45am** (travel to school as normal at normal time)
Once your child receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for the rest of the day.
- Year 11** **Arrival 8:45am** (travel to school at normal time)
Once your child receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for the rest of the day.
- Year 13** **Arrival 12.40pm** (Year 13 students will make their own way to school **to arrive at 12.40pm**)
Once student receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for rest of the day.
- Year 12** **Arrival between 2.00pm-3.00pm or between 3.45pm – 4.30pm**
Year 12 students will make their own way to school and will go home after a negative result.
- Year 7, 11 and 13 will go straight to lessons after receiving a negative test.
 - Year 12 students will go home after receiving a negative test.

Wednesday 5th January

(Years 7, 11, 12 and 13 students will be in school as normal.)

- Year 8** **Arrival 8:45am** (travel to school as normal at normal time)
Once your child receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for the rest of the day.
- Year 9** **Arrival 8:45am** (travel to school as normal at normal time)
Once your child receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for the rest of the day.
- Year 10** **Arrival 12.40pm** (Year 10 students will need to **arrive at school at 12.40pm**)
Once your child receives a negative test they will go to normal lessons for the rest of the day.
- Year 8, 9 and 10 will go straight to lessons after receiving a negative test.

Thursday 6th January

All students will attend school as normal.

Consent

In the message you have received you will find a link for the consent form which must be completed by **Monday 13th December (noon)**, if you wish your child to take part in the on-site testing at the start of the spring term 2022. Please note that if we do not have electronic consent for a student, unless aged 18 years or above, 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.
- **Students aged 18 years or over** - should complete a form but can consent on the test day itself.
- **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 **Monday 13th December (noon)**.

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.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Juric
Head Teacher