

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

19th August 2021

There are two parts to this letter; an update and FAQ on the testing and wider opening plan and then a plea for any additional volunteers to assist in testing.

FAQs on Testing

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Following my communication earlier around the timeline for September opening and welcoming all students back on site I thought it worth sharing an FAQ style document compiled for the last round of LFD on site testing.

FAQs

- 1) **Do we have to wear uniform when we come for testing on the Thursday or Friday (2nd & 3rd September)?** – No, all being well you will come in one fire exit of the assembly hall, be inside for less than 10 minutes, come back out the other fire exit and go home again. No uniform is needed until you return fully on Monday or Tuesday 6th/7th September according to your Induction Plan (confirmed fully after Bank Holiday weekend)
- 2) **What if I don't consent to having the test?** – That is your/your parents/carers right. **All** students will return on Wednesday 8th September at 8:30am (and on either the Monday or Tuesday for your Induction Day) regardless of whether you have had 0, 1 or 2 tests by then. The Government wish is that as many of us as possible engage in the testing to add another layer in ensuring that transmission levels continue to stay low.
- 3) **What if I have had a positive Covid test in the last 90 days, I have heard that means I shouldn't be tested again?** – The advice is that if you have had a positive covid test in the last 90 days and develop no new symptoms there is no need to take another PCR covid test (those are the tests done at the big testing sites or by mail at home) which are processed in a laboratory. The NHS guidance for lateral flow tests (the ones we will be using that are processed on site and give the result within an hour) is that anyone can and should consider taking them. They feel the chances of you testing positive on an LFD after your isolation period ends is very slim unless you are actively still infectious (in which case the advice is you should isolate again). We have tested a number of people on LFDs since January who have already had a positive covid test in the previous 90 days with no positive results on the LFDs.
- 4) **I really can't face swabbing my tonsils. I am worried it may make me sick.** – Good News, we are moving to a new test kit which does nasal (nose) swabs only. No swabbing of the throat is needed!

Volunteers for Test Site

We were blown away by volunteers from the community assisting us in March enabling us to open fully much quicker than many schools. It is incredibly cheeky for us to ask again, but without some additional support we risk taking longer to get every student back in without ongoing disruption to lessons. We are all keen for a return to “normal” as swiftly as possible. The plan we have put together is ambitious but means we can have every student back to a “normal” timetable from Wednesday 8th at 8:30am with an Induction Day (two days for Y7) on either the Monday or Tuesday which will incorporate the second on site test.

If you happen to be able, willing and available to volunteer some time on any of:



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Thursday 2nd September
Friday 3rd September
Monday 6th September
Tuesday 7th September

We would be extremely grateful and it would assist us with ensuring all testing is carried out promptly, efficiently and safely. On each day there are two sessions running (8:30am to 12pm and then 12pm to 3pm). You are welcome (of course) to do a full day by signing up to both sessions. Without being really greedy, if you are able to do more than one session overall it assists with planning and skills (but we will take anything you can spare)

I know this is a big ask given the demands people will already have on their time but if you don't ask you don't get!

If you think you may be able and want to find out more/sign up then please explore this link:

[Bristol Met Academy - LFD Testing September 2021 Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

If you have any questions about this then we have set up a dedicated email inbox to assist with separating communication flows at this busy time. It is bmalfd@clf.uk

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal