



## HIGH STANDARDS. HIGH ASPIRATIONS. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

2<sup>nd</sup> March 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 yesterday around the timeline for testing and welcoming all students back on site we have had a number of questions (all good) so I thought it worth compiling them into an FAQ style document which may assist with wider understanding of the testing programme and also help settle any anxieties there may be around taking the testing.

Yesterday the BBC came in to film the test site we have set up. A few of the students and staff currently on site agreed to participate in the footage as they undertook the weekly/twice weekly testing they have been doing since Christmas. We hope that this short clip may help widen the understanding and the process surrounding it. The short piece can be viewed on the BBC Breakfast facebook page at this link, starting 30 seconds in for our piece.

<https://www.facebook.com/bbcbreakfast/videos/1123910211413192>

### FAQs so far

- 1) **Do we have to wear uniform when we come for testing?** – 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 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8:30am (unless you are staying on site as a student through the current provision in which case full uniform is required for the day as normal)
- 2) **Do we have to attend the tutor session in the morning on days we are being tested?** – due to logistics we haven't been able to work around timetabled sessions as we are keen to get all students back on site as quickly but safely as possible. Therefore if your testing clashes with the tutor session or your tutor lets you know the session is cancelled (they may have volunteered to help with the testing) then you do not need to attend. Just make sure you are engaging in any work available over those 4 days before you come back fully on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8:30am.
- 3) **What if I don't consent to having the test?** – That is your/your parents/carers right. There will be no judgement or identification of those who have or haven't had testing. **All** students will return on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 8:30am 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 decrease and stay low which will ensure that schools can stay open and wider lockdown restrictions can be relaxed in accordance with the outlined Government plan.
- 4) **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



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(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.

- 5) ***I really can't face swabbing my tonsils. I am worried it may make me sick.*** – the test processors and assistants will be on hand to support (although the tests are self-administered). If you really cannot face doing your throat (which is recommended for increased accuracy) it is permissible to swab both nostrils instead (which is still deemed an accurate test). Again, the on site team can support and advise. The last thing we want any student to do is be really anxious or worried. Together we will find the best solution for every individual and we will get back to a form of normal.

We have also had a number of questions about the face coverings. In order to not make this update even longer I will write again on Friday with more specific FAQ and info about the wider re-opening on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and will include face coverings within that. As always, be assured that we will be sensitive to striking the balance between following the Government's wishes and scientific advisors with the wellbeing of all of our community.

### **Volunteers for Test Site**

This is a big ask, I appreciate that in advance, and have held off sending it to wider families until we explored other avenues (our own staff and previous volunteers) but we are still critically short in some places to realise the testing timetable we have proposed. We are keen to try and return students to site as promptly (and safely) as possible whilst delivering the Government's wish of testing prior to return. The plan we have put together is ambitious but means we can have every student back to a "normal" timetable from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.

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

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March – critically short, particularly morning session!

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March – critically short, particularly morning session!

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March

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 (8am to 12pm and then 12pm to 3:30pm). 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 various sessions on each day then it would assist us even more as it will lead to increased confidence in the role holder.

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:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bristol-met-academy-mass-lfd-testing-testing-sessions-tickets-143285969191>

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](mailto:bmalfd@clf.uk)

Best wishes,



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**Principal Mr C Shaw**

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Mr C Shaw - Principal



**Cabot  
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