



BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

BRENTFORD 6th FORM

VISION | CREATIVITY | EXCELLENCE

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12th October 2021

PMA/mm

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Covid Testing

I am writing to thank you for your continued support in encouraging your children (if you have consented) to test twice weekly to help us reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our school community. I have included a letter from the government for your reference outlining their current guidance with regard to testing.

I wanted to let you know that we have just received a delivery of new test kits that will be distributed to students today. However, these testing kits are different to the ones we have distributed in the past in the way that they are administered. We have explained the difference to the students in an assembly, but we wanted to inform you too.

The SARS-COV-2 Antigen Rapid Test kits that students will be receiving require only a nasal swab to be taken but from both nostrils (no need to swab the throat). The full instructions are included in the test kits and the link below is to a video that shows how the test is to be completed.

[Test Instructions](#)

As usual, can you please ensure that the result is recorded on our school form as well as reporting on the NHS website. This is to ensure we can keep accurate records of student numbers in the school who are testing regularly. The link to the form is below but can be easily found on our school website under the coronavirus heading.

[Student Form to Record Results](#)

The tests we have handed out are for the remainder of this half term and for testing over the half term break. As directed by the DFE, your daughters should continue to test twice weekly over the half-term break and take a test the night before they return to school after the break. A reminder that students are due back in school on Wednesday 3rd November.

If you have not previously consented to the testing but now wish your daughter to be included, please let us know via email to fduffy@brentford.hounslow.sch.uk. We can then ensure that your daughter receives a testing kit as soon as possible

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P May
Assistant Headteacher

If you are invited to come into school, as a parent/carer or any other purpose we are asking, to assist with reducing the spread of Covid 19, to bring and wear a mask at all times whilst on the school site and to complete a 'Test and Trace' form. Many thanks for your cooperation.

"TOP 100 NON-SELECTIVE STATE-FUNDED SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY" NICK GIBB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOLS (FEBRUARY 2016)





Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department
for Education

*Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education*

*Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street
Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT*

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

*39 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0EU*

A joint letter to parents of secondary school and college students in England on Covid 19 testing and vaccines from the Secretaries of State for Education and for Health and Social Care

11th October 2021

COVID-19 AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENGLAND

We know that children and young people have been hugely affected by the pandemic, both in terms of their education and their ability to socialise and participate in activities that benefit them outside of formal education.

We want to thank you as parents and guardians of secondary school and college students for your support over the last eighteen months. We know this time has been difficult for many of you, as well as for the young people you care for.

As students return to the classroom, we would ask for your continued support to make sure your children are able to stay in face-to-face learning, by encouraging them to:

- test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so. This way, we can find individuals who have the virus but are not showing symptoms and stop them from passing it on to others.
- come forward for the COVID-19 vaccine. This is one of the best things young people can do to protect themselves and those around them.

We know that students have missed a lot of time in school and college since the pandemic started, and that there is no substitute for face-to-face learning. Keeping students in the classroom in the coming months is therefore a government priority, both for their immediate and longer-term wellbeing.

We know that some of you will be concerned about the health risks to the young people you care for. We want to reassure you that the evidence shows that young people remain at very low risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

However, we need to continue to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Young people who get ill will need to miss school or college and may spread it to others. That is why we are encouraging you all to support your children to get vaccinated and to continue to test regularly. This will help to detect cases early, reduce spread, and keep students in education.

Vaccination

Vaccines are our best defence against COVID-19. They help protect young people, and benefit those around them. Vaccination makes people less likely to catch the virus and less likely to pass it on.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 12-15 years has now started. Thousands of young people across the country have already taken the opportunity to receive their vaccine. If your child is 12-15 years old, a consent form and information leaflet from the [NHS](#) will be sent home allowing you to provide consent for your child to receive their vaccination at school.

We remind you that 16- and 17-year-olds can book their vaccination through the [National Booking Service](#) or find a convenient [walk-in](#) site. Please do help your 16- and 17-year-olds to book a vaccination if they have not already done so. We would also encourage you to book a vaccination for yourself if you have not done so already, or if you have missed a second dose.

Testing

We ask that you support and encourage your children to test twice a week at home, every week, with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. This will help us reduce the transmission of COVID-19 among our children. Please report and upload test results [online](#), even if they are negative or void, as this allows us to understand the virus and take additional action when needed.

In addition to regular twice weekly testing:

- Children displaying the symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate and [get a PCR test](#).
- Children who receive a positive LFD result should isolate and book a PCR test to confirm their result.
- Children who are identified as a close contact by NHS Test and Trace should take a PCR test and continue to go to school while they wait for their result.
- In response to potential outbreaks, your school, college or local health team may advise additional testing. For example, if your child is identified as a close contact, they may be asked to take daily LFDs, while they wait for their PCR result. In this scenario, they should continue to attend school as long as their LFD results remain negative.

Additionally, please encourage your child to [follow guidance on wearing face coverings](#) in crowded spaces with people they don't know well, for example on school transport.

We know that many of you will have questions or concerns about this, and we understand that. The NHS website (www.nhs.uk) is an excellent source of advice, which we hope will be able to answer many of your questions about testing or vaccination. If not, you can call the 119 service who should be able to help with questions on testing. When you get a vaccination consent form for your child, it will include details of how you can ask further questions of your local teams.

Thank you again for your support.



RT HON NADHIM ZAHAWI MP RT HON SAJID JAVID MP