

Dear Parent / Carer

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing of students on their return to school from Monday 8th March

I am sure that you are aware of the request from the DfE that secondary schools offer and encourage their students to undertake three LFD tests on their return to school sites from Monday 8th March 2021. Having consulted with the DfE as well as Public Health England, Warwickshire I would like to set out the plans for how we are going to conduct this requirement at Bilton school.

Consent

I would first of all like to thank everyone for the completion of the form, originally sent out in January which indicates if you consent to your son/daughter having an LFD test. As we know this is voluntary, but the guidance is that we **strongly advise** parents to allow this test to be conducted. Can I urge the few parents and carers who haven't yet completed this to do so as it is really helpful for us, regardless of whether you wish for your child/children to have the test or not.

Pre-test guidance

We have created a pre-test guidance video for parents and students to watch. This will be sent out to all parents next week. This is in addition to our test assistants giving clear instructions as to how to carry out the test at the time. We hope that this will help alleviate any concerns that people may have with regards to the actual testing procedure.

Test 1

We aim to make this mass testing process as safe and effective as possible as well as minimising the disruption to the return to school and the educational experience for our students. Therefore, we are going to carry out Test 1 prior to our return on 8th March. I would like to reassure parents and students that we have had our LFD testing facility in operation for staff and vulnerable/key worker students since 5th January 2021. We have an experienced and dedicated team running this operation who adhere to all the necessary safety requirements.

We are inviting students on-site at the dates and times as set out below:

Timing	Thursday 4th March	Friday 5th March
8.30-10.30am	Year 9	Year 7
11am-1pm	Year 10	Year 11
1.30pm-3pm	Year 12&13	Year 8
3.30pm-6.30pm	Twilight session	Twilight session

If you are unable to attend with your child during their allocated year 'slot' then please email ldtestresults@biltonmail.com with your availability between 3.30pm and 6.30pm on Thursday 4th March and Friday 5th March so that we can book you in during the twilight session. Once students have had Test 1 they will return home.

Tests 2 and 3

From Monday 8th March all students will return to school on a full-time basis, there will not be any staggered start arrangements. Within this week students will have their Test 2 and Test 3 at the following times within wb 8th March.

Timing	Mon 8th	Tues 9th	Wed 10th	Thurs 11th	Fri 12th	Mon 15th
8.30am – 11.00am	Yr 12 & 13	Year 9	Year 11	Yr 12 & 13	Year 9	Year 7
11.30am - 1.30pm	Year 10	Year 8	Year 7	Year 10	Year 8	Year 11

Once testing on school premises has been completed

Our planned schedule will mean that all students have been through the process of receiving their three on-site LFD tests by Mon 15th March 2021. After this time and in line with DfE guidance they will be provided with LFD tests to take home and carry out self-testing twice a week. When we are provided with more detailed information regarding this we will inform you of these procedures.

I am sure that you can appreciate that the process of mass LFD testing is a significant logistical undertaking that we have limited experience on this scale. However, I know that I can rely on your support and patience through this process. If you have any specific concerns or queries that have not been covered, either within this communication or via the information video then please contact ldtestresults@biltonmail.com

Thank you for ongoing support and understanding



Tim Chambers
Headteacher