



# Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

12th March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Regular asymptomatic (no symptoms) COVID-19 testing has been in place for all staff at schools and colleges since January. [The Government has recently announced that](#) all secondary and college aged students will be offered tests to make the return to school safer for everyone.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. To reduce the spread of the virus, we need to identify those individuals. We can do this in schools by carrying out tests at home twice every week, 3-4 days apart.

## Testing students at home

We have been so impressed with the way that students have adapted swiftly to testing in school over the past week and are now in a good position to be able to test at home. Taking part in testing is voluntary and all students will be able to attend school whether they take part or not. However, the more we can test, the safer our school community.

We will be distributing home test kits on Monday 15th March during tutor time. The kits will be made available to all students, even if they have not previously accessed the on-site testing. We would like students to **take two tests each week on Sunday evening or Monday morning (not both) and Wednesday evening or Thursday morning (not both)**. If you are planning to test in the morning make sure you leave enough time, as it takes at least 45 minutes to take the test and wait for and report the result.

Tests are free of charge. Students will receive 2 packs of 3 tests with a leaflet on how to take the test and report the results.

The result of each test needs to be reported using the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>. **This is required for all test results: negative, void and positive.** Parents, carers and/or students will also need to **inform the school of any positive test results** by calling on 01234 342521 or by email at [enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk) including your child's name and year group.

## Taking the test

We will give students a leaflet with instructions on how to do the test with the kit. There is also a useful video to show you how to take the test [here](#). There is also a useful guide [here](#), an easy read guide [here](#) and a 4 step poster [here](#). More [help and support is available](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results and a video showing you how to take the test.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

If anyone tests **positive you, your household, any support bubbles you are part of** should self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days. You need to report your result to both [NHS Test and Trace](#) and school as outlined above and then [order a confirmatory PCR test](#).

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Website: [biddenham.beds.sch.uk](http://biddenham.beds.sch.uk)

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So, you should continue to follow social distancing, and other measures to reduce transmission such as wearing a face mask and regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

Home testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If you or anyone in your household gets symptoms of the virus you should, self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

We are strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will allow your child and other students to attend school as safely as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about home testing please do not hesitate to contact the school on us by emailing [enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk) or calling 01234 342521.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.



Mr D Bailey  
Principal



Ms E Grylls  
Head of School