



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised, we are writing to you today with further details about the Covid testing programme for all students. The government is very clear that we must use all of the tools available to us to combat the transmission of COVID-19. These tools range from vaccination, symptomatic testing, improving medicines, self-isolation regulations and non-pharmaceutical interventions like hands-face-space. Asymptomatic testing is a further and critical tool to help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and it will help us to:

- identify and help to prevent staff, students and pupils without symptoms from transmitting and spreading the virus unknowingly.
- operate as safely as possible by self-isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical.

Asymptomatic testing is done via simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests. They enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. No test is 100% accurate, but the LFD, when done as part of a testing regime is very good at picking up those with high viral loads (i.e. those that are the most contagious).

All schools are required to offer a LFD test prior to their return to school this September. This is so students have undertaken some testing in a supervised setting, and have had the chance to familiarise themselves with self-swabbing. Following the initial test in school, students will be able to collect home testing kits from school and start testing at home on a regular basis.

To reduce any unnecessary impact on student learning the LFD tests will be conducted on **Tuesday 31st August**. Each student will be invited in as part of their tutor group at a set time (see appointment times on the back of this letter). Students will be required to wear a mask when they arrive on the school site. They will come in for their test only and then go straight home, to avoid any transmission. We will only inform parents of a positive test result, please assume your child's test is negative unless contacted.

Most students have already completed consent forms previously, but if not, these can be completed electronically by following [this link](#), (which is recommended), or paper copies can be printed off and brought in when students attend their first test appointment. We will **not** be able to conduct tests without consent, and we would really rather not have to send students away, so your help with this is much appreciated. Here is a [link to our privacy notice](#) (which can also be found on the website) that explains how personal data we collect is processed.

It is really important that students are on time for their allocated testing slots, to help avoid unnecessary queuing. Students should come directly to the Sports Hall where they will be directed through a one way system and registration process.

We know that there is a great deal of information here and appreciate that you may have questions or queries. Please contact the school by email on enquiries@biddenham.beds.sch.uk or call us on 01234 342521 and we will aim to answer your queries as swiftly as possible.

Many thanks, as ever, for your support and patience.

Yours sincerely

MR D BAILEY
Principal

MS E GRYLLES
Head of School

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Sixth Form – Year 12/13 & 14

3.00 - 3.10	SMG/AS/LJB/RAV
3.10 - 3.20	JRG/SIM/TMP
3.20 - 3.30	SAR/MGH/DAG
3.30 - 3.40	CSW/BSL/GB/SML
3.40 - 3.50	SH/NF/BD/IH/AAS