



10 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of KS3 students,

Home COVID-19 Testing Kits for KS3 students

Thank you for your tremendous support in getting students back to school this week. It's been lovely to have them back.

I'd also like to thank you for your support in transporting students to school last week for their first lateral flow test (LFT) where that was possible.

Students have been brilliant at learning how to do the tests in school and the process has worked very well. The majority of pupils have had their second tests already and will be tested once more in school (year 8 on Thursday and year 7 on Friday). **Once they have had their third and final test, they will be supplied with home testing kits for you to do with them if you choose.** It is voluntary but obviously the more people that undertake the tests then the safer everyone is.

There are some key instructions that you need to be aware of prior to using them:

- Consent is assumed if you open the box and use the tests, we do not have to seek this prior to giving the boxes out
- You need to read the privacy notice prior to that (it is similar to the one supplied for the in school tests and refers to the data needed when logging the results)
- There is an instructional video available at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>
- The pack will come with a replacement set of instructions separately. These replace the ones which are in the box which should be discarded
- Tests should be undertaken prior to your child coming to school, and the two tests should take place 3-5 days apart. My suggestion would be to test on Monday and Thursday mornings. If that is not possible then testing them the previous evening is acceptable but the later the better (i.e. Sunday evening and Wednesday evening)
- Ideally you should wait 30 mins after eating or drinking before undertaking a test
- Children who are 11 should be assisted with the swabbing, those aged 12 and above can do it independently (they have all been able to do this in school)
- All results - whether negative, void or positive – must be logged with NHS track and trace using the following link <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>
- If your child tests positive, then you need to inform the school as soon as possible and the whole family must isolate using this link <https://tinyurl.com/positivetestreport> . You must then book a confirmatory PCR test by dialling 119 or by visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> . If this test is negative, then you will no longer have to isolate and your child can return to school.



BLACKMINSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Whilst the process seems a little daunting when listed like that, it is actually quite straightforward and easy to do. The children are well trained in conducting the tests and processing them is straightforward using the instructions and the kits. The more pupils that undertake the testing then the easier it will be to keep everyone safe by breaking transmission of the disease.

Please also be aware that families of children in schools are able to collect kits to test themselves and their household. We can't issue kits through school, unfortunately, but the information and details about how to do this is here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?fbclid=IwAR3USWTjkGw7TH7tk1j_6XFspZWjaHrWPvDWt-Quml9xvcEflGq6DvJuwDI

If you have any queries at all, then please contact the school office by email or phone and we will do our best to answer them.

Thank you once again for all your support for the school and your child during this time.

Kind regards,

Linda McQuone

