

Dear Parents and Guardians,

29th November 2021

We have been asked to test secondary school pupils onsite **once** on their return to school after the holidays. Pupils will be encouraged to take a further test at home 3-4 days after their initial test on site.

To comply with this, we will prepare to offer all pupils one Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test on site on the 5th and 6th of January 2022. This will help to identify positive cases of COVID19 and reduce transmission, to support the continuity of education, particularly as increased social mixing is likely over the Christmas and New Year period.

Please note that all students will return to lessons in school on 5th January, whether they are consenting to testing or not. This testing will cause minimal disruption to their school day.

Once again, we require consent:

This consent form is for participation in a test at school, designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Anyone experiencing symptoms should follow [government guidelines to self-isolate](#), even if they have had a recent negative lateral flow test.

Please complete the link below to consent to January 2022 testing before Monday 6th December 2021:

[Microsoft Forms](#)



Microsoft Forms

What testing is required for pupils in secondary schools over Christmas and when they return in January?

Pupils are encouraged to test over Christmas in accordance with current public health advice. Pupils may wish to take a rapid lateral flow test in situations where they are more likely to catch or spread COVID-19. This includes spending time in crowded and enclosed spaces, or before visiting people who are at higher risk of severe illness if they catch COVID-19. During the last week of term all pupils will be provided with a home testing kit to assist you during the Christmas break.

Is testing compulsory?

Testing is voluntary and individuals are allowed to attend school or college even if they decide not to take part in testing. However, we would like to encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly. Anyone with symptoms, whether they are involved in this programme or not, should book a free NHS test and follow government self-isolation guidance until the results of their test are known.

Why do pupils need to test on site when they return after Christmas?

Testing on site on return is an effective way to reduce the risk of transmission in schools and support the continuation of face-to-face education, by identifying positive cases and isolating those that are the most contagious as soon as is practical.

Testing will take place during school hours over the 5th and 6th of January; we will collect consenting pupils from their normal lessons throughout the day with as little disruption as possible to their learning. The usual supportive approach will be taken from our staff and volunteers.

Thank you for your support in this process, and for helping us in our efforts to keep everyone as safe as possible. If you have any further queries, please contact Lynn Riley-Fox at rileyfl@bedalehighschool.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Tom Kelly

Headteacher

Bedale High School