13th January, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Since returning to school on 4th January we have been working very hard to keep our school as safe as possible, as we have throughout the pandemic. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms has been implemented within The Bolsover School for staff and those students currently attending school, as part of the national mass testing program using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as ‘lateral flow tests’.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests aim to help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. **The test is voluntary**, but take up so far has been very good and I would encourage everyone to take it.

Whilst we do not yet have confirmation of when our school will re-open to further students, to help us in being as prepared as possible, we wish to obtain as many consent and registration forms as possible in advance so that we are ready to test as many students as possible when the school is allowed to re-open.

I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information, detailing how your son/daughter will administer the test.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the form below and the enclosed consent statement (one per student) and return it to the school either via email ([info@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk)) or post as soon as possible please. If you are unable to send this in before your child returns, please can I ask that he/she brings the forms with him/her on the first day back in school, handing it in as they enter the school.

The test is self-administered but supervised by trained staff. Our staff are not allowed to carry out the swabbing for your son/daughter. The ‘lateral flow’ tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. Students aged 16 and over are able to consent to the test themselves.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will, of course, be offered free of charge.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school via [info@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@bolsover.derbyshire.sch.uk) or by telephone.

Yours faithfully,



Mr M Hall

Head of School

To process the test, we will register all participating students to complete this registration. Please fill in the form below as clearly as possible and complete the enclosed consent statement.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First Name** |  |
| **Last Name** |  |
| **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Gender at birth** |  |
| **Currently showing any COVID-19 symptoms?** |  |
| **Today’s date** |  |
| **First line of Home Address** |  |
| **Home Postcode** |  |
| **Email Address** |  |
| **Mobile Number** |  |