



18 December 2020

Dear Parents

I am sure you will have read about the government's ambitions to provide access to rapid testing for secondary students and teachers from the start of next term.

Firstly, we think this is the right thing to do, indeed the profession has been calling for this for some time, as it is also now calling for teachers to be prioritised for vaccinations. Only in this way can we realistically begin to guarantee stability in the continuity for our students and staff.

As I am sure you can imagine, to set up a safe and manageable process for testing is complex. To summarise what we understand at the moment:

- Schools will need to work with other agencies to organise the test administration, and this may involve recruiting and training staff and/or volunteers.
- There will need to be facilities where those who have been tested can wait for 30 minutes, and those who test positive can wait until they can go home.

I hope you can understand that to give this proper thought and planning, will take time and the expertise of a group of people. Unfortunately, the guidance has only just been issued, and has already changed, and is not complete. Furthermore, the kits and final training packages have not yet been released. You can find further information as of 15 December [here](#).

School and Trust staff have been going above and beyond since March, and this term has been particularly challenging. It is imperative that they have their break so that they can educate and care for your children next term with their typical dynamism and quality.

I realise that you would like to know the details, but we must not rush into anything without the proper information. I want to reassure you that we will be reflecting on the guidance when it has been fully issued, and we will get back to you as early as possible in the new term with details of the roll out. We want to make this happen, it is a good thing, but we will only do it when we are sure that we can do so safely and in a well-organised way.

What would be useful is if anyone is willing to volunteer to help, especially if you have first aid or medical training, and are part of the online DBS service. We may be calling for such volunteers in the new year.

Regarding on site or remote learning, your respective headteachers will confirm with you how your child will receive their learning between 4 and 11 January 2021.

I know how supportive you have been and thank you in advance for your patience with this issue.

Yours faithfully

Miss M Davies  
Chief Executive Officer