

Ref: DW/hw

14 September 2021

Dear Parents

Dear parents, I would like to thank you for your support over the last week. The return to school for all pupils has been a successful one, in particular for the Year 7 pupils who have joined us. They have made a positive start to the new year, settling in well to the demands of secondary school life.

Lateral flow testing

All pupils with consent have now received two on-site lateral flow device tests, and Government guidance asks that pupils should then continue to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. Tests have been provided to all pupils.

Staff will also undertake twice weekly home tests until the end of September, when this will also be reviewed.

We will also continue to offer testing to pupils who are unable to test themselves at home. Please email Ms J McCue (jmcue@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk) if you have any questions.

In the event of an outbreak, we would return to onsite testing for all pupils who have consent.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

Close contacts will now be identified via NHS Test and Trace and education. We as a school will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing.

NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent to identify close contacts. Individuals **are not required to self-isolate** if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Pupils should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, or if they have had a positive test result.

Pupils who are symptomatic in school will be sent home.

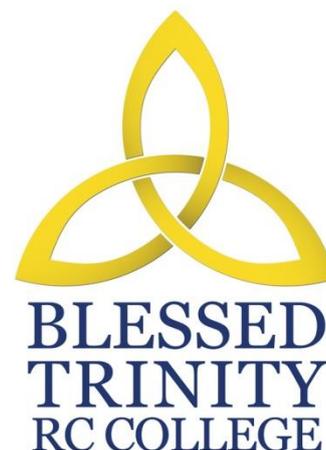
For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a pupil is awaiting collection, they will be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. Windows will be opened for fresh air and ventilation.

Confirmatory PCR tests

If your child tests positive on a lateral flow test, then they must remain at home and book a confirmatory PCR test. If the PCR test result is positive, then they will need to isolate in line with national guidance. If the PCR test result is negative, then they can return to school.

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If you have any questions regarding self-isolation and PCR testing please contact Dr Tuohy at (ituohy@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk)

Covid cases and our contingency plan

If Covid cases continue to rise, we may need to respond very quickly to the rising levels of infection by reintroducing some additional control measures during the school day. Our first measure will be to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings on corridors and in public spaces where social distancing is difficult. Our second measure will be to reintroduce the wearing of facemasks in lessons.

We want pupils to remain in school for face to face teaching, but in the event of mass infection and to ensure safety for pupils and staff, we will look at bringing back the additional measures we had in place last academic year.

Vaccination of pupils

In light of the Government's announcement to begin vaccinating 12-16 year olds against COVID, vaccinations will be administered by Intrahealth on behalf of the NHS. Once vaccinations have been arranged parents will be sent the link for the consent form. I would like to reassure all parents that **pupils will not be vaccinated if they do not have parental consent.**

I will of course write to you again when I have more details to share with you.

I thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Williams (Mrs)
Headteacher