



BISHOP VAUGHAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

17 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Welsh Government are offering pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 the opportunity of accessing lateral flow tests (LFTs). These are home testing kits for identifying and asymptomatic cases of Covid-19, with the aim that if those carrying the virus asymptotically are aware of this and isolate, there will ultimately be reduced transmission of the virus in schools and the wider community.

This is an entirely voluntary initiative, however we ask for your support in encouraging your child to test in order to help keep everyone safe. Test kits with full instructions will be provided to all pupils whose parents have given consent for them to receive them and to participate in the testing. Those over the age of sixteen may, of course, give consent themselves. These test kits will be sent home with your child for use whilst in the home environment. **No testing will take place at school and no child will be given a test kit without a consent form for this provided to the school.**

More information on testing can be found at this link:

[http://d6vsczyu1rky0.cloudfront.net/33619_b/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LFT-Self-](http://d6vsczyu1rky0.cloudfront.net/33619_b/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/LFT-Self-Testing-for-pupils.pdf)

[Testing-for-pupils.pdf](#) Please note that the reference to LFDs is an abbreviation of lateral flow device, part of the kit used to take the test.

Taking the test is straightforward and takes just a few minutes. There is then a thirty minute waiting period before the result is visible on the device. A short video explaining the process can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9XR8RZxKNo&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>

Importantly, please note that these tests are for asymptomatic testing only, i.e. they should only be used if your child has no symptoms of Covid-19. If your child or any other household member is exhibiting any of the three main symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new persistent cough or a change to/ loss of the sense of taste or smell) please isolate as a household and book a PCR test. This is a different test and it is one taken at a testing site or received through the post. This type of test can be accessed by contacting 119 by phone or at this website: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you would like your child to receive a testing kit, please complete the consent form linked here: <https://forms.office.com/r/RkiFYrZZD8>

No child will be given a testing kit without this consent having been provided. Please note also that your child must ensure that the test is taken straight home after school and not opened on the journey home. There is clear information inside the kit on the importance of sanitisation before use and on all other aspects of how to take the test. There is also information on how to report the outcome of the test (whether positive or negative). Those who receive a positive result, as noted in the kit, should isolate and book a PCR test as described above.

Pupils over the age of sixteen, as referenced previously, may give consent themselves if they choose to, and testing kits will be provided on Friday afternoon to all pupils for whom we have a completed consent form. This consent only needs to be provided for the first test kit and further kits will then be provided when the initial kit (which contains three tests) has been used. Your child will receive information about the collection of replacement kits at the appropriate times.

We hope that this voluntary initiative will prove helpful in reducing transmission rates and therefore the number of occasions upon which our year groups or transport bubbles will need to isolate, and that this additional precautionary measure, implemented nationally, will be a further reassurance to our pupils and their families about the work that is being undertaken to keep them safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. E. Pole
Headteacher