



2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

Here are the confirmed details for the phased return of students to face to face lessons within college. Thank you so much for your patience so far.

We have developed a testing plan that will enable us to carry out a Lateral Flow Device test to all students for whom consent has been given by the end of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. This will mean that all Bishop Laney students will be in face to face lessons from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March unless they are already self-isolating, or unless they return a positive LFD test.

### Testing routine

We need two actions from you, and we would be grateful if you could complete these as soon as you have read through this letter.

1. Please make sure you have completed the consent form for testing – this can be accessed on this link and needs to be completed if you give consent or if you do not give consent: [Consent form for testing](#)
2. We are using the [parents' evening booking system](#) to manage the appointments for COVID testing – can you please click on [this link](#) to book your first test, which will take place on the afternoon of Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Bookings will open at 6pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

The Parents' Evening system has been updated so that students can make their own bookings for COVID testing without their parents' details, by entering your own name in place of parent / carer's in the Your Details section. The appointment time will be sent to the email address entered here.

### Your Details

---

Title	First Name	Surname
<input type="text" value="Mr"/>	<input type="text" value="Joe"/>	<input type="text" value="Student"/>
Email		Confirm Email
<input type="text" value="16jstudent@bishoplaney.org"/>		<input type="text" value="16jstudent@bishoplaney.org"/>

### Student's Details

---

First Name	Surname	Date of Birth		
<input type="text" value="Joe"/>	<input type="text" value="Student"/>	<input type="text" value="13"/>	<input type="text" value="June"/>	<input type="text" value="2006"/>

**It is important that you only come into college for your test. There will be no waiting facilities. The test will take between 10 and 20 minutes, after which you will need to go straight home.**



Once you have been tested you will receive an email with a bar code to the email address you provided when giving consent. This might take several hours due to the volume of tests we will be processing. There will be clear instructions with the email on what to do with the barcode and once you have followed these instructions you will receive a text message with your result.

If the test is negative, then you will be able to attend college from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will then manage the remaining two tests to take place in college during the day. The second test will take place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> and you will be asked to select a timeslot.

If you test positive (Calum Semple, Professor of Outbreak Medicine and Child Health at the University of Liverpool, estimates that between 1.2 to 0.4 of students will test positive with the LFD assays!) then we will be able to notify you as soon as possible. You will then need to book a PCR test with the drive-in centre and will need to isolate, as will the rest of the family, for 10 days.

### **Resources to support testing**

There is a diagram at the end within the accompany FAQs outlining what students can expect with their COVID test. I've taken the test many times; I hope it will reassure you when I tell you that the swab on the back of the throat doesn't affect me, or others, in the slightest. However, I must be honest that I've yet to manage the nasal swab without making my eyes water – so the pressure is on!

### **Safety measures in college**

There is only one new alteration to the existing safety control measures that were in place for the whole of the Autumn term and that is the requirement to wear face coverings in lessons as well as everywhere else in the building. This is a temporary measure and will be reviewed by Government over the Easter holidays as to whether it needs to remain in place.

I have produced a Frequently Asked Question document that hopefully will address all of the queries you might have regarding face coverings and testing, but I'd like to refer to the consent of face coverings and testing here as well.

Some of our staff are concerned about the speed with which students are returning to schools across the country. We should rightly be celebrating that over 20 million people have been vaccinated but very few of the staff within the college have been so far. There is understandable concern about the potential risks to a sudden shift from a national lockdown to mixing with 1,300 students albeit over a 3-to-5-day period (even with the reassurance testing will bring).

I know there may be some reluctance from within our community to support face coverings in the classroom and we have already been notified of some cases where consent for testing is not being given. Can I please ask that, where there is no medical reason for a covering not to be worn, or for a test not to be completed, parents support the testing and face covering requirement. No harm will come to any child or member of staff from wearing a face covering or taking a COVID test, but doing so will certainly give our community more confidence. I want everyone to feel that it is safe to resume face to face teaching and welcome our students back into college.

Please don't hesitate to contact the team via [office@bishoplaney.org](mailto:office@bishoplaney.org) in case of any questions.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton  
College Principal



Adam Steels  
Head of Bishop Laney Sixth Form