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Headteacher: Katherine Brown

KBO/JBI  
18 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

You will have heard in the press about the staggered re-opening in January and the implementation of rapid testing for secondary school students to limit the spread of Covid-19 after the Christmas break. The information provided by the government on this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

As you know, at Blaise High School we have and will continue to follow government guidance and as such I am writing to give you the information about our response to this.

*How will the staggered re-opening work?*

- Blaise High School will be closed to students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January
- Students in Year 11 will be required onsite throughout this time, although period 6 will be cancelled on both Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> to allow for key staff training
- All learning for year 7-10 during this time will be completed remotely and students should follow the links attached to find their remote lessons for each day
- Children of key workers, those who have EHCPs or who otherwise require an onsite provision will be on-site in our Key Worker School. If you believe your child may be eligible for this because they have an EHCP or you are a key worker then please book their place using the form linked below
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*How will rapid Covid-19 testing work?*

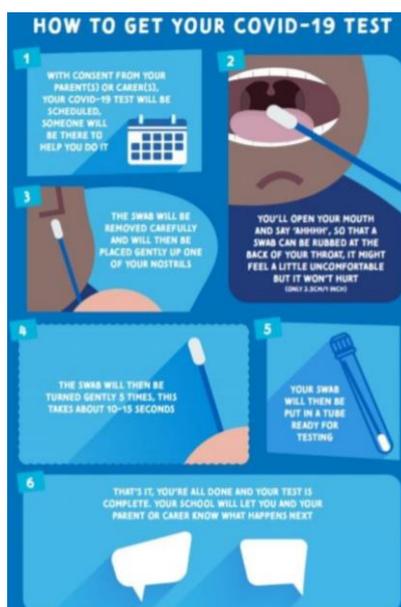
- We are implementing rapid Covid-19 testing in school from January 4<sup>th</sup>
- We are working hard to ensure our site and staff are ready to deliver these safely. The schedule outlined for testing is subject to receiving the correct amount of testing kits and we will update you on January 4<sup>th</sup> if we feel we need to adjust our plans at all from the ones I am sharing here
- Below I have organised the explanation of on-site testing into the questions I think you'll find most useful:

*What is a rapid Covid-19 test?*

A rapid Covid-19 test involves a simple swab, which the child can administer themselves in their mouth under the supervision and guidance of trained test assistant.

Continued

Here's a visual guide to show you what to expect:



*When can my child have their test?*

|                   | <b>Test 1</b>                     | <b>Test 2</b>                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Year 7            | Tuesday 5th January 14:00-15:00   | Friday 8th January 14:00-15:00   |
| Year 8            | Tuesday 5th January 12:30-13:30   | Friday 8th January 12:30-13:30   |
| Year 9            | Tuesday 5th January 11:00-12:00   | Friday 8th January 11:00-12:00   |
| Year 10           | Tuesday 5th January 9:30-10:30    | Friday 8th January 9:30-10:30    |
| Year 11           | Monday 4th January 15:00-16:00    | Thursday 7th January 10:00-11:00 |
| Resource Base     | Monday 4th January 13:30 to 14:30 | Thursday 7th January 8:40-9:40   |
| Key Worker school | Monday 4th January 13:30 to 14:30 | Thursday 7th January 8:40-9:40   |

*Is testing compulsory?*

Participation is voluntary and active consent is required. You can provide consent using the form linked below.

*How will we be told the test result?*

Test results take at least 30 minutes to process so we will require all students to leave site once they have completed their test, unless they are part of the on-site provision. We will then contact, by telephone, anyone whose test result was positive. If you haven't heard from us then this means your test result was negative

*How many times to do I have to be tested?*

This first round of testing is known as mass testing. This is where we test all members of our school community. To complete the testing process, you must be tested twice, 3 days apart, the two test times are written above.

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*Where do students go for this test?*

Enter via the main vehicle gate on Station Road. Make your way down the drive to the main sports hall. The sports hall will be the testing centre and staff and signs will be in place to direct you to the correct entrance and route through.

*What happens if my child tests positive for Covid-19?*

Your child and their household must self-isolate and follow the government guidance linked here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/> . They will also be required to complete an additional PCR home testing kit test which is available nationally. We will provide remote work for them to complete during their isolation time.

What do parents need to do now?

- Firstly, please complete the form linked here: <https://forms.gle/iYSzFihhW8gmKQo49>
  - Use this to indicate consent for testing, which must be complete before your child's test date
  - Also use this to book a place at Keyworker School if this is relevant for you
- Secondly, review the remote lesson links attached and contact the school if you require additional support with IT and internet access so your child can complete their remote learning

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [info@blaisehighschool.co.uk](mailto:info@blaisehighschool.co.uk)  
I wish you a very relaxing and merry Christmas.

Kind regards,

Yours faithfully



Ms K Brown  
Headteacher