



28th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 5, I hope you enjoyed the wonderful weather during the break. It's been an excellent first week back for students and staff and there has been great learning and lots of very happy faces.

I wanted to write with an update on our work around Covid 19 in school and share some changes for the remainder of this term and beyond.

I am delighted to report that over the past 2 months we have conducted over 1,500 lateral flow tests on secondary students and staff and every test result has been negative, in addition we have seen some very impressive levels of attendance from students and staff reflecting a healthy school. Despite this very encouraging news, we are keeping all our Covid precautions in place.

The one change we want to make is around testing in school. In line with most schools we want to adapt our plans to create more learning time for students and to reduce the size of our testing team to have even more adults supporting learning opportunities. To achieve this goal, but also ensure testing continues for all families, from Wednesday (28/4/2021) all secondary bubbles will be tested on a Monday and Tuesday in school and we would then like those pupils to be tested **at home on a Friday**.

We know that many parents are already home testing with other children, and if not please be reassured the tests are simple and quick and second nature to our students now.

After testing parents are required to register the results on the government website and are encouraged to report results to school following a simple online process (google form) via the Belmont school website. In the event that parents receive a positive result, they will need to contact school and book a confirmatory PCR test and self-isolate immediately whilst awaiting the PCR result.

Please note that Self-test Kits will be issued to tutor groups on a Wednesday once every three weeks and will include an information leaflet of how to help your child take the test, process the kit and register the result online. We hope that all families can support this work and following a successful trial period we hope that most, if not all, students can be tested twice week at home from term 6.

If you have any questions or concerns about testing please contact Emma Kear at school.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

Kevin Day
Headteacher