



**Bexley Grammar School**  
Danson Lane, Welling, Kent, DA16 2BL  
A Specialist Language College  
and IB World School  
Tel: 020 8304 8538

Headteacher: Mr S C Elphick

e-mail: [enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk)

19th March 2021

## Home testing from this weekend - Sunday 21st March

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our in-school mass Covid-19 testing (3 tests for all students with consent) finished yesterday, nearly 4000 tests in 9 days! I am very grateful to the 31 parents who volunteered hours of their time to train and then administer the tests in intensive sessions. It has been a very impressive and smooth-running operation.

As you will be aware, the twice-weekly testing of students now moves to home, following [government guidance](#).

If she/he has been testing in school, your child should have brought home the first two home test kits (two packs of 3 tests) this week to **begin testing from this weekend**. (We are only permitted to issue home test kits to students who have done at least one test supervised in school.) More test kits will be distributed to your child in due course for testing during the Easter holiday and beyond (how far beyond we do not yet know).

### Taking the test

Guidance recommends that students take their tests in the morning but we understand if it is more practical for them to take their midweek tests, particularly, the evening before school. We strongly suggest setting a **routine for testing**: We are suggesting **Sunday morning and Wednesday morning (or evening)**.

*Please note that the instruction leaflet in each box should be discarded. **The separate leaflet that we distributed with the boxes should be used for reference.*** The leaflet explains exactly how to use the kit and this is a [useful video](#) to show you how to take the test. Further [help and support is available here](#), including instructions in different languages on how to test and report the results.

There is no need to keep used test equipment after the test result has been reported. You can put it in your normal bin (household waste).

**Important:** This testing does not replace symptomatic testing. If you have symptoms, you should self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

## Reporting the test result

For each test, whatever the result (Positive, Negative or Void) **you must report your result both to [us at school](#) and to the [NHS self report](#) website.** We have kept our online form as simple as possible to make this quick and easy for you. You will be used to the NHS reporting now, where registering makes subsequent visits much quicker - the only difference is that instead of the barcode you were scanning/entering, you now **scan the QR code printed on the test device or enter the code** in tiny letters below the QR code - either method works.

## What should you do after the test?

If anyone tests **positive**, you, your household and any support bubbles you are part of should **self-isolate** immediately in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance for 10 days and you should **contact the school** immediately so that we can trace close contacts in school. You should also [order a confirmatory PCR test](#).

A negative result does not guarantee that you are not carrying the virus. So you should continue to follow measures to reduce transmission, such as wearing a face mask, regularly washing your hands and observing social distancing.

If the result of the test is **unclear (void)** you should do another test. If the next test is also void, you should [book a PCR test](#).

If you or anyone in your household develops symptoms of the virus you should follow [national guidelines on self-isolation and testing](#).

## Why take part?

I am strongly encouraging all students to take part. Testing at home will support us in keeping the school community as safe as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Elphick  
Headteacher

---

### **Actions required:**

1. **Set a routine: Test every Sunday morning and Wednesday morning (or evening).**
2. **Report your result both to [us at school](#) and to the [NHS self-report website](#).**
3. **If you test positive, self-isolate, contact the school and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm.**