August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you are having a good holiday and enjoying spending time together as a family. I am writing to outline arrangements for the return to school in September, following the recent guidance released by the Government. I will write again next week to outline the changes to the daily procedures at Brymore now that schools are advised that there is no need for a bubble system and that things will begin to return to a more normal situation.

You may be aware that the Department of Education have stipulated that all schools test their students with lateral flow tests twice **in school** on their return in September to help identify any asymptomatic positive cases. To ensure a smooth start to the new academic year and to reduce the interruption to learning as much as possible, we are going to use the two inset days, **Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th September**, to perform the first test. The second test will be during the school day on Thursday or Friday of that first week – please see the schedule below. Please be aware this will mean that school will start as normal on Wednesday 8th September and there will be no staggered start, which other schools are proposing.

Please note that we ask you to bring your son into school for the first test and remain with him in the car before he is asked to come forward for testing and until his test has been completed. If you have sons in different year groups you are able to bring them at the same time. Staff will be on hand to help guide you on the day. To ensure our testing regime runs as efficiently as planned we request that you adhere to these arrangements below:

**All Year Out-boarders**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time (pm)** | **Year Group** |
| **Monday 6th September** | 1.30 - 1.50 | 11 |
|  | 1.50 - 2.10 | 10 |
|  | 2.10 - 2.30 |  9 |
|  | 2.30 - 2.50 |  8 |
|  | 3.00 - 4.00 |  7 |
| You are asked to remain onsite in your car so you can take your son home as soon as he has been tested (around 5 - 10 mins). **We appreciate that we are asking those parents of out-boarders, who are also attending the rugby training, to come to school two days running but we would appreciate your support.** |

**All Year Boarders**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Time (pm)** | **Year Group** |
| **Tuesday 7th September** | 12.00 - 1.00 |  Rugby Training (yr 8-11) - boarders **only** from all years who have signed up for it  |
|  |  3.30 - 4.30 |  7 and new starters in other years |
|  |  4.30 - 4.45 | 11 |
|  |  4.45 - 5.00 | 10 |
|  |  5.00 - 5.15 |  9 |
|  |  5.15 - 5.30 |  8 |
|  |  5.30 - 7.00  | Any late arrivals  |
| All boarders, including those boarders attending the rugby training, will be required to remain outside the dining hall until their test result is known (around 20 minutes). Once a negative test is known boarders are able to make their way to the boarding house where the houseparent will be there to welcome them.**Boarding houses will be open from 12 - 1pm only for those taking part in rugby training and then from 3.30pm onwards for others.** |

**The testing process for all boys is as follows:**

**Arrival:** Testing will take place in the old dining hall and there will be signs for your son to follow the one-way system. Boys must wear a face mask, use the hand sanitiser provided, and follow the one-way system maintaining social distancing.

**Registering:** Your son will be called to the Registration desk where staff will ask him if he has any COVID symptoms ***(please do not come onto the school site if your son has symptoms)*** and to confirm his details such as name and date of birth. He will then be given a barcode to take with him to the testing booth.

…../

**Taking the nasal only swab** (this is a change from the throat and nasal swab)**:** He will be directed to a booth to take his swab. He will need to take off his face mask and sanitise his hands. Blow his nose with the tissues provided and put the tissue in the bin, and then sanitise his hands again. There will be a swab for him to use, which he will need to take out of the packet without touching the absorbent end. A testing assistant will be on hand to give him step by step instructions. There will also be a poster showing instructions and images, and a mirror for him to use. Once he has completed his swab he will place it in the plastic tube provided, absorbent end downwards. Full spoken instructions and explanations will be given by trained members of staff.

**Leaving the testing site:** He will sanitise his hands before leaving, follow the one-way system, leaving through the allocated door. Out-boarders can leave for home straight away. Boarders will be asked to wait outside the dining hall until the result is known.

**What happens next:** Staff will then process his swab and have the result in 15 minutes. This will be recorded on the NHS Track & Trace system and the school results.

**We do advise you to take a home lateral flow test before leaving home particularly as parents of boarders**

**may be travelling a long way.**

**YEAR 7 AND NEW STARTERS ONLY**

We have a tried and tested regime in place to ensure that testing runs smoothly so please reassure your son that trained staff will be there to support him throughout the process.

**Consent**

The enclosed consent form is for participation in tests designed to detect asymptomatic coronavirus cases. Please complete and return to Consent Form, Brymore Academy, Cannington, Somerset TA5 2NB or as an email attachment to office@brymoreacademy.co.uk by 1st September. If you are unable to do this, please bring the completed form on the day of testing.

*NB. Parents who have already consented for boys in other years* ***do******not*** *need to complete another consent form.*

**Terms of Consent**

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school regarding the Lateral Flow COVID-19 Testing and ask questions, which have been answered satisfactorily based on the information presented in this letter and Privacy Notice which can be found on the school website and here <https://brymoreacademy.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/BCT-Privacy_Notice_updated_10_03_2020__002_.pdf>
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my son and he is happy to participate. If on the day of testing he does not wish to take part, then he will not be made to do so, and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to my son having a nose and/or throat swab for lateral flow tests. My son will self-swab if he is able to. Otherwise, I understand that assistance is available. In the case of under 16s or students who are not able to provide informed consent, I have discussed the test with my son, and he is happy to participate and self-swab (with assistance if required).
4. I understand there may be multiple tests required and this consent covers all tests for my son. If on the day of testing he does not wish to take part, then I understand he can withdraw consent at any time ahead of the test.
5. I consent that my son’s sample will be tested for the presence of COVID-19
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I commit to ensuring that my son will leave the school premises as promptly as possible, bearing in mind he may have some anxiety following a positive test result. I confirm I will organise a PCR COVID-19 test with my son immediately, preferably by attending a drive through testing facility. I will also inform the school.
7. I agree that if my son’s test result is confirmed to be positive from this PCR COVID-19 test, I will report this to the school and I understand that my son will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
8. NHS Test and Trace will work with the parents/carers/guardians of the positive case to identify close contacts - this is no longer a responsibility of the school.

Please note testing is strongly encouraged but it is not compulsory, and your son will be allowed to attend Brymore if permission is not granted.

Once we have completed the two lateral flow tests in school, boys will then be expected to continue to test at home twice a week. At the time of writing the guidance is that this will continue until at least the end of September and we will send home further testing kits in the second week of term.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

MARK THOMAS

Headteacher