



January 2021

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for Staff and Pupils

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme at Broughton High School.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in a school setting through asymptomatic transmission. The NHS is strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

Plan for testing

We intend to test all staff/pupils on a weekly basis. In addition, any staff member or pupil who has come into contact with positive cases in our school can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in school.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. We will inform the pupil of a positive test result. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. The pupil will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

What if my child tests positive?

If a pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will be informed immediately by Broughton High School and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. Broughton High School will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

During the time while waiting for the PCR result (via text/email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result they will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, pupils who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. Pupils will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

Headteacher: Mr Chris Morris

What if staff or pupils have been in close contact with someone in school who tests positive?

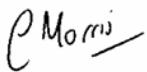
The staff member or pupil will be notified and asked to self-isolate for 10 days.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support our staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you have any questions. You can contact school by emailing Mrs Englishby, Business Manager (englishbyj@broughtonhigh.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mr C Morris
Headteacher