

23 February 2021



Brockington College

A Church of England Academy

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Return to school for all students

I'm sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday that all students will be able to return to school during the week of 8 March. We are delighted by this news and are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to face-to-face teaching. We know that students have had to work so hard and remained so diligent in attending our remote lessons but we know this is never a replacement for in-person teaching. For secondary school students, the Prime Minister was clear that students will need to have a Covid-19 lateral flow test prior to their return. As a result, their return date will be staggered over the course of the week commencing 8 March, to accommodate that. **The exact date your child will be able to return will be sent out next week.**

At Brockington College, we have been testing staff members and students who have been attending onsite, in our testing centre since the beginning of January. To be clear, the tests are self-administered and not carried out by staff members. Our testing staff provide guidance to students and staff as to how to administer the test, and then our staff process the test to achieve the result. We have found the process of testing to be hugely beneficial having picked up asymptomatic cases and therefore protecting others from infection as a result. The students who have taken the tests themselves have been mature in their approach to this, and we have been very impressed them.

The government has said that all consenting students will have three tests taken in school and then self-administered lateral flow tests will need to be taken twice weekly at home from then onwards. We welcome this approach as it provides staff and students (and their families) with confidence that those present in school are regularly tested and are free from the virus at those times. Although these tests are not perfect, we have found in our experience that they are picking up positive cases, and so would urge all our school community members to consent to this being undertaken both in school and from home.

To this end, we are asking that all parents/carers complete the [consent form here](#) by **3pm on Friday 26 February**. This will then allow us to plan the testing process, once we have received all forms. We hope that all will consent, however, should you not then you will still need to return the form indicating that you do not give consent by the same deadline. Our testing centre can process around 240 tests per day when working at maximum capacity. Our plan at this stage, is that over the course of the week commencing 8 March, we will be asking students to attend the school site the day prior to their staggered return date to be tested and then to return to lessons from the following day, if their result is negative.

The other change that parents/carers will need to be aware of is that when they return, students will now be required to wear a face mask in lesson time, as well as in corridors. The government has said this will be the case until Easter initially, when they will then review this. Again, we support this in order to protect everyone as much as possible at this present time.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal

