17th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thanks to the maturity of our amazing students and some incredible testing centre staff and volunteers we have now complete three COVID tests within 3-5 days of each other for consenting students. This means that they are able to begin the process of home testing. We ask that your child tests themselves twice a week during term time. Consenting students received two packs containing 3 tests. We ask that your child is tested on Monday morning and Wednesday morning (or Sunday/Tuesday Evening if this is impractical). Please follow the instructions in the testing booklet. Your child is well practiced at swabbing now but might need some help in processing the result. There are some videos explaining in more detail here: [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYlVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ). Results take 30 minutes to process and it is advised that nothing is eaten for at least 30 minutes before the test. It is helpful if there is a partner to check that both tonsils have been swabbed and that the swab is placed up a nostril and rotated for 10 seconds.

So far, we have completed nearly 3000 tests with only one non-symptomatic positive result. This has meant that we have been able to prevent the need to close a bubble or ask further people to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus.

After the test we ask that you follow these three steps:

1. Report the result to: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> (It takes a couple of minutes to set up an account but subsequent tests can be registered in a matter of seconds.)
2. We also ask that you complete this short form <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=sHAoOFeTq0ONO_0gvTFzyi7Eux8QJv5CpxLFK9r_r2RUMkVUSk5LNEFBWjZGTEE3VFdCT085VE1CVS4u> so that we can monitor the tests completed in our school community and follow up any tests that have been taken but not used. (It takes an average of 37 seconds to complete)
3. If your child ***tests positive*** for Coronavirus and has been in school during the 48 hours prior to the test, please begin to **isolate** as a family and alert school immediately using this email address reserved for emergencies: [safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@st-josephs.bolton.sch.uk)

Thanks for working with us to keep everyone safe. We appreciate your support.

Kind Regards

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*