



Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you will be aware, from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, schools and colleges will re-open to the whole school population in a phased return. The purpose of this phased return is to allow schools and colleges to test pupils for Covid-19 using Lateral Flow Tests. The purpose of these Lateral Flow Tests is to identify any asymptomatic (those without symptoms) cases and stop the spread of Covid-19 within our community.

Since the Christmas break and the second wave of school closure, staff at St John Bosco Arts College have been working incredibly hard with external Healthcare Professionals to ensure that Mass Testing of the whole school population would be possible when we re-opened to all pupils. We, as a school, have passed the quality assurance visits needed for this testing to take place and the external Healthcare staff will be on-site during the testing to support the process.

All children aged between 11 and 18 years old, where the appropriate recorded consent is provided, are eligible for the test. This test involves taking a swab from the back of the throat and nose. This process isn't harmful and is very similar to the test that took place before Christmas with support from the Armed Forces. In most cases the test will be self-administered, but trained Healthcare personnel will be on hand to support where needed.

We ask that you and your child discuss this to see if it is something you would like to participate in. If consent\* is given pupils will be tested three times over a period of two weeks for Covid-19. The results will be fed into NHS Track and Trace. Individual results will also be held by the school and provided directly to you via text message.

Anyone who tests positive, using either a lateral flow test or an existing swab test, must self-isolate along with their household immediately. Those who test negative will need to continue to follow all national guidance.

If you require any additional information about how any data generated from Mass Testing will be used, please see the Privacy Notice on the school website. The link has been included in the notification sent out.

With this in mind, can I please ask that you all complete the Consent Form, found via the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3HjQXPSX4UWCXLMFZ8Zd348uBT0rfH1BogToGxS6pzdUNTFYQks3VFQ4MjRNWEpXMkJLQk9WQ01ETC4u>

This needs to be completed by **3pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**. It is essential that this is filled out for every pupil in the school, even if you do not wish for your child to be tested.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Gidman.

\*Further information regarding consent can be found at the [NHS website](#) and also at the [CQC website](#)

**ST JOHN BOSCO ARTS COLLEGE**

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