

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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**HEADTEACHER
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6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Consent for COVID-19 testing at Beaminster School

As part of the government drive to keep schools open for vulnerable children and those of critical workers, we will be undertaking regular Covid-19 tests for those on the Beaminster School site.

Testing is very important because staff and students without symptoms could be carrying the highly transmissible virus and may unwittingly spread it to others.

Testing on site staff and students will further support all the current precautions that we have in place and allow us to operate as safely as possible.

New, quick and simple tests, known as **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests**, enable us to rapidly test students and staff here on site without the need for a laboratory.

The tests are **self-administered**, under staff supervision, using a simple swab to gently agitate the inner nostrils only - a throat swab is not necessary for this particular test. The swabs are then processed with an LFD test kit, with results available in under half an hour.

Staff have now completed their training from a qualified Health Practitioner and regular weekly testing for all those in school will start from **Monday 11th January**.

Where a test is negative, no further action is required.

Should there be a positive result, a further test, a PCR test involving a nose and throat swab, will need to be carried out immediately in order to send it off to the NHS Trace and Trace Laboratory as required. The student will need to be collected from school as a matter of urgency and the government guidelines on self-isolation need to be followed.

Please note that we will only contact parents in the event of a positive result.

We hope you will agree that these simple tests are a good way to offer reassurance and help keep us all as safe as possible. We do need to have your consent, so please complete the attached form and return it to school as soon as possible.

Should you have any concerns about the testing please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely
Mr Hales