

18th December 2020
10:30

Dear Families,

Re: Mass Testing Information and Merry Christmas!

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of you for your support this year and particularly since March during the Coronavirus pandemic. Your understanding, support and kindness has made what has been a very challenging year for all schools much easier. We are very grateful for the numerous messages of thanks that you have sent us over the months, including more recently following the announcement on Tuesday about mass covid testing in schools.

On the subject of mass testing, I have read through what has been made available to schools and at the time of writing, there is just no way that I can make a final decision on what the new term will look like in the first week just yet or how indeed mass testing will work on site. However, one thing is for sure, all of year 11 will definitely be back on the 5th January 2021 as planned because it is their final year before their GCSE examinations. As for other year groups, I will be in touch after Christmas once I have fully processed the information (including information yet to be released) and how this impacts on Burton Borough School. If you are unaware, the government announced yesterday that other year groups, (years 7 to 10 in our case) should have online teaching and return on the 11th January 2021 to help schools with the planning of the mass testing. We will do what we believe is right for our students and community and will inform families as soon as we have a robust plan.

I have already started to write plans and liaise with governors based on what is available and whatever we decide, we will do whatever we can to continue to keep everyone in our school community, and the wider Newport community safe. We will not rush into any decisions as the safety of every single person is paramount. I hope that many of you will feel that we have done the best job we possibly can so far.

The views of all families on mass testing will also need to be considered so we will send out a survey if appropriate nearer the new year once we hopefully have more guidance from the government/DfE and can share with you on what those plans entail, who will be administering the lateral flow antigen tests and how. Guidance we have had so far says that these tests are not mandatory and that the consent of parents/carers will be needed.

So, a rather strange end of term message from me, particularly during Christmas time, but I wish all of you and your families a very merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Once again, thank you for your kindness.

With all good wishes,



Krissi Carter
Principal