



## THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Martin Henton

MNH/AHW  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope that everybody is well and continuing to manage during this lockdown. I would like to thank you for all of the responses to the parent survey questionnaire sent to you last Friday, we will close this a week today on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Please do respond to this if you can, your feedback to us will be really helpful in improving our learning provision during the current time.

The link to the questionnaire is: <https://go.bhbs.hereford.sch.uk/ParentsRLS>

This week we held a virtual professional development training session on Thursday after school for our teaching staff to share best practice and their experiences in effective virtual learning. This was a really interactive session with a number of staff presenting strategies they have found effective which created lots of discussion and questions.

We are continuing with our lateral testing at school, which presently is the weekly testing of staff having completed the testing of all students in school where we have consent for testing. At this point in time, we don't have any more information about the reopening of schools from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. In the first instance we are assuming that the government will continue with the plan for the mass testing of students before they return to school, and we will soon start our planning for this. At present we have consent for 53% of our students in place for lateral flow testing. To keep our school community safe especially with the emergence of new variants of the COVID virus we would hope for a greater percentage of students with consent for lateral flow testing to make it an effective process.

If you have not yet ticked the consent in the SIMS App so please do by going to data collection and parental consent. Further details about the testing, how it is conducted and why it is important can be found on our website at: <https://www.bhbs.hereford.sch.uk/page/?title=Coronavirus+Testing+on+Site&p id=121>

Thank you to all those families from year 11 who have responded to the government consultation about how grades may be determined this Summer. This has now closed, and the information is due to be released on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

*Always Faithful with Christ*

February. Often this is released to the media before schools and the further detailed documents to schools take a few weeks longer. We will write to families with more information as soon as we have this detail.

Next Thursday we are holding a virtual parent consultation evening for the parents & carers of year 11 students. This will be an important event to be updated about their progress and to reiterate the importance of their continued engagement in virtual learning in preparation for the assessment plans that will be released by the government as a result of the consultation process. At the parent consultation meeting next Thursday, staff will not be in a position to discuss how the GCSE grades will be awarded or the centre assessed grade your child may receive as we await the guidance from the government consultation, but we do encourage your participation.

I have some great news to share with you about one of our Ex-students, Beth Scrivens who has just received an offer to study at the University of Oxford - Well done Beth!



Please have a safe and good break over the weekend,

Yours sincerely,

Martin Henton

Headteacher