THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL
A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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08 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

We know how important it is for you to be able to send your child to school. *We have experienced a sudden rise in the number of reported cases this week. On Monday, we will be reiterating and extending our measures, on the advice of Public Health England. The following letter has been provided by them, and it is important that you read the advice about testing, including the link we use to allow you to report test results to us.*

At The Buckingham School we have been taking a number of measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimise the risk of our teachers giving your child or other children Covid;
- Ensuring our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and;
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a PCR test should they develop symptoms of the virus.

We are also asking all parents to encourage their children to test regularly and to report each result.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to encourage their children to test on a Sunday and Wednesday and help us to keep The Buckingham School open.

This letter has gone out to all parents of children at The Buckingham School asking them to regularly encourage their children to test and to report each result. Please report test results via https://forms.gle/tqHtDk4erAFnVXTu8 (should the link not work directly by clicking on it, please copy and paste into your internet browser, or access via the school website).

Your child will be able to collect home test kits from The Buckingham School and bring them home with them - each week. Please ask your child if they have received these and help them to take the test and report their results. Testing is free of charge.

The tests will come with guidance in multiple languages on how to take the test. You can also see this useful video to show you how to take the test - tests usually take a few minutes to do and you get the results in 30 minutes. Then all you need to do is to report the result to:

- NHS Test and Trace: NHS Website Report-covid19-result
- To The Buckingham School by completing the following link https://forms.gle/tqHtDk4erAFnVXTu8
- You will also find information on the following link A guide to regular testing rapid Covid – 19 testing

Financial support is available if your child tests positive and you need to self-isolate

If you are unable to work due to your child having, or displaying symptoms of, COVID-19, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate.

You will be eligible if you live in England and meet all the following criteria:

- you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, including by the NHS COVID-19 app
- you are employed or self-employed
- you cannot work from home and will lose income as a result
- you are claiming at least one of the following benefits:
    1. Universal Credit
    2. Working Tax Credits
    3. income-related Employment and Support Allowance
    4. income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
    5. Income Support
    6. Pension Credit or Housing Benefit

By testing your child on Sunday and Wednesday, you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep your child in school and the Buckingham School open to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Please contact the school, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing.

Thank you for your support.

Mr Andrew McGinnes
Headteacher