



Budges Gardens, Wokingham, RG40 1PX  
Tel: (0118) 334 1510

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: COVID-19**

Following the most recent briefings from the Prime Minister, and after discussion with the Local Authority, I am writing to advise you that **Foundry College will remain open for all our students.**

At the moment self-isolation of students has been minimal, but is obviously also subject to unpredictable variation. I have to say I have been very encouraged by the number of our students who have personally expressed a desire for Foundry College to remain open so that they can continue to attend. With this in mind we are able to complete 'Lateral Flow Testing' onsite and **ask you to complete the attached letter and return to us which will enable us to stay as safe and healthy as possible.**

Ongoing education provision will continue for all those students at home in self-isolation as outlined in all previous letters. I would ask you to continue to follow Public Health England guidance regarding self-isolation and to note that it is for the duration of 10 days. If you decide to keep your child at home, please ensure you advise us that your son/daughter is in "self-isolation" so that accurate registers can be maintained and we will not then expect to hear from you daily.

Our focus when we open tomorrow with Year 11 is on their IGCSE Mathematics exam on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 9:30am. This exam will go ahead and gives all Year 11 students who have been entered an excellent opportunity to gain their IGCSE and must place as much time and effort into preparing fully for the exam, giving them their best possible chances. For students in all other year groups, continuity of their curriculum pathways remains the focus.

**To enable us to plan for learning and make the necessary transport and catering arrangements for next week, please could I ask you to contact the College as soon as possible today either to confirm that your son/daughter will be attending as normal. Our phone line is not working, so please send your response by email to [admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk)**

Thank you for your on-going support and understanding during these very strange and anxious times. We will continue to prioritise the health and welfare of our students and our staff whilst being mindful of our ambition to maintain the best possible education provision.

Warmest wishes,

Iain Thomas  
**Deputy Headteacher**



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Dear Parent/Guardian

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**RE: Covid-19 Testing for Staff and Pupils**

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker Covid-19 tests, and our school will be starting this in January. Testing staff once a week who want to participate from 5 January. In addition, the programme will help pupils to stay in education, by enabling close contacts of someone who tests positive to stay in school if they do a daily test for seven days. This is known as 'serial testing'.

Along with the other measures we are taking, **these tests will help staff and pupils to work safely.** Up to one third of people who have coronavirus have no symptoms, so by supporting them to self-isolate we will save lives and help keep our school open and as safe as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

**What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?**

A close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days, and the test is negative. If not, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

**I enclose an instructional leaflet with some more information.**

If you are happy for your child to be tested, **please fill in the form below, and the enclosed consent statement** (one per student) and return it to the school office via email to [admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk).

The test will be supervised by trained staff and there will be minimal disruption to lessons. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be informed.

To reach this stage, the test has been tested at Public Health England's research laboratories in partnership with Oxford University and is totally safe, with a 99.8% specificity. Testing is free and provided by NHS Test and Trace.

**Registration**

In order to process the test, we will register all participating students. In order to complete this registration please fill in the form below **and** complete the enclosed consent form.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| First Name                               |  |
| Last Name                                |  |
| Date of Birth                            |  |
| Gender at birth                          |  |
| Currently showing any Covid-19 symptoms? |  |
| Today's date                             |  |
| Home Postcode                            |  |
| Email Address                            |  |
| Mobile Number                            |  |

**It takes commitment to change lives**  
Headteacher: Miss Jay Blundell



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### **What if a pupil tests positive?**

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents/legal guardians will also be notified.

Pupils will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in testing sites) to confirm the positive result, they will be able to do this at school or take a test kit home. During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate until they get their result. If it is negative, the pupils can return to school.

If the result of this secondary test is positive, the pupil and household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days following Government guidelines. **Please inform school as soon as you receive this test result.**

We will continue to support pupils with their education remotely. We recognise this may be disruptive for your family but it is really important to isolate to prevent the spread of the virus, and there is financial support available via the NHS app. Pupils might need collecting from school, so please discuss this with them. There is more advice on self-isolation and home learning on Gov.uk.

### **What if a pupil tests negative?**

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive in the first 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative.

### **What if my child develops symptoms?**

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss of change to your sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

We will support staff and pupils throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. Please email [admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foundry.wokingham.sch.uk)

Warmest wishes,

Iain Thomas

**Deputy Headteacher**



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Please let us know the following details for registering the test kits:

|   |                            |              |
|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| Child's full name (first name and surname): | Home address and postcode: |              |
| Date of birth:                              | School year:               | School form: |
| Email                                       | Mobile:                    |              |

I consent for the information above to be used to register my child's test kit

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Consent for Coronavirus/ Covid-19 Test. (Please complete either box below for YES or NO and return form).</b>                              |   |
| <b>YES</b> , I give consent for my child to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19<br><br>I give consent for school nurse to administer the test | <b>NO</b> , I do not give consent for my child to be tested for Coronavirus/ Covid-19 |
| Name  | Name  |
| Signature Parent/guardian   | Signature Parent/guardian   |
| Date  | Date  |
| <b>Thank you for completing this form.</b><br><b>Please return it to the school by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b>                   |   |

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