**Letter to 19 plus**

Dear Student

**We all know how important is it is for students to be able to attend College.**

At BCoT we are 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 you or other students Covid;
* Ensuring our staff and students practice good hygiene;
* Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and;
* Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a [PCR test](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) should they develop symptoms of the virus.

**We are also asking all students to take a COVID test twice each week. Please could all students take a test before they return from the half term break, this includes students who are taking exams the week of the 1st November.**

We are fortunate to be able to offer saliva testing as an alternative to lateral flow tests. All students have been given the saliva sample kits and we urge you to regularly provide a saliva sample for testing.

Lateral flow tests are also available, if you are using these please can you ensure you are registering the result including when it is negative.

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 you to test twice a week andhelp us to keep the college open.

Students are be able to collect home test kits from college and bring them home with them. Please ask reception if you require more.

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

If you are unable to work due to you or 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](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-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 you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, and support BCoT to remain open to minimise disruption to your education and to your household.

Thank you for your support.

Anthony Bravo

Principal