**Letter to parents**

Dear Parent/Guardian

**We know how important it is for you to be able to send your child to 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 your child or other children 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 parents to help ensure their children take a COVID test twice each week.**

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 ensure your child is regularly providing a saliva sample for testing.

Lateral flow tests are also available, if your child is undertaking these please can you ensure they 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 all parents to encourage their children to test twice a week andhelp us to keep the college open.

This letter has gone out to all parents of full-time students at the college.

Students are able to collect home test kits from college and bring them home with them. Please ask your child if they have received these and help them to take the test and report their results.

**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](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 your child you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep students in college and BCoT open to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Thank you for your support.

Anthony Bravo

Principal