



Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise
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Dear Parent/Carer

I have received a letter from Dr Mike Gogarty, Director of Public Health Essex County Council and have been asked to send this to you.

The letter is a little out of date, and does not consider the current Beauchamps situation, so some of the letter is no longer relevant to us given the school is closed until January.

The letter asks that all students from our school community are tested for COVID19. The aim of this is to identify any individuals who have the virus without knowing it so that they can self-isolate accordingly and we can control a potential outbreak.

Also because the letter is dated 3rd December, it also makes no reference to the new testing centre in Basildon, therefore I have outlined the details of this below, taken from the Basildon Council website:

<https://www.basildon.gov.uk/article/8066/COVID-19-Coronavirus-testing-and-test-sites>

*LATEST UPDATE - Coronavirus testing if you **DO NOT** have symptoms*

Basildon's Covid-19 infection rate is currently among the highest in England and continues to rise fast. People living in Basildon with no Covid-19 symptoms are now being asked to get tested at a local test centre. Everyone, including children under 5, who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 can book a test. Care home staff and residents with or without symptoms can book a test. Even if you feel well, you could still spread the virus. Testing as many people as possible without symptoms will help us identify the hidden cases in the community and keep each other safe.

If you live in one of the following areas, it is essential you book a lateral flow test now: Fryerns (SS14) - Pitsea (SS13) - Vange (SS16) - Wickford (SS11 and SS12)

Your local test centre is at The Towngate Theatre, St. Martins Square, Basildon SS14 1DL. Book now by calling: 01702 742172 - 01702 742173 - 01268 962383 - 01268 962384 - Lines are open 8am to 8pm, every day.

Yesterday, the Basildon District secondary school headteachers, Dr Mike Gogarty and other Local Authority officials met to discuss the Basildon C19 response plan. We were made aware that Wickford now has the highest rates of C19 in the district. In response to this, I requested that there should be an additional C19 testing centre set up in Wickford. This request was noted and I am hopeful this could happen in the near future. Until this happens, can I urge you to take up the offer of testing in Basildon or via a postal test as outlined in the letter.

Please remember that any person with symptoms should still book a test and this should be done by visiting the NHS Website.

I will keep you updated on developments.

Yours faithfully

Mat Harper
Headteacher