

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you are not feeling too overwhelmed with communications from Balshaw's. We try to keep our messaging brief and to the point as much as possible, but sometimes it can feel like you are getting communications all the time!

### **Testing at the start of the new school year – consent form:**

Schools are required to test every child before they start school in September and then once more within a week. These tests are a bit different to the ones that have been done up until now and the throat no longer needs to be swabbed, they are just nasal swabs.

We need your consent to do these tests, so please could you take one minute to complete this online form

(click here): <https://forms.gle/v2WvNUxFYx6Hr3ePA>

### **Laptops for All Scheme**

One thing that lockdown has shown us is that collaborative learning and many online tools are fantastic for accelerating students' progress. Doing this as part of remote learning has been helpful, but no substitute for face-to-face learning.

However, laptops used in a blended learning environment (face-to-face learning enhanced by students with personal access to laptop technology, software and connectivity in a controlled environment) has huge potential to accelerate and enrich student progress and engagement.

Many schools already operate laptop schemes and Balshaw's is launching its Laptops for All Scheme ready to start in January. Some of you might be thinking about getting your child a computer or a laptop for when they start high school. If so, please wait as you will be able to do this through our Laptops for All Scheme and it will be fully insured and warrantied for three years.

There is further information about this as part of the consultation that we have been doing which can be found here: <http://www.balshaws.org.uk/parents-portal/recent-letters-and-communications>

Kind regards,



Mr Haycocks  
HEADTEACHER  
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)