

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November Greenfield Special School carried out the first mass testing in a school in Wales. The testing was completed today and I am really pleased to report that all pupils and staff tested negative. The uptake of the tests was good, 78% of pupils who were present in school from aged 11 upwards took the test. Of all staff present within the school 97% took the test (this does not include staff who were absent or where the test was not appropriate in cases where staff had tested positive within the last 90 days).

We hope that this information will be reassuring to our parents and staff in what has been a really difficult time, especially for the people of Merthyr Tydfil. I believe that these results highlight that Greenfield School is operating in a safe way and that parents have been responsible in keeping their children home when they are not well.

The testing was a logistical success thanks to the hard work of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Special School Nursing team and the Greenfield School Admin Team. Setting up a school-based Testing Centre within a very short time frame to test 150 people was a huge challenge. The Special School Nurses carried out the tests and the admin team managed the preparation of the test kits, the processing of tests and the accurate recording of results.

Greenfield Teachers and Teaching Assistants did a wonderful job of reassuring pupils and supporting them during testing. I am very proud of Greenfield pupils who were really brave and coped well with the testing. This is a great example of how dedicated school staff have been throughout the pandemic and how flexible they have been in adapting to new challenges.

Staff will be retested on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and pupils will be retested on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December.

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