

# TESTING TIMES IN TETTENHALL

by Alex McNally | 50p

Following the recent lockdown restrictions and the fact that many people are leading different, more isolated lives, I am sure that knowing what is going on in the world around you is probably quite important to you. Today, we have the story of a ten-year-old boy who lives in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton whose dad is a part of the constant battle to test individuals who believe they may be showing symptoms of the deadly coronavirus.

The name of this hero is Professor Alan McNally and he lives with his son who goes by the name Alex McNally. They both live together with Gina Manning (the mum of Alex) and a cat called Jaffa. They all feel the struggles as lockdown and the thought of Alan being away most of the time affects their lives.

After reading this newspaper, or watching the news, you probably, by now, know about the Milton Keynes testing centre which is home to the largest group of scientists testing for coronavirus in the United Kingdom. This is where

Alan frequently works and is where he has to drive 90 miles to get to almost every day. When it came to interviewing Alan, we all felt how this must affect his life and how he is living on a day to day basis. Here are a few quotes we managed to steal from him in the interview; “it feels very exciting and a bit scary because what you are doing is so important but then again it is very rewarding to feel like you can make a difference.” “I will be honest, testing is very stressful, and it can be mentally and physically exhausting, but the feeling that you are contributing to overcome covid-19 overrides all of that.” “another thought I have been dwelling on is whether my son is okay with it all, I would like to think that he is very proud I am sure he would prefer if I didn’t have to leave home all the time and he might even worry about me being ill however, I am sure he knows I am very good at what I do and that we are all very safe in the lab and that very soon everything will be back to normal again.” “I also

believe testing is essential for us to overcome covid-19, I wish we had started our testing earlier, but I think our current testing will allow us all to get back to work and school much more quickly than first thought”.

As you know, Professor Alan McNally said that things like school and work will possibly be back to normal very soon, so we decided to interview Professor Mike Butcher to see what he had to say about it. He stated that this will be the case if we, the general public, can follow the rules and avoid a second spike in deaths. One thing the Professor did not state is of what importance is the ‘r’ number and that is why we spoke to the lead virologist at Oxford University. She told us that ‘r’ is very vague as no one knows how they will be able to measure it unless the it is the same as the infection rate. But there were two problems that she stated with this which were that there are some people who don’t even know they have got Corona virus, in addition why does it have to be called the ‘r’ number when it is just the same as the infection rate?

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