



The Priory School

Principal: MJ Barratt BA MSc NPQH
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000
info@tpstrust.co.uk
www.tpstrust.co.uk

19th March 2020

Dear parents and carers

I spoke to our Year 11 students this morning about the situation they are facing. Although we have been informed that schools will close from Monday onwards, to most students and there will be no exams, there remain questions that are unanswered.

Given that they have been told they will get the qualifications they need, without sitting exams, the lack of clarity as to exactly how this will be done is of great concern. Ultimately, it needs to be fair, and it rests with the Department of Education and exam boards exactly how this will be done. When I know more, I will contact you again.

I also made the point that, despite the exams not taking place, their work over the past two years and before that was about building skills and knowledge. Although the vast majority of the purpose of our work is to move towards a qualification, it may well be that the skills and knowledge gained will be relevant and helpful for post 16 pathways. Hence we wanted them to drop back into lessons for the coming two days, then remain in contact through Show My Homework, and to develop a workstream which keeps their minds active.

Although it remains unclear when we will return to 'normal' school life, I do not wish these final two days (before we close on Friday) to be their last two days. There is a formality to the ending of year 11, and we mark this formality appropriately, I believe, as each year group leaves us. The relationships that have built between the students themselves, but equally importantly between the staff and the students, need to be recognised; I did not, therefore, want to do this at very short notice, for it would be wrong. If we are able to have an Awards Evening, we will stage one, and I am equally determined that we will have a Prom Event.

Finally, and I hope to do this formally in the future to the assembled year group and with you, I wish to pay tribute to the manner in which our year 11 have faced this unique set of circumstances. I was privileged to spend some time teaching a Year 11 Maths groups this morning and have since spoken to the other teachers who have taught them this morning. Many of them are upset, a good number are bewildered, all are uncertain – yet to their distinct credit, they went back to lessons and continued working. In short, their serenity and maturity defined them.

Yours sincerely

M J Barratt
Principal