



**The Priory School**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

A heartfelt, warm welcome back to our summer term 2020; even if the start of this term is defined by our young people remaining with you we are nonetheless keen to mark the fact that term has now started. I hope you have managed to enjoy some of the sunshine over Easter and that you are safe and well.

In these most unusual times we are all doing what we feel is best in the interests of supporting you and your children, given they are at home for the foreseeable future. A number of you have been in touch, seeking advice and support, as well as helping us to provide appropriate routines for the students and providing some feedback on our work through this time. Please do stay in touch through the info@ e mail address (or encourage your son/daughter to communicate with their teacher (where relevant) on Show My Homework). We value your communication and wish to sustain a continued dialogue with you, in order that we might provide support to each other.

When it comes to resources that we have prepared, and that are available on-line, you may be aware that there have been recent announcements by the government about new on-line resources being available (eg BBC Bitesize). Indeed, there is no shortage of these, and their sheer number can be overwhelming. Our teaching staff are looking at these and may wish to make reference to them in our provision – they will do this through Show My Homework. Of course, resources made available do not replace a curriculum delivered in the classroom and therefore whenever parents/carers have asked for advice on managing and helping the young people through this time, our response is typically that, where you are able to, you are supporting learning rather than home-school-educating. My advice comes therefore with this in mind, acknowledging the challenges we all face, that our young people should aim for something broad and balanced during their day and their week:

- Keep some form of structure in the day, which mirrors the school time-table, but do not become too rigid with this. Each day can and should be a little different in its content.
- Encourage and share time with the young people in their reading.
- Enjoy periods of creativity if this is possible.
- Take regular exercise according to government guidance.

On this last point, the school is really engaging with the 2.6 challenge (which is being led by the PE department). Some have already posted their commitment (and whilst the focus is on this Sunday, because of the original date of the London Marathon, we would encourage this being able to last beyond that date). I am endeavouring to cover 26 miles per day for 26 days on my turbo trainer; Monty (my dog) will be walked around our garden 26 times (he is old and slow now, and will need a while to accomplish this!) This sort of event always captures the imagination of our young people, and whilst unlikely to get close to Captain Tom's target, we should aim to increase our charity totals this way. Further details are available on Show My Homework.

Regardless of what transpires over the coming weeks, we have needed to cancel our Enrichment Week arrangements, which is obviously necessary, but a great shame nonetheless.

Finally, I wish to repeat my message that I shared through the video in the end of term assembly (sent on April 3<sup>rd</sup>), that we are all in this together, and the more we help each other, the better we will appear at the other side of this period of closure ready for 'normal' times again.

Whilst most of the above can apply to Year 11 students, I will write imminently to them, with respect to matters relating Centre-assessed grades.

With all good wishes,



M J Barratt  
**Principal, The Priory School**