



The Priory School

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Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well and that you are managing to find a route through these challenging times.

Some of you may have caught up with my latest address to students (which was put together in place of my usual full school assembly in the first couple of weeks of term). In it I refer to a resource that has been sent to schools (and the link is below), and has been put together with a view to providing support for students and parents. It is from an organisation whose purpose is to provide support to schools, through a strong base of research and is designed to help our young people put actions and lists together, with a view to them building their own structure. Students are clearly sitting on a range of experiences when meeting this challenge - some have found it easy to address, whilst others have not. I have always been in the latter category, and I have therefore found the principle of the following document re-assuring. Please [click here](#) to view the document.

We have been looking closely at the level of engagement in Show My Homework; the vast majority of our young people are doing magnificently well with this (and thank you for your support) - they are accessing and engaging regularly and are using the resources to keep their minds busy and active; many are involved in dialogue with their teachers. Some, however, are not, which is of significant concern, and if this is due to a technical problem, this must be raised with us. Shortly, having analysed the fullest picture, Form Tutors will make contact with those whose lack of involvement with this gives us concern i.e. the very few who have shown virtually no response – this is to offer support, with the aim of having all of our young people working through this resource.

Our student support team have been working very hard on ensuring students are still supported remotely (e.g. remote counselling sessions have resumed) and they will be putting further information out to support students and parents/carers soon.

Please also have a quick look at the many examples of how staff and students have taken part in the 2.6 challenge. Our students show focus, endeavour and no small amount of innovation when raising money for charity; so much so that they generate their own morale purpose in this respect. The details of evidence of the 2.6 challenge (which continues) can be found by [clicking here](#)

Also, Mr Austin appeared on TV recently to highlight his work with other music teachers (around the globe) to create an on-line choir and orchestra and he is repeating this endeavour for our students and staff. Please [click here](#) for further details.

Finally, you will have picked up in the media a momentum of speculation about school re-opening. I know as much as the media report, although dialogue is taking place regularly between teaching organisations and the government. When I know more, I will get back in touch. For the moment we remain in the present state of lockdown, but we are hoping that we will be able to return to school as soon as possible.

Wishing you good health, safety and looking forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Barratt', with a small flourish at the end.

M J Barratt

Principal, The Priory School