



**The Priory School**

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16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As I mentioned in my first letter of term we will be holding Year 11 interim assessments in the week beginning the 28<sup>th</sup> September. Students will already be aware of these exams through discussions with their class teachers but we will give them more detailed information around logistics through their tutors, and in an assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

It is important that we ensure students' knowledge post-lockdown is more formally assessed for a number of reasons. Firstly, during the summer term we would have held Year 10 exams which did not take place due to lockdown. These would have given staff a picture of students' performance in exam conditions and highlighted anyone who may need to be more focused on preparation pre-mocks as well as informing their own planning around aspects of exam technique that they may need to highlight within their class teaching. Holding interim assessments in exam conditions will enable us to replicate this process.

Secondly, whilst we intend to hold mock examinations in January 2021, it is difficult to predict the impact of Covid over the winter months on school operations and our ability to hold formal exams. Currently we have been able to rejig our operational plan to enable the year group to sit these assessments in exam conditions, therefore, it seems sensible to hold them whilst we can.

Thirdly, whilst the current government's intention is to hold a summer series of exams, we have learnt through recent experience that advice can change very quickly. We do not want our cohort to be disadvantaged if we are suddenly told to revert to Centre (teacher) Assessed Grades instead. Advice from our external consultants would be to gather as much assessment information as possible, under exam conditions, so that we can ensure any predictions are robust and well supported with evidence.

Our intention is not to place undue pressure on our students but at some point, we do need to bring them back to the reality of academic routine and the importance of reviewing and consolidating their knowledge. Teachers will be informing their classes of the content and layout of the paper they will be sitting, in each subject, over the coming weeks. There will be exams in all subjects apart from Art and Graphics and the Music exam will take part in timetabled lessons outside the assessment week. The assessments will be taken under exam conditions within classrooms, the school hall and Drama studio and will be staffed by our exam invigilation team. Students who are eligible for access arrangements will have these provided in full.

We expect that students will take this assessment period seriously and therefore revise at home as well as using lesson time to prepare. The enclosed timetable will enable you to support your child in preparing for the exams and allocate their time appropriately. When they are not sitting an exam they will be able to revise quietly in designated rooms.

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mrs A Pope in cursive script.

Mrs A Pope  
**Headteacher**

Handwritten signature of Mrs C Knight in cursive script.

Mrs C Knight  
**Deputy Headteacher**