



The Priory School

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31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and this letter finds you all well. I wanted to get something out to you as soon as possible to try to provide some reassurance and certainty after the latest government announcements. Please be aware that, although I am writing this based on the latest government guidance issued this week, which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021> there may very well be more changes over the coming days and weeks. As always, we will endeavour to clarify and communicate promptly so please keep an eye on emails and the school website for updates.

Department for Education laptops and IT hardware have yet to arrive and if they do they will be incredibly small in number. On Monday 4th January we will attempt to match up our current, limited stock of school equipment and deploy devices to those most in need. A phone, tablet, laptop or PC and internet connection will be needed to access our remote learning provision. If there is a very real limitation to your home devices during this period of remote learning could you please contact Mrs Ruth Shaw, Assistant Headteacher via info@tpstrust.co.uk or phone school reception on Monday as soon as possible? Please bear in mind there may not be any stock available and that the Government encourages those students who may have difficulty engaging in remote education at home due to a lack of devices to remain in school.

Return Dates and Remote Learning

Please note that attendance at remote learning sessions and submission of work is not optional and will be monitored closely by staff. Our normal expectations around the completion of work and attendance apply.

Year 11

Will now return to **face to face sessions on Monday 11th July**, this will start with their mock exams which will follow the same order as previously published. A revised timetable with new dates will be issued in due course. I can only apologise for the disruption this causes them.

Remote learning will commence from January 5th and will follow their normal timetable, focusing on mock revision. There will a morning registration period with their tutor each day, via Teams at 8.30am. Each lesson will start with an introduction from their teacher via Teams where tasks and activities will be explained. Time will then either be spent as a class or pupils will be given time to complete activities with staff available to drop back into for advice and support. All sessions and resources will be signposted clearly on Show My Homework. A register will be taken for all tutor and

lesson times. Students should preferably attend lessons in uniform or suitable dress, with cameras on.

Key worker provision for Year 11

If you are a key worker or your child meets the vulnerable criteria outlined by the Department for Education, we will be providing sessions in school from 5th January. Please register your child by completing the form on the following link by midday on 4th January.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs_1sS-JTdn5WN9Is712WYPZaIJUNjI5T1g1WjhZQ0xQMFRIR0pOMVY5MEtDMi4u

Students MUST wear full school uniform and report to the classroom designated on their mock exam timetable for the first week. They will follow their usual timetable of lessons.

Years 7-10

They will return to face to face sessions from Monday 18th January. Although the DfE guidance has already changed (it originally implied only exam years should be prioritised for remote learning), we have taken the decision to provide remote learning to all year groups during this period as originally set out in my letter on 18th December 2020. **This is not an extended holiday period for students.**

Remote learning will commence from January 5th and will follow their normal timetable, with lessons lasting 50 minutes each. There will be a morning registration period with their tutor each day, via Teams. Each lesson will start with an introduction from their teacher via Teams where tasks and activities will be explained. Time will then either be spent as a class or pupils will be given time to complete activities with staff available to drop back into for advice and support. All sessions and resources will be signposted on Show My Homework. A register will be taken for all tutor and lesson times. Students should preferably attend lessons in uniform or suitable dress, with cameras on.

Please be aware that my staff will be delivering to both students in the classroom as well as those at home at the same time. It is also likely that some staff will be involved in other significant tasks, such as preparation for testing. They will do their best to be flexible and provide the best experience possible, but this is far from ideal. As always, they will do their best and I appreciate your support and understanding with this. It may be that support staff are also needed in order to prepare for mass testing during this period.

Key worker children from all year groups

They **should arrive by 8.30am** and report to their usual tutor room or Year 11 designated room according to the mock exam timetable. **Everyone's day will end at 2.40**, after a 10 minute registration period with a key member of staff, rather than our usual staggered finish.

Food

For those attending on site there will be no provision in the school dining room, from 5th-8th January so please ensure your child(ren) bring a packed lunch. Dining room provision will recommence from Monday 11th January. For those in receipt of free school meals not attending on site provision, vouchers will be issued in line with previous self-isolation and lockdown provisions.

Testing

This still remains very uncertain and there is promise of more training, webinars and information in the week commencing 4th January. I am awaiting advice from various agencies before we go any further with this and I will write to you separately once I know more.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year when it arrives. Here's to a better 2021!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'P'.

Alison Pope
Headteacher