



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I feel as though I send you one letter and then almost immediately have to start another. Although there was much talk of schools, potentially changing provision to keyworker children only, the late turn around has given us little time for planning. I can only apologise for the potential turmoil this is causing.

I realise I have circulated the link for our Keyworker and vulnerable student registration form twice now, but the children we have received in school today is not fully reflective of that list. It is extremely important from a safeguarding perspective that we have an accurate list of children to expect in school; please do not send your child in to school if you have not requested a place via the form, as we may not have space or provision for them. Numbers of children in school now are significantly higher than during the previous lockdown and, whilst we have been able to meet all requests for places in the past, we may now require verification of key worker status moving forward. For provision in school from 18th January, we will send out a new form every two weeks.

The structure and timings of the day for all, whether online or in school, have changed to the below as we no longer need the staggered break and lunches due to the number of students:

Am reg	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4	Lunch	Period 5
8.30- 8.40	8.40- 9.40	9.40- 10.40	10.40- 11.00	11.00- 12.00	12.00- 13.00	13.00- 13.30	1.30- 2.30

Remote Learning

The learning experience for those at home will remain the same as I outlined in my previous letters; the period has simply been extended to at least February half term. Please refer to our remote learning policy, particularly section 5. We are all going to face challenges over the coming half term in the delivery and management of remote learning, both at home and at school. Just as you may have to juggle difficulties at home, my staff may well be in the same situation; please be mindful of this.

We contacted a number of families yesterday to confirm IT requirements at home, if you weren't contacted and feel this could be an issue please contact Mrs Ruth Shaw via info@tpstrust.co.uk by Wednesday at midday.

For keyworker/vulnerable children in school

These students will be supervised in bubbles (some year groups may have to be collapsed due to staffing requirements) and will follow their normal timetable of lessons from one classroom only. If

they have their own device e.g. a tablet and, more importantly, if they have their own headset or earphones it would be beneficial for them to bring them into school to be able to access online learning from their teacher. We will provide IT hardware if this is not possible. Break and lunchtimes may be spent indoors, so they should bring a suitable activity or game to play if the weather becomes inclement.

We expect all children attending onsite provision to be in full school uniform. As of Wednesday 6th January, **children should report to the following locations by 8.30am:**

Year 7: their allocated playground (by the English corridor)

Year 8: the basketball court

Year 9: their allocated playground (by the Maths block)

Year 10 and 11: the playground outside the hall

They then may be reallocated to an alternative group or room.

We are currently reviewing onsite catering provision; in the interim could students please bring their own packed lunches.

Expectations with regard to behaviour during online lessons

We expect students to engage fully and sensibly with their remote learning. If they are involved in an online lesson, they should ideally have their camera on so the member of staff can see they are there. **Any misuse of technology or inappropriate behaviour will be passed to our pastoral team and reported to parents and may involve further sanctions on their return to school.** I am disappointed that we are already receiving reports of behaviour during these sessions that is slowing the pace of learning and this will not be tolerated.

Year 11

We had planned to carry out mock exams on the return of Year 11. Ofqual and the DfE have announced a review of the exams in the summer but they have not clarified what form of assessment this will take. We are currently looking at a form of assessment to be conducted remotely during lesson times. More details will follow in the next few days as we monitor the national picture and guidance from Ofqual.

It may be that teachers and schools are asked for centre assessed grades. If this is the case, Year 11 engagement in their current lessons, tasks and activities will be crucial as staff will need to have a solid data and evidence set on which to base their judgements. The process last year was very stringent and I can assure you that we will follow an equally fair and rigorous process this year. Staff know the students they teach very well so please be reassured that they will use their professional judgement if teacher assessment is called upon.

I am aware that students will be making applications for sixth form or college and may be concerned about estimated grades. Colleges and schools with sixth forms will be very aware that this is an unprecedented set of circumstances and they will be mindful of this in the application process. New estimated grades will be issued in February as planned, and we will be contacting you in a separate letter about our plans for the Year 11 consultation evening.

Students should use their tutor as the first point of contact for any concerns they may have.

Testing

There is still an implication that we should carry out some form of lateral flow testing in school for those staff and students on site and prior to the rest of the school community returning. Please complete the consent form sent out yesterday should you wish your child to be involved and we will contact you in due course.

Year 9 Options

The Year 9 options process had already been moved to a virtual format and, whilst there will be a few adjustments, please be assured that this will go ahead as planned.

As always, many thanks in advance for your support and positivity with regard to our provision during these unprecedented times. Please keep in touch and if you have any queries let me know via info@tpstrust.co.uk. As the situation evolves, I will keep you regularly updated.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher