



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

And in the blink of an eye, we have already completed three weeks of this half term!

The absence of any government updates on Covid related guidance has been notable over the past few weeks and we are waiting to hear when we may be able to lift certain restrictions, such as facemasks, year group bubbles and zones. It may be that when this arrives, we take a staggered approach to revising our operating plan. Putting them in place was a major logistical endeavour and I envisage taking us out of them to be the same. It is likely that some, such as the timings of the school day will have to stay in place until the end of the academic year. Once we know more, I will communicate this to you. We have already begun to plan, especially with a focus on the new academic year, and will look to retain features we believe have improved the way we work but also quickly returning to those that we have missed.

House System

Our House events and competitions are certainly top of the list for a relaunch, against the backdrop of our new House names which has already caused much excitement amongst students but also staff. We hope this will give us a clear focus of renewal and reinvigoration into next academic year and bring back much of our cross-year ethos of students working with each other and building very special memories of their time at The Priory. We have appointed our new team of House Captains, Deputies, and whole school positions. Our two School Captains, who will work closely with myself are Sam Jervis and Georgia Evans and I look forward to working closely with them to lead our student executive and School Parliament to fully involve students in moving our school on to new and exciting times.

Uniform

After our return from the Easter holiday period, we have refocused on our students wearing their uniform well and with pride. Thank you to you all for supporting us with this. I would like to remind parents that we do have a small fund of money available to support parents with the purchasing of uniform if it is needed, especially those in receipt of pupil premium. I understand the sensitivities around accessing this, but I would actively encourage you to get in touch with your child's tutor if this is needed. Enquiries will be dealt with, with the utmost confidentiality.

I am looking to undertake a small-scale review of our uniform (this will not be looking to change it dramatically). This is specifically in relation to ensuring it is not hindered by lack of choice over supplier and ensures equitability of cost and choice for all students. We will be writing to you in more detail and fully involving parents and students in our proposals. A clear time frame will be shared with you; I do not envisage any changes for this September.

Extracurricular activities

Since our return it has been wonderful to see so many students taking part in our PE departments after school clubs and activities. Many staff from other departments have volunteered to assist and I have watched year group clubs netball, cricket, rounders and athletics taking place on the school field and pitches. The numbers participating have been fantastic and I would encourage those who have not signed up to please look to see if there is anything of interest as we roll out the extracurricular programme (tutors have lists). It has been wonderful to see students exercising, having fun and remembering the importance of getting involved in all aspects of school life.

We will be running a Covid-friendly Colour Run in aid of charity on 27th May with each year group taking it in turn to wear something white and be covered in coloured powder on the school field! This is usually a hugely successful whole school event and whilst it is not running in the usual format staff and students are very excited at the prospect of its return; please encourage your child to participate. I am looking forward to seeing lots of fun and laughter!

Charity

We have been overwhelmed by the donations we have received from you this week in aid of the Red Cross. Students have watched short presentations this week on why there is such a need in India at the moment, and will be hearing from a pilot next week who is delivering aid and resources to India as part of the relief project. Donations have reached over one thousand pounds and are hugely appreciated.

Collecting students from school by car

A gentle reminder to please not drive onto site to drop off or collect students. The delivery area needs to remain free for its intended purpose and our one entry and exit for cars can start to cause safety issues if it is used at busy times. Wherever possible we would ask that your child cycles or walks to school to ease the concerns of local residents over volume of traffic on the roads around school, especially parking on pavements.

Consultation Evenings

Many thanks to the large numbers of parents who have responded to our parental consultation around the format of parents/consultation evenings next year. This is invaluable to us in our planning post-Covid and we appreciate you taking time from your busy schedules to complete the form.

All staff at school recognise how incredibly lucky we are to have such a supportive parental body. We are extremely grateful for all that you do supporting our work in with our young people. Please do keep in regular contact as we move forward into next year as I look forward to maintaining a close working partnership with parents and carers into next year.

Kind regards



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher