



**The Priory School**

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I promised in my last letter to give you further details regarding Year 11's last day with us, on 27<sup>th</sup> May (next Thursday). We have been very fortunate, in the past that this has usually run very smoothly in comparison to experiences of Year 11 'Last Days' in other schools. This is a very positive reflection on the way our students conduct themselves but also largely to how this is organised in school. The day needs to be carefully managed to prevent any potential disruption to the other year groups who will still be in lessons. Instead of a full day we have traditionally welcomed the students in early to have a breakfast buffet with us, spend time with their tutors and teachers who are free. They can sign shirts and often turn up with interesting alterations to their uniform. They would then leave in the morning to prepare for Prom.

This year there is no more curriculum content to be taught and no more assessments or portfolios to complete. With this in mind we have decided to retain the early start, breakfast, and time with each other as a year group, as well as key staff who have known them well, with an early departure after this. We would like all students to arrive for 8.20am (they will need to be prompt to prevent mixing with other year group bubbles) and congregate on the playground area in front of reception where they will be registered and met by their tutor. We will then go to breakfast in the dining room. This is likely to finish by 10am where students should make their way home.

We have been working hard to try to organise something to compensate for the lack of formal Prom, as we are still within current restrictions, we cannot do this on 27<sup>th</sup> May. However, we have begun to plan an event, in school on 24<sup>th</sup> June for students only. This is likely to be a Picnic Prom held in the school quad (weather permitting). It will comprise their Year 11 subject awards as well as some more informal awards, with a picnic style food and a smart/casual dress code. Heads of House, SLT and students are all involved in the planning and there will be a separate permissions letter arriving soon.

I realise this will be some time after the year group have left us, but we really hope the majority will come back to share in our last event together. This year group have faced many hurdles and have taken it all in their stride. They have returned from both lockdowns with quiet determination and a solid work ethic, and I feel genuinely nostalgic as they leave us but convinced that they will all go on to make us feel very proud of them, whatever they choose to do. Please remind your child that we are still very much here for them. We have ensured that there are still student support and counselling slots available for them if needed and I have been in contact with post 16 providers to ensure that there will be transition events in this last half of term – these should be communicated directly with your child. If you have any concerns during this transition period then do, please let us know.

Thank you for your support in my first year of Headship, it has been very much appreciated by me in a year which I do not think many of us could have predicted.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "A. Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Mrs A Pope  
**Headteacher**