



The Priory School

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000
info@tpstrust.co.uk
www.tpstrust.co.uk

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Dear parents and carers

As we approach the end of this half term we are starting to see a steady fall in Covid numbers. Thank you so much for your tireless support with this. We are incredibly fortunate to have a parental body which is supporting us in being so vigilant, reporting cases and taking advice around PCR testing when contacted. We were able to start this term with our House Run and we very much want to try to hold whole school events such as the school production and House Music at some point during this academic year. However, to do this safely I would prefer to see a further reduction in case numbers to keep everyone safe and avoid students missing any more of their time in school.

To this end we have decided to retain our current measures after the half term holiday. This includes coming to school in PE kit, no assemblies or gatherings which mix year groups, slight stagger to break and lunch times and the wearing of face masks.

Face Masks

A plea that students do need to bring their own, reusable one from home for a number of reasons. The impact on waste is worrying but it is also putting a strain on the school budget as on some days we are giving out over 100. We have asked the School Charity Leader to work with House Charity reps to produce some in House colours and encourage these to be bought and worn by students. We are doing this to ensure proceeds go to charity but to also avoid us having to start charging for the use of disposable masks. Their use has not only seen a dramatic reduction in cases at The Priory but also in other schools across the Trust.

Testing

Please continue at least twice weekly testing with LFTs, and using PCRs for any symptoms (including precautionary ones such as headache and sore throat) as well as for close contacts. If someone in the household is positive please remember the rules have changed, you should now keep your child at home whilst awaiting the PCR result until they receive a negative, even if they, themselves are asymptomatic. Please continue to complete our MS Form available on the school website to report any positive cases as this gives us the information we need to report cases to public health.

Thank you to our students

Staff comment on a daily basis how privileged they feel to work with our students. I have to echo this. The vast majority have continued to be incredibly positive even as case numbers increased and some students had to isolate again. The senior leadership team have been undertaking a schedule of lesson monitoring and the way they continue to conduct themselves in lessons and the way they speak about their lessons has been a real highlight of our drop ins.

Classcharts

You will be aware that we have introduced a new system to upload student homework but also communicate with yourselves and students around rewards and general announcements. You will all have your own login passwords to the system and whilst the vast majority of parents have been activated on our system we can still see many who haven't. If you need any help or assistance with this please contact us on info@ and someone will get back to you. We need to ensure more parents are accessing the system before we move forward with any more aspects of the portal.

Extracurricular

Our current clubs and activities are on our website, please take a look, it has been wonderful to see so many students taking part and enjoying school. We are holding a Halloween Fun Run in the Quarry Park on Tuesday 19th October, numbers signed up look very encouraging and I'm sure lots of fun will be had by all.

Year 11 Thinking Ahead Event

We have a careers information event for Year 11 on Tuesday 19th October where we have over 20 professionals from a range of firms, sectors and careers coming to talk (in a socially distanced, Covid safe set up) to our young people. This ranges from sport to accountancy, from social work to graphic design and also encompasses work on employability skills. We are hoping this will help to focus students prior to their post 16 application window in the New Year. It has been wonderful to have so many members of the local community give up their time to come to talk to our young people.

Wishing you all a very rested and relaxed half term break. Thank you for your ongoing support of Priory.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher