



**The Priory School**

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Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. These are difficult times for all students, not least for Year 11 who were due to take exams and then bid farewell to the school, both through formality and celebration. I therefore hope you are managing to remain positive through this time and we also hope for some degree of returning to normality (in whatever form that takes) in the near future.

To an extent this letter is a reminder of what I shared with you in my letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, which is on the Coronavirus page on our web-site – it is a banner on the home page, with some further detail.

**Centre-Assessed grades:** Every school in the country that has students taking a formal qualification this year (in our case this is GCSEs) has been required to submit a Centre-Assessed Grade (CAG) for each student in each subject they were intending to sit. The Exam Boards, through Ofqual (the exam regulatory body), has instructed that the CAGs submitted to them must reflect a fair, reasonable and carefully considered judgement of the **most likely grade a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams this summer and completed any non-exam assessment.** I emphasise that final phrase because the exam boards and Ofqual will test the grades we submit against a number of different categories and will challenge us if they appear either too lenient or too harsh. We have used a range of evidence that we consider the most reliable for establishing the 'most likely grade' and may be asked to produce that evidence for Ofqual. I repeat (from my previous letter) that we are not permitted to share these grades with students and parents/carers, essentially because Ofqual may decide to alter them.

**Results' Day:** The school will receive GCSE results and we will post them, first class, to arrive on Results' Day (20<sup>th</sup> August 2020). We have done this because we anticipate that social distancing will still be required by then and we ask you to make contact with school if you need to – there will be staff available on the day for questions you may have, and we will provide details of how to make contact with them in the Results letter we send to you. The nature of the conversations on Results' Day will also be different, hence we feel it more appropriate to share results information in this way. It is essential, therefore, that if you have changed address in the meantime, or you need them sending to an alternative address, you inform us through [info@tpstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@tpstrust.co.uk), as soon as possible.

Presently we have no information on what the process of appeals may be. We anticipate that should you, or the school, feel the results warrant an appeal, there will be a process explained (we expect to share this information/detail in the Results letter we send).

**Year 11 tutor contact:** You will already have received notification that the Year 11 tutors are making contact with each form to have conversations with their form and we hope all Year 11 students engage in this.

**Next Academic Year:** I have written to all the Principals and Headteachers of the institutions where our young people have applied to, offering my support for your application, through these leaders, should your results not meet any pre-entry requirements. This will take the form of a conversation between me and them, following Results' Day. They have all replied, expressing support for and empathy with this approach (because they will be doing the same for post 18 providers – education, work, training or apprenticeship) and should they need to speak with me, or I with them, then we will do all we can to support your applications. Please do not, therefore, approach school to request any form of supportive statement/reference at this stage – if this is needed, such a request will be triggered by the institution, the leaders of which will make contact with me directly for that purpose.

Finally, I am sure there were very few people who foresaw the length of time of school closures that we are still experiencing. Equally, the period of lockdown and the length of time to come out of it. All of this has impacted on being able to mark your final term appropriately, which we remain keen to do, even though it is most unlikely to be done in the same way as in previous years. We are looking to re-format our Presentation Evening at a time in the coming academic year, and we are also consulting with the Student Executive on having a final leavers' assembly. Exactly what the format will take depends almost entirely on government guidance/advice/instruction around the need for minimising contact.

Later this week I will provide another recorded address to students and parents/carers and make reference to the content in this letter. If you have any questions arising from the above, please make contact through e mail on [info@tpstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@tpstrust.co.uk).

Many thanks, and keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



M J Barratt  
**Principal, The Priory School**