



### **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

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this finds you all well. I promised to write about more general matters about life at school and, how we are continuing with as much as possible, even if the format is slightly different. Students have adapted very quickly to our new break lunchtime routine and even though the days are starting to draw in, they continue to approach life at school with energy and enthusiasm. In the run up to Christmas we will endeavour to retain as much of the festive spirit as possible and I will keep you up to date with this as ideas and events develop.

#### **Remembrance**

Our annual Remembrance Service usually involves the school community coming together, collectively to honour and remember those who have fallen in war, since World War One. We listen to readings, poems and a student plays the Last Post before we stand in silence, together. I wanted to retain as much as possible of this special event and the poignant feeling it leaves us with. Although this year's event was virtual, all students and staff joined a Remembrance Assembly, which culminated in the school falling silent, at the same time, to pause and reflect; it was an incredibly powerful reminder of the importance of the event. If you would like to watch the service you can still find it on our school website at <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/life-at-school/remembrance/>.

#### **Support for Parents**

We have always used our school website as a method of communicating news and events but during this period of ongoing restrictions we will be utilising it more often to share resources, keep you informed and gauge parental opinion. I am keen to provide whatever support we can for parents to enable them to help their child(ren) with homework and independent study. We would normally offer workshops in school where subject teachers support and update you on the key ways in which you can be involved in your child's learning. A good example of this is the short video Mr Tudor has provided with respect to Maths. This can be found at <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/parents/support-for-parents/>. To ensure we provide the areas of support where the greatest need is, I have set up a parental needs audit on the website. This can be found at <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/parents/> and will be open until the end of this half term, at which point I will collate ideas and look to see what we can put in place. I would value your contributions.

#### **Remote learning support for students**

Two of our Year 11 students have created a wonderful summary of how to access remote learning from home. They created this independently whilst self-isolating, with year 7 specifically in mind but I think it would be an excellent starting point for any parent who is new to helping their child log on, save and share documents with the school. This can be found at: <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/life-at-school/curriculum/working-remotely-from-home/>.

### Year 10 Information Evening

You will also find, in the support for parents' section of the school website, a wealth of helpful links and information to ways in which the health and well-being of our young people can be supported. We will be supplementing this with an online version of our annual Year 10 information evening. This event usually contains important updates from the Heads of Core Subjects, as well as more holistic, small group workshops from our student support team. We will retain this format in a series of short video presentations which can be revisited and watched together at home. More details to follow.

### House Names

As you know we are looking to relaunch our house system through a renaming process aimed at promoting diversity and ensuring a clearer role model ethos. It has been a genuinely interesting and exciting process to watch unfold and I hope there have been discussions at home about who your child(ren) would like to vote for. I hope everyone has been able to vote, the link closes today at 5.30pm.

### Detention notifications

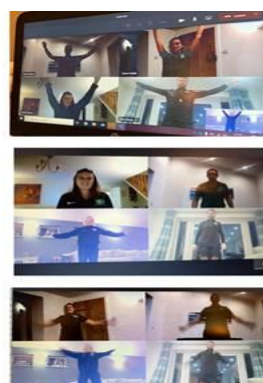
You may have noticed a slight change to our detention notification system. As an additional safety measure and to avoid the unnecessary handling of paper, you will be receiving notification of any detentions your child may incur via email rather than detention slip. This is to save staff having to wear gloves whilst handling detention slips and reduce unnecessary physical correspondence between home and school.

### #getfit





Due to current restrictions we are very aware that it is difficult for students to participate in extracurricular activities or take part in group fitness. We all appreciate how beneficial exercise can be to everyone's mental health and wellbeing. With this in mind our PE department have set up the following virtual fitness sessions for students and are encouraging groups of students and staff to start their own. Please encourage or child to attend (you could even join in, in the background??!) one of the sessions led by our staff, listed below. Teams links will be shared via Show my Homework. Thank you to them all for giving their time to this, especially Mrs Griffiths for organising.

### Your next PE challenge...

- Meet up, **virtually** with a group of friends online (teams)
- Aim to do this at least **2** times a week (more the better)
- Take it in turns to lead the group through a series of exercises or HIIT session
- Take a screen shot and post to SMHW



## #getfitwithPE

Day and Time (starting weekly from 23 <sup>rd</sup> November)	Member of staff
Tuesdays 5.00 – 5.40pm	Mr Deery 
Wednesdays 4.00 – 4.40pm	Mr Walters 
Thursdays 5.00-5.40pm	Mrs Griffiths 
Fridays 4.00 - 4.40pm	Mrs Heath 

The link to the live teams video call will be posted via SMHW

### Careers Advice provision

At The Priory School we are developing the provision of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) received by all students and wanted to let you know about some developments and projects we are working on.

Please take time to visit the new 'Careers & Work Experience' section of The Priory School website <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/life-at-school/careers-work-experience/>. It contains a huge amount of information about the provision we offer, post 16 options for when students leave us, a vast array of links to other websites and information for employers on how they can get involved with The Priory School. If you are able to support our CEIAG programme please do contact us at [info@tpstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@tpstrust.co.uk).

In addition, we offer a number of opportunities for students to find out more about the world of work and will endeavour to adapt as many of these to ensure they are Covid safe but please be aware it may not be possible to deliver our full programme this academic year.

We would also be delighted to hear your views about the provision of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance at The Priory School through Microsoft Forms by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs\\_1sS-GPLQzaltCulJazwIk23ZURTVNSzdSRDVCOVZXQ1hRVjFYVkvVCRk1FWi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs_1sS-GPLQzaltCulJazwIk23ZURTVNSzdSRDVCOVZXQ1hRVjFYVkvVCRk1FWi4u)

### Face masks and Lanyards

Please ask your child to check they have their face mask and lanyard with them every day. We do have spare face masks in school but these are for emergencies and cannot be relied upon. It is not only the cost of replacing so many but the environmental impact I am concerned about. If they do not have their lanyard with them it can slow the lunch queue down and cause delays when the tills crash. As always your help with regular reminders is really appreciated.

Please stay in touch with us, especially your child's form tutor and I will continue to give you regular updates as we progress through this term and head towards Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Pope  
Headteacher