



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Apologies in advance for the length of this letter but, as promised, we are now in a position to give you a little more detail about our return on 8th March.

As mentioned in my previous letter the return is actually staggered over the first week, not the implied ‘all’ will return on 8th. This is primarily to allow for testing of students who gave their consent. At least one negative test result needs to be received before we can allow the students to mix in large groups. Our plan follows this phased approach to allow for the testing but also to allow for gradual reintegration of students onto school site. As mentioned in my previous letter, during that week there will be far fewer ‘live’ lessons as many staff will be involved in testing, organising their return to the classroom or tutor 1:1s with children. Work will still be set which mirrors their normal school timetable.

We want to prioritise the students’ wider well-being and have put in place some 1:1 sessions with their tutors to assess how they are feeling where they may have concerns. The plan is outlined below but we aim to have all back in school by the Thursday of the first week. I would like to very briefly thank the large number of staff who have volunteered to be trained up in the wide variety of roles we have needed to set up our testing facility. Without them we would not have been able to produce anything on the scale needed. This ranges from support staff to the senior leadership team. It may also be that the parents/carers of keyworker and vulnerable children may make the decision that between Monday 8th March and Wednesday 11th March, they are able to accommodate their child’s learning at home; this too would alleviate pressure on the testing facility and supervision.

We have deliberately invited the younger years in first for testing. They are the students who may be a little more uncertain about the process and we will ensure they are given the care and attention they need. It allows us time if any tests need to be repeated or if a student just needs more reassurance. We will have people on hand to support them every step of the way but, having been heavily involved this half term, I would like to reassure you that the process is very quick and our critical worker children took to it with ease.

	8.00-10.30 Sports Hall	11.30 – 2.00 Sports Hall	Students in School
Monday 8 th March	Y7 and 8	Y7 and 8	Y7 and Y8 in school for Tutor appointment & Testing* and then return home.
Tuesday 9 th March	Y9 and 10	Y9 and 10	Y9 and 10 for Tutor appointment & Testing* and then return home.
Wednesday 10 th March	Y11		Y11 in school for Tutor appointment & Testing* and then return home.
Thursday 11 th March	Y7	Y8	All years back in school
Friday 12 th March	Y9	Y10	All years back in school

Monday 15 th March	Y11		In school
Tuesday 16 th March	Y7	Y8	In school
Wednesday 17 th March	Y9	Y10	In school
Thursday 18 th March	Y11		In school
Friday 19 th March			In school

* Tutor appointment & Testing – there will be a wellbeing check with Tutor/ access to Student Support appointment if needed/ Health and Safety reminder and then learn from home. When not attending for appointments, work will be set remotely following their normal timetable.

There needs to be a 3-5 day gap between tests and 3 on site in total, hence the reason the testing rota continues into the following week. From this point on home testing kits will be the priority for students. We will send further information about home testing at a later point rather than including it here.

If your child has symptoms please do not send them to school for any of this testing. Please book an appointment for a PCR test at a government test site. The LFTs we carry out are for asymptomatic students only. Please let us know if the test comes back as positive so we can support test and trace and inform close contacts.

For **Monday 8th- Wednesday 10th March** all students will receive an individual appointment for a test (if they have given consent) and ALL students (even those not involved in testing) will receive a 1:1 appointment for a meeting with their tutor. This will take some time to coordinate so please bear with us. Students must arrive at school for their allotted time and no earlier, and must not come to school with large groups of other students. They will need to leave immediately at the end of their appointments and not congregate with friends. They will need to wear full school uniform and a mask at all times when inside and remain 2 metres plus distant from others. We will ensure good ventilation and there will be hand sanitiser available in all rooms and corridors. Please reinforce the 'Hands, Face, Space' mantra before they attend school site.

From Thursday 11th March our school day resumes under our updated Covid operating plan. This includes staggered start, finish, breaks and lunches. Please ensure that your child arrives for the correct time slot. Please see below.

	START	FINISH
YEAR 7	8.25am	2.40pm
YEAR 8	8.30am	2.45pm
YEAR 9	8.35am	2.50pm
YEAR 10	8.30am	2.45pm
YEAR 11	8.25am	2.40pm

Facemasks

Please ensure that your child(ren) comes to school with a face mask and a spare. We very quickly ran to huge numbers (900+) of medical masks being given out in the first few weeks of autumn term two. This not only has a cost implication (of which the school does not qualify for government reimbursement) but also, has a litter and environmental impact on our site. Masks will be worn in all indoor spaces where 1 metre plus cannot be guaranteed. They will be removed for PE, time spent outdoors and obviously whilst they are eating at break and lunchtime. We are very mindful of the impact of this may have on our young people and will be sensitive to their needs during lessons. The current guidance only stipulates this until the Easter holiday, when I am hopeful it will be removed. This measure is there to protect against the more virulent strains of Covid and the fact that not all children will be tested.

We have updated our risk assessment, which will be available to view on our school website before 8th March. I will also send out a summary document, which highlights the main areas of focus.

Uniform expectations

We expect students to be in full school uniform for their appointments, and also for their return to school. We have checked with the SchoolShop uniform supplier and they have confirmed they have all items in stock so if uniform no longer fits please take this opportunity to order new items for your child(ren)'s return. They can still wear PE kit on the days they have PE but this must be Priory School PE kit; 'hoodies' are not part of this and shorts or plain black leggings or jogging bottoms should be worn instead of skorts.

I have been overwhelmed by your warmth, support and appreciation through what has been a very challenging time for all. So, thank you. If there are any queries then please let me know via info@

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Pope
Headteacher