



## 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

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

- *Term ends at 3.00 on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February.*
- *Please see school website to see students enjoying school life outside of the classroom and for details of how to access preloved uniform.*
- *Covid restrictions in school likely to lift after half term.*
- *Please do not start LFT testing once positive until DAY 5. Pupils cannot come back until DAY 6 at the earliest. Negative LFT before Day 5 does not count.*
- *Return to wearing of full school uniform every day (no PE kit on PE days) around Easter.*
- *Jewellery should not be worn. Stud earrings only.*

I never fail to be surprised with how quickly a half term goes and this one has been no exception. There have been a few queries in relation to the day we break up, I'd like to confirm that **term does end next Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm** and therefore the half term holiday commences on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February.

We have had some fantastic highlights this term, most notably the return of our school talent show Pro. Although the majority of school watched via a live feed, myself and Mrs Knight were very honoured to be able to judge in person and it certainly brought a smile to our faces. To all those students who auditioned and took part – well done, you did a fantastic job.

This week Mrs France has organised a range of careers events to highlight National Apprenticeship week from virtual to small scale face to face events, this will build up to National Careers Week where Year 9 will enjoy an employability skills event.

The covid picture is looking more promising and in line with the latest government announcements we are reviewing our preventative measures. I am extremely hopeful that we can return after half term, with no requirement for face coverings in classrooms or communal spaces (although if some still wish to wear one this is likely to stay as an option). I will confirm this at the end of next week. We will only be able to do this if pupils are not sent back to school too early after testing positive. **We have had a couple of cases where children have been sent back to us before the 6<sup>th</sup> day, please do not do this.**

We will retain the wearing of PE kit on days where pupils take PE, until closer to the Easter break when our new, extended changing room facilities (with appropriate ventilation and cleaning in place) will open, allowing for a much needed return to the wearing of Priory School Uniform. I realise some of you raised the daily wearing of PE kit with me in September but our decision to initially return to full school uniform was already based on extensive discussion and thought. Unfortunately, the wearing of school PE kit has led to a greater variation in uniform standards and more students pushing the boundaries of what should and should not be worn. This

does have an impact on behaviour, attitudes and ethos of pupils– we have seen a clear shift amongst a significant minority. Parents have also reported added cost due to greater wear and tear on PE kit, and students have been unable to change out of wet, muddy clothes during the day.

Whilst we wait for the change back to the wearing of normal school uniform, tutors will be reminding pupils of the basic expectations and where uniform, does not follow school policy they will be contacting home. These expectations also apply to jewellery; apart from a single stud in each ear, jewellery is not part of the Priory School uniform and must not be worn. If there is religious significance attached to an item of jewellery and your child’s tutor is not aware, then please discuss this with them. Where a student has a relevant protected characteristic as outlined in the 2010 Equality Act, consideration will be given to variation in uniform. After half term, jewellery will be confiscated until the end of the day, and a uniform detention issued.

We are incredibly aware of the cost of replacing items of uniform. For some time we have had a healthy surplus of preloved items; often hardly worn. Information on how to access this can be found on our school website <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/parents/school-uniform-information/>. In turn, if you would like to donate pieces then please contact us. We had a very kind offer from some parents to help us to run uniform stalls and sales and I am hopeful that we should be able to organise this into next half term once restrictions on visitors to site are lifted.

And finally, it has been wonderful to see so many students enjoying school life beyond the classroom. Please follow the school on Twitter @PriorySch or view the latest school news (<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/news/>) and clubs list (<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/life-at-school/school-clubs/>) on our website to gain an insight to our offer; there is still plenty of time for pupils who haven’t tried something new, to get involved in the wider, school life.

I hope this half term brings some much needed time with families and a chance for pupils to recharge; as always thank you for your ongoing support as a parental body.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Pope".

Mrs Pope  
**Headteacher**