



The Priory School

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Dear parents and carers

This term has brought some much needed warmer weather. Pupils have been able to make the most of this whether it be enjoying breaks and lunchtimes on the field now it is back open, or the lighter evenings making it easier to participate in early morning and after school clubs and activities. Year 10 have experienced their first, full set of internal exams in the main school hall since before COVID; we were incredibly impressed with their resilience and conscientious approach and I'm sure this dedication will be reflected in their results. Year 11 have started their GCSE exam period with diligence and determination; our invigilation team have been quick to compliment them on how they have conducted themselves and teaching staff have been pleased with their engagement in lessons and extra revision sessions. Rehearsals for the school production Chicago are in full swing and we are seeing a steady return to trips and visits which will grow over time.

School leadership team appointments have been confirmed in Year 10 being ably led by Harry Smith and Claudia Savage as School Captains assisted by our School Leader teams, House Captains and House Leadership teams; they will be introducing themselves with a short video clip, available on the school website, after half term. Please do visit our News section on the school website for further details on daily life at school. Our school calendar provides an update on forthcoming events and the curriculum section of the website gives you a year by year summary of topics and units covered in all subjects. There is also a wealth of other information for parents; access to mental health resources, study skills and overview of our pastoral and student support programme in school.

Thank you to all parents and carers who submitted a response to our parental survey. We received 231 responses, approximately 33% of our overall parental body; thank you so much for taking the time to complete it. We have already begun to discuss your feedback at both school and Trust level and will look to share this with you in the coming weeks.

In previous updates I've referred to our focus on attendance and our inability to authorise holidays in term time. This has been further strengthened by communication from the local authority around the fact that Headteachers should not be authorising family breaks and that COVID alterations to plans is not an exceptional circumstance. Thank you for working with us on this. We have also noticed an increase in the number of non-urgent medical appointments taken during school hours. I would ask that wherever possible these are taken out of school hours. Where this is not possible (and I do understand how difficult it can be to get appointments!) I would ask that any confirmation of appointment e.g. letters or emails are submitted to our attendance line and if at all possible appointments are taken towards the end of the day to avoid disruption to lessons.

Following a tendering process we are pleased to inform you that the School Shop Direct will continue to supply school uniform on behalf of the Priory School. From 1st July they will stock the

Trutex back vent skirt as well as all other items. Please find attached details of two initiatives being launched by the School Shop Direct; an early ordering discount, which will run from the 20th June – 23rd July, and second hand uniform solution, supporting both parents and the local children's charity, Hope House.

This year we have been encouraging staff and students to cycle to work for all of the obvious benefits it will bring. We continue to pass on messages to students about being courteous and careful however the infrastructure around school, with respect to cycle lanes and pedestrian paths is still under review for improvement by the local council. Could I ask that you be extra vigilant of any cyclists having to use the road due to congested pavements and cycle lanes, if you are dropping off and picking up by car?

I hope you and your families have a rested and enjoyable half term; making the most of all of the jubilee celebrations. Thank you for your continued support of school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A Pope".

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher