

19 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 Pupils,

You will doubtless be aware that the updated DfE guidance for schools now outlines when the Year 11 leaving date might be, as well as how we might continue to engage Year 11 pupils following the end of the formal subject assessments they will be undertaking over the course of this half term.

The guidance allows schools the discretion and flexibility to determine not only when their last day might be, but also how best to support Year 11 leavers with transition to their next stage, which might not mean full-time provision beyond half term and may instead, include independent study or remote provision.

Schools usually incorporate a period of independent study leave in the summer term anyway, but understandably this year the needs of the cohort following the half term are different. The 2021 exams approach requires schools to submit grades by 18 June 2021. This process requires considerable staff resource, and therefore in practice, for many pupils, work done after the May half term will not contribute towards their final grades.

With this in mind, and in conjunction with other South Ribble schools, we can now confirm that our Year 11s leaving day will be Friday, 28 May 2021. This means that pupils will not be required to attend school after this date unless specifically asked to do so by staff to support them with any targeted support.

However, we will continue to communicate with our Year 11s following the half term break, providing what we consider to be valuable activities which pupils should continue to be engaged in where appropriate to their needs. We would encourage all pupils in Year 11 to engage in any activities planned as much as possible if asked to do so, as they will be designed to enable them to be as best prepared for the next stage in their lives beyond Priory, whether that be moving on to further education, employment, or training.

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More information on this will be provided over the coming weeks, but is likely to be a combination of some or all of the following, depending on individual need:

- designing and planning content to support pupils to embed curriculum content in which they are less secure (which may include remote or independent work)
- liaising with local 16 to 19 providers to support pupils' transition to A-Level study or vocational and technical qualifications.
- providing support to students around their training and pastoral needs, as well as study skills post-16.

To support this approach, early next week we will send to you our Year 11 'Your Futures' booklet, which forms a comprehensive document signposting our pupils to information related to the above points. Please encourage and support your sons and daughters to engage with the information in this booklet, utilising the information that best suits their own individual aspirations, interests, and needs and as ever, please do get in touch with us here in school should they need any further support.

We will remain here for them to contact us at any time.

Finally, despite the ongoing situation we continue to find ourselves in, we would like to make our Year 11's closing days with us here at Priory both happy and memorable ones. To that end, we are hoping to accommodate our usual Year 11 leavers assembly, traditional shirt and yearbook signing, and hopefully a year group trip to Alton Towers in their final week with us before we finish for half term.

As ever, we will keep you updated on this over the coming weeks.

For now, our continued best wishes to all, as our Year 11 move towards the next stage in their life beyond Priory.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Headteacher