

15 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter continues to find you all safe and well given the circumstances we continue to find ourselves in.

Thank you as ever for the many positive comments you are emailing to us, posting on our social media and in our recent parent survey. All that we continue to do as a school is a result of the whole Priory team and we appreciate the generosity of your feedback, particularly the overwhelming positive comments we have received this week in relation to our live lessons. Thank you.

### **Live Learning @ Priory**

On that note, the level of engagement in our live lessons has been very high, with 98% attendance across all subjects in all year groups. The lessons being taught are a continuation of the planned curriculum and therefore when we return pupils should not need extensive amounts of catch-up time. We continue to be extremely impressed with the motivation and commitment pupils are showing to completing their online studies and would like to express once again our gratitude to all parents and carers for your support in this. Please keep encouraging your sons and daughters to do their schoolwork to the best of their ability and to the highest standards that we always expect. Pupils should continue to follow their school timetable and take time to look at the wellbeing resources that are being updated and shared regularly.

### **BBC to deliver hours of lessons every day**

As you may be aware, the BBC has started delivering the "biggest education offer in its history" for pupils. BBC Two now provides at least two hours of dedicated programming for pupils studying for their GCSEs each week day. The Horrible Histories series is to be a core part of this curriculum-based learning programme with the daily five-hour package including BBC Live Lessons and BBC Bitesize Daily, airing across CBBC and BBC Two.

Whilst we would encourage looking at such programmes and resources and being aware of them, we would advise this only to add variety to our pupils' daily routine and/or to complement the work being set by our staff, rather than as a substitute for it.

To help, staff here in school will continue to familiarise themselves with such resources and determine whether they feel any are of particular use to signpost our pupils to. We will continue to share this advice with you through our usual communication channels if so.

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### **BBC Bitesize To Be Free For Many**

BT Mobile, EE, and Plusnet Mobile customers will be able to use BBC Bitesize content from the end of January without eating into their data allowance. Bitesize provides structured lessons in Maths and English for all year groups, as well as offering other curriculum material.

### **Joe Wicks' Online PE Classes Return**

Personal trainer, Joe Wicks, has relaunched his online 'PE with Joe' exercise classes.

### **Learning for Life Lesson**

Moving forward, this lesson will be used for such things as year group assemblies as and when we feel the need for them. Should we want to speak to a particular year group in this way, we will notify the pupils by posting a message on their feed.

### **Well-being and Support**

A reminder that, in addition to learning and focussing on the academic progress of our pupils, we continue to focus on their pastoral care by sharing well-being messages including access to online resources and support. It is important that pupils and parents continue to take time to read the newsletter, Facebook etc in relation to this. Throughout this lockdown, our various information channels will continue to have links to useful resources, websites and great resources allowing pupils and parents to take part in activities to help on aspects of wellbeing.

### **Year 11 - GCSE Exams**

Last week, Mr Gee emailed all our Year 11 to keep them updated with what we know in relation to their exams. Whilst exams will not take place in the summer in their normal format, it remains vitally important that pupils do not think that this is the end of their education at Priory. Far from it. We now know there will be some form of testing, the detail of which is to follow. However, their online lessons are even more vital than ever. Every mini assignment they are set is more important than ever and every test they may now do is more important than ever. Why?

If a pupil has worked hard, gaining the grades they want yet now does less work, their predicted grade from us will likely be lower in May than it is now.

If a pupil hasn't worked as hard as they can, they now have the chance to increase their grade by working hard in every lesson for the next 5 months.

Staff will only be allowed to submit any future grades based on where they see the pupil being at that time, not at the point at which lockdown started.

Whilst the uncertainty and worry that exams can bring has gone, it is now down to how hard our pupils work in their live lessons, how much they listen to their teacher's advice and how prepared they are to give it their all and complete tasks to the best of their ability that will be important.

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### **Key Worker Pupils**

The Department for Education has now advised that children of key workers should only attend school if their parents or carers cannot work from home. Therefore, we have updated our guidance and Mr Gee has written to all those to whom this might apply.

### **Pupil and Staff Survey**

Thank you to all of you so far who have taken the time to support us by completing the online Remote Learning Parent Survey and Pupil Survey. We continue here at Priory, to continuously evolve and improve our remote home learning experience for staff, students and parents and your feedback on this is vital.

If you have not already done so, we would invite you to complete the following short survey by clicking on the link below:

Parent Survey

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=id9BE8UjUUqLD9VLKIqMFq2PUaLmwjNOvmtpw46wkAdUQVozSFRNQUVaQ1E0QVRFVE9EV1IGT0daQS4u>

Pupil Survey

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=id9BE8UjUUqLD9VLKIqMFq2PUaLmwjNOvmtpw46wkAdUMTMxWFdKVVIVV0QxOVpITVZSMUNXMjJKTi4u>

### **Finally**

As always, thank you for your continued support and understanding as we all work together to support each other and particularly our young people through this time.

We hope you and your families continue to stay fit, well, and safe. As ever, get in touch straight away if there's anything you need support with.

Yours faithfully



**Mr M Eastham**  
**Headteacher**