

5 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It's always good for us to know how parents, pupils and others in our local community feel about the way we are handling the current situation and all it has to throw at us. Whilst these do of course continue to be worrying times for us all, the feedback we've had on what we're doing so far has been very positive and I'm pleased to hear the experience for yourselves has felt a good and supportive one. Thank you so much to those of you taking the time to email us with your gratitude. It continues to be a great source of solace to us all and continues to be very much appreciated.

Having boys at home myself, all of primary age and in different years, I know only too well how challenging things can be for parents at home. That's why we firmly believe here at Priory, that we need to do all we can to remove any additional pressures for parents where possible. Though not ideal, I know you, parents and carers, are only too happy to facilitate learning in the home under the current circumstances, but the pressure and anxiety comes when we feel we not only have to teach our sons and/or daughters, but equally when we feel responsible for whether they are learning or not.

That's something we want to avoid here at Priory and it's good to know our approach is working in relation to this, from your perspective. Thank you for telling us as much.

Future Reporting - All Years

We still intend to maintain reports going out as per our published schedule. However, please be mindful, that given the current situation, reports are likely to have a slightly different look and feel to them in order to reflect the remote learning that is taking place. They will still comment on behavior and attitude to (remote) learning, however, the homework heading for example, will be replaced with 'submitted work', completed by staff based on the level of work pupils should have submitted to them during their remote learning.

Future Parents Evenings

We intend for all future parents' evenings to use an online system that will allow you, as parents, to book your appointment times and still meet with your child's teachers via a video call. The system will coordinate the entire evening, moving you automatically from one teacher to the next, true to your chosen time slot. This will ensure the vital link from home to school, from teachers to parents, is maintained. Full instructions on how to use the online booking system will be forwarded to you prior to each parents' evening.

Continued...



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Year 9 Parents Evening/Options evening

This week, Mr Gee has written to all those in Year 9 to explain in more detail our plans for the Year 9 parents/options evening. In order to enable the options process to proceed, the following timeline has been put in place:

- W/c 8 February - Year 9 full reports and options booklet will be posted home to all Year 9 pupils.
- W/c 15 February - The online parents/options evening booking system will go live. You must book an appointment to see your child's English, Maths and Science teachers and, in addition, **all** of the teachers that teach your child from each of the subjects they are thinking of choosing as an option in Year 10.
- Mon, 22 February - Subject teachers will deliver an options information lesson to all Year 9 pupils.
- Mon, 1 March – The Year 9 parents/options evening will take place.
- Mon, 8 March - All options application forms must be returned to school by this date.

In addition to using the online system outlined above, we intend to make available to you, the opportunity to book onto an options talk delivered by Mr Gee at various times in the evening, where he will explain the whole options process and give you the opportunity to ask questions. However, should you have any queries with regards to the whole options process prior to this, then please feel free to email Mr Gee at n.gee@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Finally

There can be no doubt that we continue, each day, to live with a certain level of uncertainty. In fact, uncertainty seems ever present at the moment. Whilst we can't yet remove this uncertainty, we can hopefully continue to provide support in the midst of it. Support of the right kind, in the right place, at the right time, can make all the difference to any one of us. We hope then that you and your daughters and sons continue to feel supported by us, as a school, both academically and pastorally.

And thank you too, for the support you continue to show for us as a school also.

Once again, keep safe and well.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Headteacher