

The Priory School

West Bank, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DG

A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

Tel: 01306 887337

Email: enquiries@priorycofe.com

Website: www.thepriorycofe.com

Headteacher: R Gibb BMus, MEd



19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Temporary Closure of The Priory CofE School

As you will be aware, the government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from the end of the day on Friday 20 March.

This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

From Monday 23 March, students' education for the most part will continue from home. Our main platform will be Show My Home Work, available as an App and through our school website. Your children will be provided with work for every lesson they would normally attend. Some subjects that have a predominantly practical element will include suggestions for activities at home. In our assemblies tomorrow we will tell students to take their school books home so that they can keep all written work in the subject-appropriate book.

By the end of this week we will send you specific details of how this will operate. We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our students can continue their education from home during the closure. I am extremely grateful to staff across our amazing school for the way in which they have taken on this challenge.

The Priory will, however, remain open for two specific groups of students:

- Those whose parents are defined as key workers (employed in the NHS, emergency services or elements of the food supply chain);
- Those who are particularly vulnerable.

I have sent out a questionnaire for those parents and carers who think they fall into the key worker category so we can establish the level of need. Mrs Trimnell, Mrs Abbott and the SEND and pastoral teams are working together to establish appropriate routines for our groups of vulnerable students. Those parents and carers will be contacted directly with details of their provision. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by 5pm on Friday 20 March please contact us on the school email address

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year. Over the coming days, they will announce plans for how those due to sit them this year will be able to gain their qualifications. I know how important this will be for our older pupils and we will be ensuring that whatever is put in place can be implemented through the school in a way that does not penalise any of our pupils' places at university, in Priory 6 or those going to college. We understand that Universities UK has said 'pupils should not lose the chance to go to university this year' because of the government's cancellation of public exams. When we know more, we will share it with the relevant year groups.

Over the next few days we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. We have already made provision for all students on Free School Meals in advance of the government information and those individuals will be contacted directly for information. We will be doing everything we can to deliver

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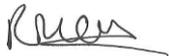
whatever is required of us by central government, but also based on our own extensive knowledge of our students and their families. This is when a school community as close and unique as ours comes into its own as we support each other through these difficult times.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks. I have been overwhelmed this week with messages of support and thanks from parents and the local community. I cannot tell you how proud I am of our staff and students and the way they have conducted themselves during this challenging and uncertain time and we will make every effort to replicate this through remote and virtual learning.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it, communicating with you by email with headline information on the school website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Kind regards



Mrs R Gibb
Headteacher