

# The Priory School

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A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

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Headteacher: R Gibb BMus, MEd



20 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter break. Having reviewed the first two weeks of remote learning we have decided to make some changes to the KS3 timetables for this half term. Whilst five hours of lessons in school is generally manageable and effective for student learning it is clear that this cannot translate long term into five hours a day of remote learning.

We want to work with you to achieve the best possible healthy balance for our students at this difficult time. We are aware that many students are having to share computers at home with siblings and maybe even parents. We are also mindful of the negative effect that isolation and extended time in front of screens can have on our young people's mental health and overall wellbeing.

Therefore there will be a reduction in the amount of hours of remote learning that is being set at KS3. We are encouraging all students to do an hour of physical activity a day. This may include PE with Joe Wicks, time in the garden or going out for a walk, run or cycle ride. In addition to that we are suggesting that all students spend around two hours of their school week engaged in activities linked to their wellbeing. There are a host of possible activities linked to this that can be found [here](#) on our website. However it may also include time spent together with those they live with playing board games, getting creative and stepping away from their screens. Having built these aspects into the school week the table below outlines the amount of 'lessons' that will be set.

	KS3
English	3 hours
Maths	3 hours
Science	3 hours
All other subjects	1 hour a week (except for PE as this is covered by daily exercise recommendation)

Year 10 students will not be set any work relating to core PE or to PSHCE. But as with the KS3 students we do encourage Year 10 students to do regular exercise and to make use of the wellbeing website resources. We will also not be running a formal mock examination period for Year 10 before the summer.

Following Ofqual's announcement regarding the submission of Centre Assessed Grades Year 11 students will no longer be set any GCSE work. Teachers will however be contacting students who have signed up for Priory 6 BTEC and A-Level courses to begin some prep work for Year 12. Year 11 students therefore need to keep an eye on their emails.

We have added a FAQ section to the website that deals with many of the common issues that students have been having whilst working remotely. Please use the link [here](#) to access this. The FAQ should be used as the first place to look if your child is having any problems with the remote work that they have been set.

As we begin another term working remotely can I please ask that you check that you are able to log in as a parent to Show My Homework either via the phone app or the website. If you have not got your password please email Mrs Weedon ([Jwn@priorycofe.com](mailto:Jwn@priorycofe.com)) and she will reissue it to you.

As this term unfolds we will continue to consciously seek to review and adapt the remote learning in a way that has student and family wellbeing at its heart; helping to facilitate our young people as effective learners will always be a key part of this. We are delighted to be able to recognise and celebrate some of the super learning that our teachers are seeing in the work that they are marking and giving direct feedback on. Thank you for working in collaboration with us to ensure that your child remains a healthy and effective learner in these difficult times.

Kind regards

Mrs Abbott  
Deputy Headteacher

