

The Priory School

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A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

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Headteacher: R Gibb BMus, MEd



Dear parents and carers,

3rd June 2020

I hope everyone is safe and well, and has had an enjoyable half term break from remote learning.

You will be aware that the Prime Minister made an announcement on Sunday 24 May regarding the part-time return to school of students in Y10 and Y12.

It is our intention to offer part-time, face-to-face support for our students in these year groups from 15 June, while still delivering the bulk of their GCSE, BTEC and A Level learning remotely. This is in line with guidance from the Department for Education. I have also been in ongoing communication with other local headteachers, including Mr Panting at The Ashcombe School, to ensure our messages are consistent and in-line with DfE expectations.

Our site team and cleaning team are currently working to ensure that we can maintain the health and safety of all on site and we feel confident that we will be able to achieve this for additional students at school ready for 15 June, as well as maintaining measures in place for our children of keyworkers who have been in school regularly since 23 March. You will be sent a survey following this letter to help us to establish any specific considerations that we need to be aware of regarding your child/ren. We are very mindful that some families might have suffered significant bereavement and hardship through the lockdown period, or that some students might be anxious about returning to school for a number of reasons. Your responses to this questionnaire will be kept confidential and only shared with a small number of staff where appropriate in order to best support your child/ren. I very much appreciate your cooperation by responding to this survey as quickly as possible.

I understand that there will be very mixed feelings about a part-time return to school but we believe that this is in the best interests of our students in order to start the social easing process and prepare them for the academic year ahead in Y11. I will write to you with a full account of how we will manage our students in school so that they are kept safe and socially distant from one another while on the school premises, including at lunchtime and breaktime. I will also email Y10 and Y12 students directly with information specific to them in order to prepare them for their return to school.

In line with safety requirements in school, I have been contacted by a local resident who has written to all the local schools to request that parents are reminded that their children should be socially distancing themselves from their peers and friends at all times. While we know that this is challenging to police and enforce, in school our students will be required to maintain a distance of 2m from their peers, teachers and support staff. We would very much appreciate it if you could support this message at home and remind your child/ren that they should also maintain this distance from their friends and peers when they walk to and from school, and when they are on school buses or public transport.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your very kind words of thanks to our staff. We hope that this next stage in schooling will be beneficial to your child/ren, both in terms of their wellbeing, as well as their education. We are very much looking forward to seeing more students in school - it really isn't the same without them.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Gibb

Headteacher