

The Priory School

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A Voluntary Aided Church of England School

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Dear parents/carers,

Year 10 Parents

It has been excellent to have Year 10 students back in school over these past four weeks. The small group, or at times the one to one work that this time has facilitated has been really effective in helping teachers to establish how individual students have got on during lockdown. Establishing some face to face support with the students prior to the summer has been essential in reframing learning and teaching ready for September.

As you are aware, the current Government Guidance allows us to have all students back on site and following their normal curriculum timetables in September. There will be appropriate measures taken in line with this guidance to reduce risk and ensure a safe environment for our students and staff. We will share details of this with you in due course.

However as we approach the summer holidays I want to update you on specific plans for Year 10 students as they move into the final year of their GCSEs.

1. Summer Learning

All subjects will be setting learning opportunities for Year 10 students to engage in over the summer. The work will primarily focus on retrieval and revision tasks. The purpose of this learning is to reinforce the GCSE work covered up to this point, ensuring a firm foundation to build on in Year 11.

This work will appear on every students' Show My Homework calendar on the 20th July and it will have a completion date of the end of the summer holidays.

We would encourage all students to do little and often over the summer, ensuring an essential balance between rest and reinforcement of their learning.

For some students there may be work that they have fallen behind on this term. That work is still accessible on Show My Homework. We would encourage students to take some time to go back to this work and fill in these gaps in their learning.

For some students it may be worth a simple reminder that something is always better than nothing. Work completed, right or wrong, helps the teacher to support every individual in their learning going forward.

2. Course Completion

All our departments are planning for September building in contingencies for any future lockdowns or periods of isolation, whether this be of individuals, year groups or the whole school. This planning will ensure that every student has sufficient time to complete all of their GCSEs and to do their best in their final exams.

3. Assessment

We are mindful that Year 10 students have missed out on their mock exams this year. Exam practice is a key part of preparation for final GCSE success. For this reason we have built in two hours a fortnight on every Year 10's timetable for assessments and exam practice. This is shown on the student's timetable as EE, Exam Enrichment.

During the first two weeks of the year in EE the students will focus on exam techniques and revision planning. Following this they will work through a cycle of subject assessments, one subject each week. The assessments will be set and marked by their class teacher but they will be sat in their EE lessons in exam conditions.

This will reduce any subject lesson time being taken up by assessments, maximising this time for teaching the course material.

Year 11 mock exams will be at the start of January. Following these exams students will have plenty of time to make further progress effectively before their final exams. Teachers will use the information from the mock exams to direct learning and inform revision plans.

The final and essential element in every Year 11 is good communication. As normal we encourage each student to speak to their class teacher if they would like additional help or support on any aspect of their work. Their tutor is also a key point of contact for pastoral support especially during the challenges of a final GCSE year.

We also continue to promote and encourage good communication between home and school. Please contact your child's class teacher directly regarding any subject specific queries or guidance that you may need in order to support your child at home. If you have any wider concerns regarding pastoral matters then please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Finally I would like to remind you of our wellbeing section on the website that can be found [here](#). There are a range of online resources that can be used to support mental health and wellbeing.

We are looking forward to welcoming every student back into school in September and building on their learning from this year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email lat@priorycofe.com if I can be of any further assistance.

Kind regards,

Mrs Abbott
Deputy Headteacher

