



THE PRIORY SCHOOL

D O R K I N G

Headteacher: Mrs J Trimnell

12th February 2021

Dear parents and carers

The final week of this half term has come around as quickly as ever. Students have continued to amaze staff with their maturity and enthusiasm when facing the challenges of remote learning during this pandemic. We are aware that this has not been an easy time for anyone and individuals within our community are constantly having to face their own challenges whilst also living in a lockdown. However, what has become increasingly apparent during this period, is the support our community is continuously providing for everyone. I am personally grateful for all the support you have provided to the school at this time.

We have had quite a lot happened this half outside of lessons, here are a few:

- Year 9 Options process began; we have been really excited to offer more options to our children than before. The school now offers Sociology, BTEC Sport and iMedia, these are on top of subjects we offered previously.
- We have had our Year 9 and 11 parents' evenings with great attendance from both students and parents/carers.
- Safer Internet day and Children's Mental Health week happened, with lots of resources and ideas of how to support each other in these areas.
- We had great success for students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.
- There were virtual meetings with members of the Senior Leadership Team for parents and carers. The sessions were an opportunity for parents and carers to speak directly with SLT and discuss any concerns they have.
- 68 laptops have been provided for students and families to support remote learning during this time.
- Lateral flow testing has been happening daily for both children and staff in school. Thank you to the many volunteers that have been coming in regularly and enabling this to happen.
- More than 15 home visits have been made to check on student wellbeing and provide more support if necessary.
- Over 6000 phone calls to students and families by our Learning Support Team to help students with their remote learning.
- Most recently, we entered a few teams into the CyberFirst Girls Competition. Good luck to team "Java" which consists of three students who have made it through to the semi-final: Shruthi Nair, Mia Petervari and Rebecca Hoad. Well done to everyone who participated.
- Thank you to everyone that participated in the on-line questionnaire we launched last week, seeking your feedback and thoughts regarding remote learning. We have analysed the results and found that an overwhelming majority of families are happy with the provision and support in place. As previously stated, the wellbeing of our community is key during this period. With this in mind I am working with teachers to ensure that they set work for no more than 50 minutes for each lesson. This will then give children the opportunity of the final 10 minutes to complete anything they need to before the next lesson, or take some important time away from the screen.

After half term I will be running a "Meet the Headteacher" session every Thursday from 3:30pm - 4:30pm for the foreseeable future. Appointments will be available via our School's Cloud system after half term. If you would like an opportunity to speak with myself and talk through any concerns then please feel free to book an appointment. I will look forward to meeting and speaking with you.

I am pleased to inform you that East Surrey College are offering **FREE*** Part-time courses with a tutor online (and onsite when permitted) This opportunity is for any of our parents or carers to take part in and wanting to improve their literacy and numeracy skills, or wishing to access new ways to help support their children.

	START DATE:
FIRST STEPS INTO MATHS <i>(For parents/guardians who have very little to no Maths qualifications)</i> Online Tutor Led Learning.	04.03.21
PREPARING TO TAKE GCSE MATHS <i>(For parents/guardians to support with home learning)</i> Online Tutor Led Learning.	02.03.21
PERSUASIVE WRITING <i>(To learn how to write more effectively for use at home or in the workplace)</i> Online Tutor Led Learning.	01.03.21
ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS (ENTRY LEVEL 3 & LEVEL 1) <i>(For any adults who have a limited knowledge of, and want to understand technology better. They will learn how to use devices and be safe and responsible online. The initial classes would be in person to help and support learners in this area, once the lockdown eases)</i> Onsite Teaching and Online Tutor Led Learning.	21.04.21

I would also like to make you aware that there is a writing competition for students from Year 3-11 during half term. The competition has been set up by Rob Walker, the TV sports broadcaster. Details for this can be accessed at <http://www.youngsportingwonders.com/#competition> Participants have the chance of winning a book token. The top ten will then get a chance to interview a major sports star via Zoom.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe week and I look forward to hearing from everyone again on Monday 22nd February.

With very best wishes



Mrs Trimnell
Acting Headteacher



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