

13 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you for your continued support as we, like the rest of the country, respond to the situation in relation to Coronavirus. I am very grateful for the measured, appropriate and cooperative response of parents/carers in helping us to manage this situation.

I am sure that you will appreciate that it is difficult to predict what the impact on schools might be in the future in what is clearly a rapidly changing picture. Please be assured that we continue to collaborate with, and act upon the advice of, the relevant organisations and are taking steps to plan for the future.

At the moment, our priority is to maintain the calm learning environment for our young people and a measured response to the developing situation. Whilst not wanting to be dismissive of the potential effects on the wider population, we want our pupils to understand that in the majority of cases the effects of the virus can be relatively mild. Additionally, we will continue to reiterate through assemblies, tutorial and posters the important messages about hygiene and thank you for your support in reinforcing these messages too. Please encourage your child to avoid touching their face, particularly their eyes and mouth and provide them with tissues.

We will continue to ensure the school building is cleaned thoroughly each evening. Please encourage your sons and daughters to support us in showing the right 'character' by putting their rubbish in the bins provided.

### **Attendance**

You will already have heard yesterday that the Prime Minister has announced a new measure to combat the spread of Coronavirus. We will need your active engagement to implement this. Any pupil with a new, continuous cough or high temperature must self-isolate for seven days. Please keep any pupils away from school if they exhibit those symptoms. We have made arrangements in the registers to record such an absence so we can monitor the seven-day absence period. If your son or daughter is in this position, you should report their absence in the usual way, making clear the reason for that absence.

If we feel that any pupil we are teaching either develops or is exhibiting those symptoms, we will of course take measures to isolate them in school and contact you to collect them.

Otherwise, children should still attend school unless you have been advised against it due to recent travel restrictions or underlying medical conditions. Our advice to pupils and staff with suppressed immune systems or ongoing health conditions is to seek medical advice. If they are ill or exhibiting possible symptoms of the virus it is important to follow the most up to date information from Public Health England or via the NHS on 111. Please keep us informed of any reasons for pupil absence.

Continued...



**Penwortham Priory Academy** Crow Hills Road Penwortham Preston PR1 0JE

**Phone:** 01772 320250

**Fax:** 01772 752426

**Email:** [enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

**Visit:** [priory.lancs.sch.uk](http://priory.lancs.sch.uk)

## Contingency Planning

We will continue to follow advice from the Department for Education and the government and school will aim to operate as normal as outlined above. However, should a situation arise where a significant number of pupils and staff are affected, but we are advised by Public Health England to remain open, this may result in us initially amalgamating classes to make best use of the available teachers and/or temporarily closing school to some year groups, with priority being given to Year 11 and Year 10.

Should we be advised to close the school to all pupils, we will try to sustain continuity in pupils' learning by making resources available on our school website via Doodle etc. If school closure becomes necessary, it is essential that pupils continue with their learning. We actively encourage pupils to be responsible, independent learners and they have the skills required not only to complete the work set by their teachers but to be completing additional reading and research on the topics they are studying. All our learning schemes are available by clicking on the Curriculum tab on the school website at <https://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk>. Specific learning set by teachers will be made available on Doodle and other learning platforms as and when appropriate. Should your son or daughter experience any technical difficulties, please email [networkmanagers@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:networkmanagers@priory.lancs.sch.uk).

You can support us in this by making sure that your child, where possible, can access their schoolwork via a home tablet, laptop, PC or their smartphone. Making sure that your child has somewhere quiet to work and that they follow the work routines of a usual school day as much as possible is particularly helpful. All pupils and particularly Year 11 should be actively engaging with revision.

## GCSE Examinations

The Government and Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), the body which runs public exams are monitoring the situation. Since any impact on examinations is likely to affect the whole country, we will follow official guidance and keep you informed. It is essential that all pupils are available to sit any public examinations up to and including **24 June (GCSE Contingency Day)**. Whilst school is open, any GCSE practical examinations or controlled assessments will continue as scheduled.

## Should school closure be necessary

We will strive to:

- communicate with parents via email, the school website, Facebook etc. as is currently the case.
- update our school website/Facebook remotely
- ensure that our administrative team will be able to pick up emails remotely if sent to [enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk). Please understand that we may be unable to respond to general enquiries during this current situation. We will keep you informed of any changes or further developments.

## Educational Visits

At present all planned educational visits in this country are going ahead and we will inform you of any changes to this arrangement as necessary. With regards to our planned trip to Iceland at the end of April, we are taking advice from the government and foreign office and, should there be the need to cancel this trip, we will inform you of this decision at the appropriate time.

Continued...

**Please may I remind you that** the Department for Education updated advice and NHS advice about Coronavirus (COVID -19) is available on the government and NHS websites.

Finally, I am confident we can work together over the coming weeks to further our overall aim of ensuring that as many of our school community remain as well as they can be for as long as possible.

Many thanks for your continued support with this.

Yours faithfully



**Mr M Eastham**  
**Headteacher**

