



COVID-19 UPDATE 8

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the many messages of support and positive feedback we have received since the start of term. I am providing you with an update following the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday evening. The situation has clearly changed since my last update on 31st December, and all students other than vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers will receive remote education at home until at least February half-term, Thursday 11th February (Friday 12th being a TED Day).

Some of the information below has been included in previous updates, but I felt it would be helpful for you to have all of this in one communication.

Remote Learning

We are following the Department for Education's (DfE) guidance in relation to remote learning which, in summary, stipulates that schools should:

- *Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects*
- *Set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum for secondary students, 4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year*
- *Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos*
- *Have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern*
- *Gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate*
- *Enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding*

In line with the above, the process of providing remote learning for Prince Henry's students will be as follows:

- Teaching staff will be delivering their lessons or setting work from school unless they are ill or self-isolating, or have personal reasons not to be in school. In such instances, work may be set via ShowMyHomework (SMH) by the class teacher or a cover teacher.
- All students (Years 9-13) will receive "full time remote education, as close as possible to that which students would get in class and tutor time"- ie via Microsoft Teams and SMH. An attendance register will be taken during tutor time and for each lesson.

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The Prince Henry's High School Academy Trust trading as Prince Henry's High School, registered as a company in England and Wales at the above address. Reg No 07512962

Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools

- Students should routinely check SMH for messages from their teachers. It may be that a member of staff is ill and cover work will be set for students here.
- **Students will be asked to switch on their cameras for the register to be accurately taken during Tutor Time. If cameras are switched on whilst they are engaging with online learning, students should ensure that they have a suitable background and that they are dressed appropriately - ie smart casual attire.**

IT provision

Should you require any IT hardware (laptop /tablet) to support your child during this period, please email your child's Head of Year via the appropriate remote learning email address below:

- remotelearningY9@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk
- remotelearningY10@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk
- remotelearningY11@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk
- remotelearningY12@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk
- remotelearningY13@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

If there are any issues relating to passwords, user names or other technical difficulties, your child should email passwordenquiry@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk for support.

Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers

- Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers (for definition, see [here](#)) will be able to come into school during the lockdown. They will receive exactly the same educational provision as their classmates who are learning from home remotely.
- **If you are a critical worker and wish your child to attend school during the lockdown, please contact enquiries@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk , under the subject heading of 'Key Worker - Your child's name'. Within the message, please detail your child's name, tutor group, your most up-to-date contact details and your occupation.**
- **Local Authority Transport is available as usual and any students coming to school should do so in full school uniform. Lunch will be available from Henry's.**

Safeguarding

We appreciate this is a worrying time for many families, especially so as lockdown continues. Should you have any safeguarding concerns regarding your child, reception is staffed every day and you can phone the school between 9.00am-3.35pm. You can also find more information and resources in relation to Online Learning/Internet Safety, Family Support and Mental Health and Wellbeing on our dedicated [safeguarding page](#).

Staff and Student COVID Testing

From this week, staff and any students who are in school have the option to be tested. In order for testing to be undertaken, consent will be required from the parents/carers of students under 16, or directly from students over 16 and staff. A copy of the [consent form and data protection privacy notice](#) is in the Covid Updates area of the website. Currently, in-school testing is only available to students who are in school, but this programme will be rolled out to all students when they return after lockdown.

Exams

I appreciate that there will be considerable anxiety for parents and students due to take national examinations following the Prime Minister's announcement. My own daughter is in Year 11 and due to take GCSEs this year, so I fully understand your concerns. I have asked Form Tutors to provide reassurance to students, ie to stay calm, keep working hard, to engage with remote learning and remain focused. Students will also need to continue preparing for any scheduled vocational exams due this month and to work on any coursework requirements.

At the moment, all we know is that there are going to be changes and we have no further information. However, in an interview this morning, Michael Gove has indicated that Gavin Williamson will be making an announcement on Wednesday this week. What we know from the DfE at the moment is: *'In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'*

When we receive further information about the national GCSE and A Level examinations and the non-examined assessments (NEAs), I will notify students and parents immediately.

Year 11 & 13 Reports

Staff have already written reports for students in Years 11 and 13. I have asked for these to be issued as planned, given that teachers have already spent a significant amount of time preparing them, but please bear in mind these were written prior to the lockdown announcement in the expectation that we would be teaching students in school in January.

Stay safe. With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Dr A Evans
Headteacher