



7th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### Update re COVID-19 Response

Teachers continue to work very hard to plan and upload appropriate distance learning activities for students. This way of facilitating learning has been a huge learning curve for many teachers, taking place at the same time as dealing with their home circumstances, which often involves supporting their own families during the current pandemic. Teachers and Teaching Assistants are also (if not ill or self-isolating) on a rota to cover the school-based provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students, with many volunteering to work over their Easter and May half term holiday to keep this provision open.

In addition, the vast majority of other school staff continue to work, either from home or on a rota basis at school, to help deliver the best quality education provision in the current circumstances and also to ensure that we are prepared for the future. For example, our pastoral and safeguarding team, HR, finance and admin teams, site team and IT team all have a crucial role to play. I am sure that you will share my appreciation of all the hard work that continues at Prince Henry's.

#### Help for the NHS:

You may already be aware that some of our staff have also been taking time to support the NHS. Our design technology teachers have been making scrubs and scrubs laundry bags for NHS and Care Home workers as part of a national campaign. In addition, Alyson Blakeley (Faculty Leader of Business, Design, Technology and Innovation) organised the collection of hundreds of pairs of safety goggles from schools from across the region, to donate to local hospitals and GP surgeries. All members of the Prince Henry's community should be very proud of this additional work to help combat COVID-19.

#### Pastoral Support and Student Well-being:

We have now further strengthened our approach to remote pastoral support for students. As well as the existing regular contact with identified students and families, it now also includes:

- 'Virtual' assemblies for all students in all year groups
- More regular contact from Personal Tutors so that they can keep in touch and offer support
- Systems to support individual students who appear to be struggling with their learning tasks

If you haven't seen it already, take a look at the "Sending A Smile" video message to students, which you can see on the homepage of our website, or by clicking [here](#).

We are continuing to celebrate good news stories and individual achievements of members of our school community through our Twitter feed: @PrinceHenrysGS, so please encourage your son or daughter to follow us, and maybe even share a notable achievement, either by Twitter or by emailing a photo and short description to [info@princehenrys.co.uk](mailto:info@princehenrys.co.uk).

#### Distance Learning:

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May is the last day that teachers will set GCSE work for Year 11 students. Teachers will, however, provide 'bridging work' to help Year 11 students prepare for their Post 16 studies. Thursday is also the last day that teachers will set work for Year 13 students. If you have a child in Year 13 who

plans to go on to further study, please encourage them to check if any preparatory work has been set by their chosen education institution.

Please note that there is no expectation for students in any year group to complete curriculum work on the Bank Holiday this week or during the upcoming half term holiday (25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020).

**Changes to school bus services:**

The previously announced changes to the school bus services provided by Connexions and Kilvington, due to be introduced on 20<sup>th</sup> April, have now been deferred until September 2020. Full details can be found on the Metro website [wymetro.com](http://wymetro.com), or by clicking [here](#).

**Refunds for school trips and visits:**

Look out for a separate update letter about this, which will be sent out on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**Finally:**

Please remember that teachers, other school staff and school leaders are trying their very best to do the right thing in these complex and previously unknown circumstances. We will continue to adapt our approach, as necessary, in order to improve the experience for our students.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and support. I know that many of you are also working hard to help our students cope with the demands of home learning and social distancing, alongside your other responsibilities.

Please continue to check the “School Closure” section on the home page of the school website for the latest information.

I wish you and your family the best over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully



**Ms Janet Sheriff**  
**Executive Headteacher**