



Prince Henry's Grammar School Farnley Lane, Otley, LS21 2BB 01943 463 524

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22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

# **Update re COVID-19 Response**

### Wider opening of schools

As you are aware, the government has stated that it expects secondary schools "will be able to offer some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils from 1st June 2020 at the earliest". The exact date cannot be confirmed because it is reliant on meeting the 'five tests' set by the government.

Senior leaders are still waiting for further guidance from the Department for Education regarding the wider opening for secondary schools, but we understand that provision will not involve regular timetabled lessons. Careful planning and an assessment of risk will need to take place ahead of wider opening. Therefore, Prince Henry's would not be able to offer provision until sometime in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June at the very earliest (and even this date may be overly optimistic).

I will let parents and students know as soon as possible once we have further details of the arrangements. I can assure you that in all our planning, student and staff safety will remain a primary concern.

#### **Distance Learning update**

Teachers will not be setting any learning tasks for students over next week's half-term holiday week  $(25^{th} - 29^{th} \text{ May})$ .

During the week beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> June, students will be guided by their teachers to carry out improvement and reflection activities in order to embed and develop some of the learning set so far. This means that:

- Students who have fallen behind will have the opportunity to catch up on the key learning. The priority learning will be identified by their teachers and provided in a specific list;
- Students who are generally up to date, but have not yet responded to teacher feedback, will
  have the time to respond to feedback and improve their learning by completing the specific
  Challenge Tasks set by their teachers;
- Students who are completely up to date will have the opportunity to extend and enrich their learning by completing extension and enhancement activities. These activities will be identified by their teachers and provided in a specific list.

As a result, there will not be any completely 'new lessons' set during the week beginning 1st June.

The government has recently published information, guidance and support for parents and carers of children who are learning at home during the coronavirus outbreak. Guidance on helping secondary school children continue their education can be found here.

## **Rewarding Students**

The pastoral team has recently introduced systems to reward students who have been working hard on their distance learning tasks. This will mean identified students will receive electronic Reward Postcards from their subject teacher in recognition of their hard work and achievements. Students will receive these directly via email, or as an attachment on Firefly. Students who consistently receive Reward Postcards, or complete work that is above and beyond what would normally be expected will be referred to their Progress Leader, who will contact both the student and their parents in order to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievement.

#### **Progress Reports**

Your child's final Progress Report for this academic year will be completed by subject teachers before the end of the summer term. The Progress Report will give an overview of your child's progress and an indication of their attitude to learning in each subject. Subject information will be complimented by a short Personal Tutor summary. Both will be distributed electronically in early July.

## Year 12 - support for university applications

The Sixth Form team has already provided lots of support for Year 12. This includes how to research options for universities and careers, including highlighting the opportunities to sign up for virtual open days, campus tours and other online events. After the half-term holiday, Year 12 students will receive more detailed advice about the UCAS application process and Personal Tutors will be able to support students remotely to draft their personal statements and CVs using Unifrog.

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

Thank you for your continued understanding and support. I wish you and your family the best over the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully

**Ms Janet Sheriff** 

**Executive Headteacher**