



8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Further Update re Implications of National Lockdown 3

Firstly, I would like to let you how impressed I have been with the high level of engagement our students have shown during this first week of remote learning. Attendance has been really high, and students have worked hard to complete the tasks set by their teachers. I would like to thank parents and carers for the support they have given to help secure such a positive start to this challenging period and I hope that this high level of engagement will continue over the rest of the half term. This letter gives a further update to the information provided on Tuesday 5th January.

Year 11 and Year 13 Summer 2021 Qualifications

The government has confirmed that the summer exams will not go ahead and that they will update schools by the end of February regarding how grades will be awarded to students this year. It is anticipated that grades will be produced by schools in a similar fashion to summer 2020. If this is the case then it will involve staff using a range of evidence to produce final grades. To be clear, *no one individual piece of work* will be used to produce grades. Subjects may, for example, make use of common assessments completed throughout the course, past exam questions completed previously (or still to be completed in the remainder of this academic year), practical work and non-examined assessments (NEAs). Individual subjects will identify what assessments will be used to produce final grades.

To add to the range of data likely to be available to staff, we are intending to run internal 'end of course' examinations for both Year 11 and Year 13 students. These will be produced internally by subjects, will cover work we know students have covered effectively throughout the course and be marked by staff. We are tentatively planning for these to take place in school during the summer term, but will confirm exact dates in due course once we have received more information from the government and can be confident that the safety of students and staff will not be compromised. Because a range of information will be used to produce final grades, it is really important that students in these year groups continue to attend lessons and complete work as directed by staff throughout the remainder of this academic year.

Internal Exams

- Year 13 Trial Exams (calendared for the end of March) are now likely to be moved into the summer term and be used as 'end of course' exams.
- Year 11 Trial Exams (calendared for late January) will not now go ahead. We aim to hold 'end of course' exams for Year 11 in the summer term (see above)

- Year 9 Exams (calendared for week commencing 11th January) will now not go ahead. Instead, staff will be seeking to find alternative ways to assess students via lesson activities and work being submitted during January.

Health and Well Being

We recognise how important it is to support everyone's mental health during this period. Progress Leaders have already shared with students links to resources that may help children and young people who are finding the current situation hard to cope with. I thought it would be useful to share this information with you too:

MindMate <https://www.mindmate.org.uk>

Kooth <https://www.kooth.com>

In addition, Public Health England have produced [guidance for parents on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing](#). This includes key actions parents can take to support their child's mental health and wellbeing during the pandemic such as supporting safe ways to connect with friends. It also emphasises the importance of children continuing to remain fit and active and, wherever possible, having the 60 minutes of daily physical activity recommended by the Chief Medical Officers.

Public Health England's [Every Mind Matters](#) campaign also includes resources which aim to support everyone (including parents and carers) to feel more confident in taking action to look after their mental health and wellbeing.

School Transport for Vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers

Although the school buses will run through all the main pick up points next week, there will now only be three buses running up until half-term. Details of the routes and pick-up times will be placed on the connexions [website](#) before Monday.

Finally

I would like to thank those parents and carers who have sent in messages of support and appreciation to our staff. This positive feedback (and we have had a lot) makes a tremendous difference to the motivation of the team here at Prince Henry's.

Yours faithfully



Ms Janet Sheriff
Executive Headteacher