



12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Return to School for All Students

I am pleased to report how well all students have contributed to the excellent return to full school opening. It has been wonderful to welcome all our students, and a pleasure to see how well they have settled back into school routines and expectations, including the additional (temporary) requirement to wear a mask in classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained. Attendance in all year groups has been exceptionally high so far.

Most students have also engaged in the on-site testing programme, displaying a mature and responsible approach at all times. By the end of this week the school's Test Centre (previously known as the Sports Hall!) will have processed over 2500 tests. Unfortunately, there is a glitch in the NHS national database, which means that there may be a delay of several days before students receive official confirmation of their test status. Please do not worry about this – you can presume that the test is negative unless you hear from us. If a student were to test positive, we would know 30 minutes after their test and would always inform the student and parent/carers straight away.

Staying Safe – a Reminder for All Parents

The safety and welfare of all our staff and students remain our top priority. Now that school is fully open once again it is especially important that you take the following actions at home to reduce the risk of bringing the virus into school and spreading the virus in the community:

- Remind your son or daughter about the importance of social distancing outside of school. Coronavirus remains a significant risk to communities and all family members should follow the restrictions set out in the current government guidance: [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)
- If you, your son or daughter, or another member of your household are currently displaying coronavirus symptoms or they develop Coronavirus symptoms or receive a positive test result then your son or daughter **should not come into school** in any circumstances, and you should follow government guidance about self-isolation, test and trace. There is [guidance for households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection](#).
- If your child tests positive then you must let school know as soon as possible so that we are able to track and trace any close contacts in the 48-hour period before symptoms started or, if no symptoms, the 48 hour period before the positive test.
- Please be aware that parents and carers should not come into the school building unless by prior arrangement. Face-to-face meetings with parents/carers will not take place, except in exceptional circumstances.

Asymptomatic Testing of Students – Home Test Kits

From Monday 22nd March, all students who are taking part in the asymptomatic testing programme, and therefore already have parental consent, will be provided with lateral flow device test kits so that they can be tested at home, twice each week. Detailed information about this is provided in the accompanying letter. Home Test Kits will be distributed to students when they register for their final on-site test. If you did not give consent previously, but would now like your son or daughter to engage with home testing, please contact school via the info@princehenrys.co.uk email address to register your interest. A member of staff will get back to you to make the arrangements.

Your child's test kit must not be used by anyone else. However, whole families and households with primary school, secondary school, and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, will be able to test themselves twice every week from home, using test kits available elsewhere (not schools). Please see the accompanying letter for information about this.

Remote Learning For Self-Isolating Students

The current situation means that some of our students may need to self-isolate over the coming weeks - this could be your son or daughter. As previously, staff will work hard to provide high quality learning activities for students who are in this situation, whilst continuing to teach all of their classes in school. This means that regular 'live' sessions may not be possible (although some will continue to be offered). Our ambition is to provide high quality learning for all students, irrespective of whether they are learning at home or in school. Please refer to our website [Prince Henry's Grammar School - Remote Teaching and Learning Provision](#) for a reminder of our plan to deliver this.

I realise that when students have to work remotely from home it puts additional pressure on parents and the rest of the family. In order to make the experience as positive as possible for everyone, please try to support your child by:

- Checking that they are able to access the learning tasks set on Firefly and ensuring that they 'attend' any live sessions that are timetabled (reporting the absence if they are ill)
- Encouraging them to establish regular learning routines and a clearly structured day with an agreed start time, 'lessons' and breaks, similar to when they are working in school
- Encouraging them to complete their work in a suitable environment wherever possible e.g. seated at a desk or table, away from noise or distractions.
- Contacting school via the info@princehenrys.co.uk address if you have concerns about your child's remote learning.

Qualifications for Year 11, 12 and 13, Summer 2021

Further information about the arrangements for determining the grades for this summer's qualifications will be sent to parents with children in Year 11, 12 and 13 next week. Please note that it is **not** acceptable for parents or students to petition staff to award a certain grade. In addition, staff will not be allowed to tell students the final grades submitted to the Exam Boards.

Since teachers will be allocating these grades during the second half of the summer term, there will be no internal Progress 3 Reports for Year 11 and Year 13.

Progress Reports and Internal Exams Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

Due to the impact of COVID, the previously published summer term assessment activities have been amended. This means that:

Year 7 and 8 End of Year Exams will now take place in the weeks commencing 7th and 14th June

Year 10 Trial Exams will now take place in the week commencing 28th June

Year 12 Trial Exams will now take place in the week commencing 21st June

Publication of final Progress Reports has also been pushed back for some Year Groups, but all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will receive a third and final Progress Report before the end of the academic year.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we navigate these new challenges.

Yours faithfully



Ms Janet Sheriff
Executive Headteacher