

Tuesday 2nd February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am confident you will have seen the news last week and the announcement from the government that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half term and instead the hope that it may be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from Monday 8th March 2021. This date has been given in the hope that the government achieves its target of vaccinating everyone in the four most vulnerable groups with their first dose by 15th February 2021 and then that those groups will have developed some immunity from the virus around three weeks later. We have been informed that we will all be given at least two weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education.

Although we now know that secondary schools will be fully open no earlier than Monday 8th March 2021, we continue to be open for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Parents/carers whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response are able to send their children to school. Children with at least one parent or carer, who is a critical worker, can go to school or college if required, **but parents and carers should keep their children at home, if they can, in accordance with government guidance.** To ensure we can sufficiently plan to provide an excellent learning experience for all students in the Academy, please can I ask parents/carers to confirm with their child's Pastoral Learning Mentor which days they will need to attend each week **no later than 9.00 am on the Friday the week before.**

We will close as usual over February half term, as we are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

During half term, the Priory Federation of Academies Trust will continue to provide vouchers for students eligible for Free School Meals. The government scheme with Edenred does not provide vouchers for half term, so we are using Wonde to provide the vouchers. Eligible parents will receive an email notification with a link to schoolvouchers.com where the vouchers can be redeemed to use at a range of supermarkets. Please see further details on how to access the vouchers on the link below:

[How to access your voucher \(step by step instructions\) – School Vouchers](#)

In common with all other Priory Federation Academies, due to the present situation nationally regarding assessment in the summer of 2021, we are not issuing attainment grades for students following GCSE, A level or other Level 3 courses at the end of this module. We have included grades for students' Attitude to Learning to reflect how they are working this year up to this point. Hopefully in the near future, Ofqual will clarify the processes for 2021 which will allow us to move forward with more certainty. In the meantime, it is vitally important that students continue to complete all the work set by their teachers for all courses and to improve further that they respond to the feedback teachers are regularly offering.

Headteacher: Mrs J Hopkinson

The Priory Academy LSST, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN5 8PW

Tel: 01522 889977 **Email:** generalenquiries@priorylsst.co.uk **www.priorylsst.co.uk**

The Priory Academy LSST is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Cross O' Cliff Hill, Lincoln LN5 8PW **Telephone:** 01522 889977

Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 135565

The secondary school and college testing programme is continuing to use lateral flow tests to identify cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst staff and students who are asymptomatic. Following new advice, NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England are temporarily pausing the need for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive result with a lateral flow test in secondary schools. Following a positive lateral flow test result, an individual will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Please do take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson
Headteacher

