

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope this letter finds you well and managing in these unprecedented times. While not wanting to send you too many emails and fill, what is already, I imagine, an ever-increasing inbox, we thought we would just relay some reminders and information to help answer some questions you have raised in relation to remote learning and testing.

## Remote Learning Guidance

Please see some key points below about remote learning and how students will be provided with work. For further information and guidance on the different aspects of remote learning, please visit the following link: The Priory Academy LSST - Remote Learning (priorylsst.co.uk)

- Teams meetings more and more staff are now providing lessons through Teams meetings, which enable
  interaction between staff and students. Students will be invited to these via Teams and receive an email with
  the invitation which they can then accept. Even if the email invitation is not accepted these meetings will still
  appear on the students' Outlook calendar. To join they can click on the link in the email or join through the
  meeting in the calendar.
- Teams Live Events The Live Event is slightly different to a Teams meeting and is more like a presentation delivered by the teacher to students. When these are organised students will be sent an email with a link to the Live Event and students need to use this link to join. The Live Event does not appear on the Teams calendar or the Outlook calendar so students need to keep the email with the link and access it at the time stated on the email. It would be good if the students added the Live Event to their Outlook calendar when they receive the link to act as a reminder. If the email with the link is deleted the student will need to email the teacher to request a new link.
- Stream videos Some lessons will be delivered through a pre-recorded video on Streams. To access these a link will be sent directing students to the video. Again, this will not appear on a calendar but it is a good idea to add these to the calendar when they are sent through.
- For all of the above it is best to access both Teams and Stream from outside of Citrix using Microsoft365.
- It is important to remember that not all lessons will be set using these formats so that students are receiving a good balance of live learning experiences directed by a teacher and independent tasks to follow up this input. The majority of materials to accompany and follow up the more interactive lessons are available through SharePoint on the subject page under the name of the subject teacher.
- As much as possible students should be following their usual timetable this is in the student daybook and also available on the SIMS App for parents. Whatever the format of the lesson, during the timetabled period the subject teacher will be available to respond to any queries.





- Where there are any issues with accessing, understanding or submitting the work set for a specific subject
  the student should contact their subject teacher in the first instance. It is important that students maintain
  communication with their subject teachers.
- Students should be checking their emails regularly so that they are aware of Teams meetings and Live Event invitations and links. It is also important to keep inboxes organised and delete emails when they are no longer required to assist with organisation.

## **Testing Update**

Recent media coverage has suggested that the programme of mass testing of staff and students in secondary schools and colleges has paused. This is incorrect. However, following the most recent update of government guidance the requirements for Covid-19 testing in secondary schools has changed. For now, we will no longer offer a Lateral Flow Device Test (LFD) to individuals who are identified as close contacts of a positive case. Instead, close contacts will have to self-isolate for 10 days from the day of contact with the positive case. Students who work on site will still be required to have two tests 3-5 days apart. For the majority of our students on site this has already taken place. These are one off tests, so any students who have not previously been onsite and begun on site learning should receive these tests.

Guidance has also changed for those individuals who have previously tested positive for Covid-19. Previously it was recommended that they should not take a LFD test within 90 days of a positive result. We are now advised to offer a LFD test to all students, irrespective of a previous positive case.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your understanding, support and positive comments you have provided over the last few weeks to both your children and staff within the Academy. I can only sincerely thank you, especially in these most difficult times.

Please do take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson Headteacher