Dear Parents/Carers

As we continue to navigate the new academic year in these different times, we want to provide some further information on accessing lesson resources through the academy SharePoint system. Please find on the link below a guide on how to access both SharePoint and the relevant materials should your child be absent from the Academy. <https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/news/?pid=64&nid=4>

Now being at the halfway point of the first module, we have reviewed the situation around extra-curricular activities. At this point in time we want to continue to focus on the teaching and learning during the academy day and with the current uncertainties about and restrictions on additional activities we have decided that we still cannot offer additional extra-curricular activities at least until the October half term. At half-term we will review the situation again and update you accordingly. The only exceptions to this continue to be the CCF activities after school on Tuesdays and the dual linguist access to Priory Leisure. Homework club will also continue to be available to all year groups after school each day until 16.15 with a designated room for each year group in the IT concourse.

With increasing instances of students showing symptoms of Covid 19 there has been increased pressure on the testing systems in place. In relation to this please also find a letter from the NHS with more details and advice on symptoms on testing on our website here: <https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/page/?title=Letters&pid=158> Please continue to report any absences related to Covid 19 with as much detail as possible and if you have any queries please contact the relevant Pastoral Learning Mentor.

To encourage and support the culture of reading we have at this Academy and to create a community where books are discussed and shared, we have designed a new library system to provide a service as normal as possible for all our students now that the Library room is in the Year 12 area. There is an Academy expectation that there is a book in every bag from the recommended list for reading in lesson and tutor time. The lists change each year and students are encouraged to advocate for particular writers they would like to see others reading at the end of each year.

Year 7 and 8 tutor groups will each have a box of books in the tutor room, including those from the recommended reading list. Each form tutor, assisted by responsible students, will keep a record of books borrowed. Mrs Allan, the librarian, will come round to tutor groups to explain the process in the coming weeks.

The Year 9 bubble library will operate in a slightly different way. The Science concourse will be used as a library area where books, including those on the recommended reading list, will be available for borrowing by Year 9 only during break and lunchtime on Wednesdays.

There will be a similar system in place for Years 10 and 11 for book borrowing in their bubbles. Year 12 has access to the library and they have been given the opportunity of borrowing a book from the recommended list when they collected their text books. We will accept Year 11 and Year 13 reading course revision guides or non fiction related to their courses during tutor time, but again, the expectation is that there is always suitable reading material in the bag every day. Reading the planner is not a substitute.

This continues to be a challenging period for our students and during these difficult and uncertain times, alongside the support we offer at the Academy, we are also provided with a range of information from various agencies on supporting young people’s mental and emotional health. Please see below the information we received from the NHS Mental Health Support Team that we hope may be useful in supporting your children at home.

**Reduce Isolation**

**This is about helping the child/young person to feel connected to other people.**

* Make plans to do something together on a regular basis.
* Encourage and support involvement in education, activities, clubs, hobbies and comfort from pets.
* Have regular time together to talk each day i.e. eating together as a family.
* Have plans to look forward to with friends and family and create reminders for these events e.g. make a positive calendar.
* Encourage spending time out of their bedroom. You can ask family or friends to check on them.

Other useful sources of information include:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/childrens-mental-health/>

[*https://youngminds.org.uk/*](https://youngminds.org.uk/)

[*https://www.mind.org.uk/*](https://www.mind.org.uk/)

[*http://www.themix.org.uk/*](http://www.themix.org.uk/)

[*https://www.childline.org.uk/*](https://www.childline.org.uk/) *or call: ChildLine 0800 11 11*

[*https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/home*](https://www.lpft.nhs.uk/young-people/lincolnshire/home)

As ever, if you do have any concerns regarding your child’s mental or emotional health, please contact their Form Tutor or Pastoral Learning Mentor to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Dinnie

Assistant Headteacher