



LINCOLN
A PRIORY ACADEMY

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Whilst the most recent announcement from the government is not ideal, it does give us some much needed clarity and short term consistency in terms of where we are.

In short, your child will not be in the Academy until after the February break, at the earliest. There are a few exceptions to this.

- More vulnerable students and those of priority key worker parents can be supervised in the Academy to complete the remote learning provision available to their peers.
- Students who have formal vocational exams and assessments will need to be in the Academy to take them.

Students in both regards have been contacted.

Staff at the Academy have been working hard over the last few modules for a scenario like this and our remote learning offer, if followed conscientiously by your child, will ensure they continue to make good progress. It is really important that they have a clear timetable and we encourage them where possible to follow their normal school day. Whilst we appreciate the challenges of working at home, as far as possible a quiet, calm and organised environment is ideal. Where requested, work must be returned to teachers, in order for them to provide good feedback and tailor future lessons. If invited to a 'live' lesson by a teacher it will on the day and period they would normally be with that member of staff.

We have previously sent out the guidance information for remote learning and it can be found again here as an attachment.

From a care and support perspective, our form tutors, Pastoral Managers, Heads of Year and SEND staff will communicate with your child to ensure they are as happy and ready to learn as possible.

We have received a number of requests for the loan of laptops to support our students in their remote learning since the start of term. There is a series of elements to consider as we look to support these requests:

- Laptops have been allocated by the Department for Education by a formula according to our data including the number of students eligible for free school meals and this supply is not unlimited;

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- We have placed a request for additional laptops to loan out to families which are due to arrive with us in the next week;
- The vast majority of our remote learning offer is accessible via a smartphone;
- We are not expecting all home learning to be done on a computer keyboard. In fact, we would actively encourage the continued use of pen and paper when students are practising what they have been taught in the video/power point input;
- We are keen to meet the needs of as many families as possible but we would wish to prioritise those families in financial need and the students in year groups due to take formal examinations this year;
- Although the daily timetable is being followed, there is some flexibility as to when students can be online during the working day.

Should you require a laptop, please complete this form through this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=a4b7hEpr50GQiiDXWqYdgRt0gVNtvh1Hln2uB23F7K5UNDJTTUtKSFihV1BGVjA1NzFMSjFKRTJXTy4u>

If you have previously been allocated a laptop but find that you no longer require it, please do let us know and we'll arrange to collect and reallocate

Part of the announcement yesterday highlighted that following the move to remote learning, it would not be possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned and that alternative arrangements would be put into place. This does not mean that summer examinations have been cancelled and it is vital that students continue to work as hard as possible to finish their courses and prepare for whatever mode of assessment is proposed. As soon as we have any clarity around how assessment will work for A level's, GCSE's and vocational subjects this summer we will communicate this to you.

It is still our intention to run a full set of mock examinations for Year 11 and Year 13 as soon as we are able following the return to school. These examinations will form part of any centre assessed element for students, along with work completed over the next few months. It is essential that your child is encouraged as much as possible to engage positively with all the remote work that is set.

I am sure that the coming module will bring its challenges, but I believe that we are in a good position to work together to continue your child's education ready for a full return to our Academy, hopefully in late February.

Take care and stay safe

Best wishes

Richard Trow