



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

Eid Mubarak to those of you celebrating Eid. I am writing to you regarding the assessment period for awarding grades this year and updates to government guidance published this week.

You will be aware of the Government's decision to announce the cancellation of formal GCSE and A Level examinations this year. On 15th March, guidance was released by JCQ that grades would be determined by schools through a range of evidence verified by schools. This week students have sat 'Booster Assessments' which will form part of this evidence.

We recognise that speculation in the media about the cancellation of exams has been particularly stressful for Year 11 and Year 13. There have been so many mixed messages to our young people, but they have shown incredible resilience, inner strength and determination in achieving their best. Well done to each and every one of you!

The range of evidence used including the recent Booster Assessments have also created significantly more work for teachers. *In a normal year, **exam boards would set, mark, standardise and moderate these exams.*** Currently, all this work needs to be carried out by our teachers to exam board standards. As these new assessments contribute to determining grades for each student in every subject, teachers will need to complete these final tasks together.

In order to support our teachers in completing this work, allow opportunity for students to sit missed exams and ensure a robust process of determining grades, we have taken the decision for students at the Upper School to learn remotely for their period 5 lessons on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 19th May**
- **Wednesday 26th May**

On these days, students will have lessons on site periods 1 to 4. Work for period 5 lessons will be set remotely by teachers which students **must** complete at home on Google Classroom. Despite an earlier dismissal from the school site, all students must travel home straight away and not hang around in the local community.

Early Dismissal Times

There will be a staggered dismissal after their staggered lunchtime. All students will have access to the canteen for hot and cold food on both days.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
1.25pm	1.25pm	1.10pm	1.00pm	12.50pm	12.50pm

Please note **the Lower School will not be closing early and will dismiss at the normal times.**

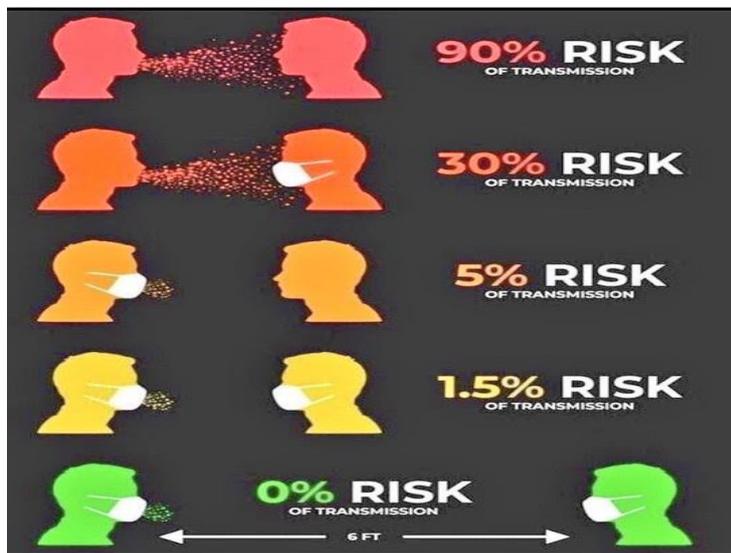
I thank you in advance for your support in these unprecedented times. We are confident that time created by these *two remote learning periods*, will significantly support our teachers through a robust process ensuring our Year 11s and 13s receive the grades they deserve.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding these *two remote periods*, as always, please get in touch with your child's form tutor or DSD in the first instance.

Updates to Government Guidance in schools

The government has taken the decision to make face masks non-compulsory for students in classrooms and communal areas **where social distancing can be maintained** from May 17th. (This will not apply to any visitors on site or adults in communal areas). However as you may be aware, the Preston Manor Upper School site was built nearly a century ago. Our classrooms and corridors are very small and poorly ventilated. We are **unable to maintain social distancing** between students or staff.

It is for all of these reasons that we **will continue to ask students and staff to wear face masks in classrooms and communal areas** to help keep the school and the wider community as safe as possible. The graph below is a reminder how face masks can reduce everyone's risk of spreading Covid 19.



Furthermore, the wearing of facemasks has been incredibly powerful in bringing down the transmission of Covid cases within our own school community. Nevertheless, there are still currently active Covid cases in our Brent schools and students have had to be sent home to self-isolate during this term. Many of our staff, parents and students have not been able to receive the Covid Vaccine yet, due to their age.

We recognise that there are arguments both for and against the wearing of facemasks in classrooms, but have taken the decision to put the safety of our community first. We will continue to review the local situation and where we are as a community after half term.

Please support us in keeping our community safe by ensuring that your child continues to be responsible for bringing their facemask into school, which will help us to keep those who are more vulnerable in our community safe. As ever, those who may be medically exempt should please send an email to Karen Ryan (k.ryan@preston-manor.com), attaching supporting medical evidence.

Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to keep our community as safe as possible and to navigate through these unprecedented times in our school community. We have all done a remarkable job working together, achieving the best for our young people and ensuring our community remains strong.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kobel
Headteacher