

7 May 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

Further to the letter dated 24 March, we are writing to provide you with an update on the summer assessments and how we are working with all students to support them towards the completion of their courses and the awarding of their grade(s). This letter is also an opportunity to provide you with key dates in the calendar, provide you with some general College updates and outline the end of term arrangements for students.

### **Summer Assessments: Portfolio of Evidence**

All students should have by now received a breakdown of their 'Portfolio of Evidence' - a list of assessments which will inform their final grade in each subject they study. It is worth reiterating that students' grades will be awarded holistically from the portfolio of evidence and not simply from one individual assessment. These portfolios will have been shared by classroom teachers and we are asking all students to sign a declaration that they have seen these.

If students are concerned that, because of a serious issue during any part of the assessment/portfolio, their performance was impaired, they may complete a Google Form which can be found on their tutorial Google Classroom page. These documents will then be reviewed by a senior panel of staff including our Exams Officers following guidance issued by Ofqual. Similarly, if they feel they have not received the appropriate access arrangements during formal assessments, they can complete the same Google Form. Please complete this form as soon as possible but the final deadline is 24 May.

### **Summer Assessments: Key Contact and Copies of Communications**

The College website ([www.priestley.ac.uk](http://www.priestley.ac.uk)) contains key information, a FAQ sheet and copies of all of the communications we have been sharing. We will update this regularly and so this is a useful starting point for queries.

However, if you do have queries regarding this year's assessments, these should be sent through to the designated email address - [assessmentquery@priestley.ac.uk](mailto:assessmentquery@priestley.ac.uk)

JCQ (the Joint Council for Qualifications in the UK) have produced a useful parent/ student guide and we enclose a link here for your information. Again, a link will be available on our website for your reference.

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

### **Summer Assessments: Study Leave for Year 1 Students**

In order for final assessments to take place, the usual lesson timetable will be suspended during the period we are undertaking the final assessments (from Friday 14 May to Friday 28 May).

Students sitting assessments from Friday 14 May have been working hard in class preparing with their teachers. If students are undertaking vocational courses these lessons may well be continuing (for example for BTEC courses) in order for assignments or projects to be completed in these subjects. Teachers will advise students which days and lessons they need to be in for.

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All Year 1 students will have work to complete for each subject once their last assessment is completed and over the half term period. This work will be important preparatory work for second year studies and will be made available via Google Classroom. Teaching staff will check work completion following the May half term.

### **Summer Assessments: Results Day**

Results Day for AS/A Level and Level 3 vocational qualifications has been brought forward to 10 August 2021. More details will be sent to you as parents/carers and students but a team of staff will be on site to support students should they need guidance or advice on this day.

### **Covid Testing**

Thank you to the families and students who are undertaking regular Covid testing to ensure we keep our community safe. If we can encourage that these efforts continue throughout the coming months. Although the Government is on track to announce on the 17 May further relaxation of Covid measures, at this stage we need to plan that face coverings will still need to be worn during this second assessment window.

### **College Driveway**

With the successful return of all students to onsite delivery, traffic has inevitably increased. The driveway at 4pm has been noted as a particular issue and we believe this has likely been made worse by a heightened reluctance by some to use public transport in the current climate. We are sorry if this has caused inconvenience but ask that during busy periods cars turn left out of the campus. It may also be appropriate for students to be picked up outside of the College grounds thus reducing the numbers of cars on site at the end of the day. Again, if it is safe to do so we would encourage this but ask that the entrance to Premier Tankers/ Colas is not used as a waiting area.

### **Summary of Key Dates for the remainder of the academic year:**

w/c 10 May	Teachers will share with students the time, date and rooms of when they are sitting their last assessments.
14-28 May	Final assessment window. It is worth reiterating that grades will be awarded holistically from the whole Portfolio of Evidence rather than solely on this window.  Work will be set via Google Classroom for each subject studied. This work will need to be completed by Tuesday 8 June.
<b><i>Monday 31 May - incl. Monday 7 June HALF TERM</i></b>	
Tuesday 8 June	All Year 1 students (including our Foundation students) will return after the half term break on Tuesday 8 June
8 June onwards	<b>Foundation Level 2</b> students will be involved in a progression project focused on preparation for Level 3 study from 8 June following their normal timetable. All students will participate in Choices Week as part of their internal progression process (w/c 21 June) and will officially finish College for the summer at the end of this week on 25 June.  <b>Year 1 Level 3</b> students will continue with their normal timetable with full, face to face teaching. Year 2 students will have left and our focus will be on ensuring students are preparing for Year 2 studies, covering gaps in course content due to the disruption students have faced this year.
1 July	Last day of attendance for Year 1 Level 3 students.
5-9 July	'Future You Week' Our Pastoral and Careers team will be sharing more details about the activities we have planned for this week in due course. Activities will focus on progression planning and preparation for next steps.

We know that our new Year 1 students have experienced much disruption over the past two years caused by this global pandemic. This resulted in their GCSE year being disrupted and examinations cancelled, followed by national lockdowns during their first year at Priestley. We have said it previously and would like to reiterate it again - our students, your sons and daughters, have been a credit to you and to our Priestley community. They have worked hard to navigate remote learning, that series of national lockdowns, Covid-safe measures, testing, tracking and tracing whilst at the same time supporting friends and families, maintaining focus on their academic studies and planning for their futures. Understandably, some have experienced challenges along the way, we all have, but we want our students to be proud of their time and experience here at Priestley.

We hope that this letter has provided you with a useful overview of the coming weeks and months. May we thank you for your support.

With very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Gresty". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**James Gresty**  
Principal

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Contos". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a prominent "G" and "C".

**George Contos**  
Vice Principal