

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 final 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 the 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) 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

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 2 Students

In order for final assessments to take place, the usual lesson timetable will be suspended during the period we are undertaking the final in-class 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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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.

Year 2 Leavers

It is a shame for everyone here at Priestley that our second year students have experienced so much disruption caused by this global pandemic. 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, a series of national lockdowns since March 2020, 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.

Sadly, we can't celebrate and offer leavers events as we might normally do however we would like to invite students to a Leaving Celebration on **27 May from 12pm-2pm**. This will be for all Year 2 Level 3 students. Students will be able to catch up with friends and their teachers to enjoy the BBQ food and free ice cream. There will be music including live performances from some of our College bands. Students are to wear their new light blue lanyards to access the full celebrations.

Year 2 students will leave on the date of their final assessment (between 14-28 May).

For all students who are leaving by the 28 May we have access to a post Priestley support package that will be communicated via the Tutorial Google Classroom platform. This will include details surrounding the final stages of UCAS/HE progression support, Careers vacancy bulletin for apprenticeships and part time jobs and wellbeing support.

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:

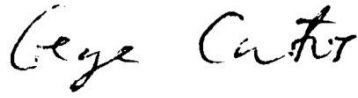
w/c 10 May	Teachers will share with students the time, date and rooms of when they are sitting their last assessments.
14-26 May	Final assessment window. It is worth reiterating that grades will be awarded holistically from the whole Portfolio of Evidence rather than solely on this window.
27 May 12-2pm	Leaving celebration will take place for Year 2 Level 3 students.
28 May	Many Vocational students will continue to be taught through to 28 May in order to complete their assessments. Vocational teachers will let their classes know the details. Last day of attendance for Year 2 Level 3 students will be between the assessment window and 28 May.
<i>Monday 31 May - incl. Monday 7 June HALF TERM</i>	
Tuesday 8 June	All year 1 students (including our Foundation students) will return after the half term break on Tuesday 8 June

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