

25 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing as you may be aware through conversations with your children that both Mrs Trimnell and Mrs Abbott have been away from school for much of the term so far. Their absences have arisen from a combination of recovery from a planned medical procedure and family circumstances, and this is likely to continue for a few weeks longer. This is to explain how we will support the school in their absence as they recover and look to return to Priory soon.

I will be leading the school for the coming weeks supported by the rest of the excellent SLT – they have all responded brilliantly so far. All the staff have settled in quickly to the new academic year and both new and experienced colleagues have started the term with focus and high expectations of our pupils. I have been impressed by the positive behaviour of the pupils and their willingness to engage and get involved in their learning.

I am an experienced school leader having been Headteacher of Esher High School for 6 years and held leadership roles in numerous schools prior to that, both community and Church of England schools in Surrey and London. I also inspect for Ofsted so visit many schools and know the standard that should be expected in secondary schools across the country.

Although this situation should be just for a few weeks, we will be pressing ahead with the priorities for the school and ensuring the quality of learning every day is excellent. Having based myself here for a day most weeks last year I know the school well and have thoroughly enjoyed being back in school more fully and getting to know students, staff as well as the wider school community at Priory even better.

You will be pleased to hear that Mrs Trimnell remains very much in touch with what is happening at school and continues to take a keen interest in daily life at The Priory. I hope that parents and carers of pupils in Years 8 to 11 enjoyed meeting the tutors online yesterday evening. I know how important these conversations are and hope you find the evening both informative and enjoyable. The date for Year 7 'meet the tutor' evening has now been confirmed for Wednesday 07 October and parents will be sent a link to book a slot by the School Office next week.

If you want to get in touch or have any questions please contact Alison Owen via enquiries@priorycofe.com who will manage and arrange things. In the meantime be assured that the school is in safe hands, we are improving each week despite life's challenges and continue building success together.

With kind regards,



Mike Boddington
CEO, Enlighten Learning Trust

Building Success Together

Headteacher: Mrs J Trimnell

01306 887 337 | West Bank, Dorking RH4 3DG
enquiries@priorycofe.com | www.priorycofe.com

