



Prior Park College

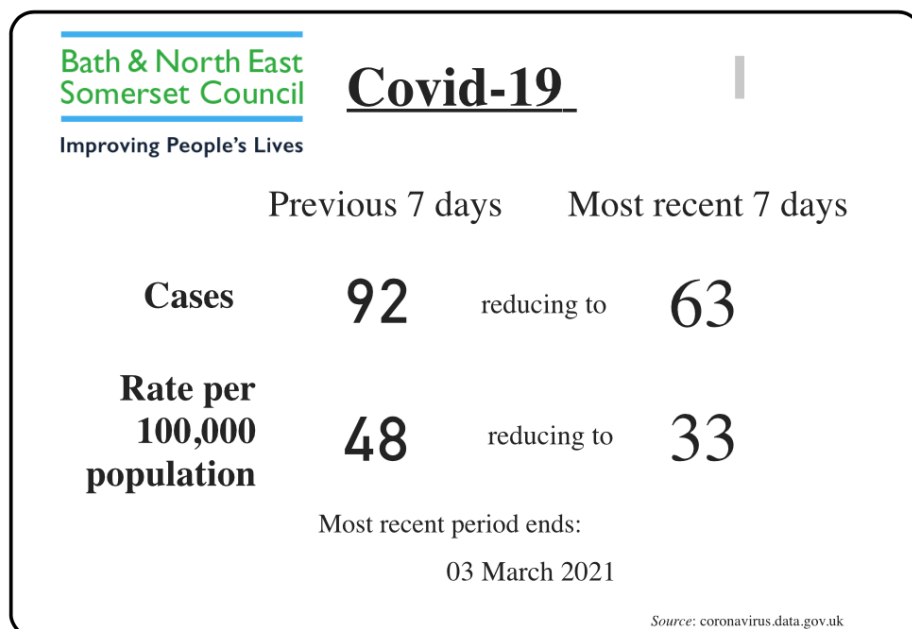
**A document in response to
Frequently Asked Questions
regarding COVID-19
and Prior Park College**

March 2021

Health and Safety

How many confirmed cases of COVID-19 are there in Bath?

The rates in Bath and the South West compare very favourably to other regions in the UK. As you can see from the information below, the cases and rate per 100,000 people continue to fall.



When will Prior Park open?

We have been open throughout the Lent Term. From the beginning of term we've had around 20 boarders staying and children of key workers coming into school.

With the UK Government announcing schools will reopen for face-to-face teaching from 8th March. We anticipate that more boarders will begin returning over the coming weeks.

Will there be a quarantine period for International students?

Yes, there is a 10-day quarantine period for students arriving in the UK. However, students can quarantine in their boarding house.

How will quarantine work?

Whilst students are in quarantine, they will be supervised by our resident boarding staff and have access to our on-site catering and medical facilities. Students will be able to access their online lessons whilst they quarantine.

How will students get from the airport to Prior Park?

We will arrange to meet students arriving at the airport and transport them safely to Prior Park.

Do students have to go to a guardian for the February half-term or Easter holidays?

Prior Park will remain open for the February half-term. There will be access to facilities and an activity programme in place for students.

We are not currently planning to be open for the Easter holidays and encourage students to stay with their guardians.

What Covid-safety measures does Prior Park have in place?

Since January, no member of the Prior Park community has tested positive for Covid. Our current safety measures include all students and staff who are in school having a weekly Covid-test. We also have regular temperature checks and insist on social distancing and the mandatory wearing of face coverings as students move around site.

We will continue to implement Government guidance on protective measures in educational settings: This includes a hierarchy of controls:

- Minimising contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the school.
- Ensure a strict hygiene regime for students and staff that include regular hand washing and the use of alcohol hand rub or sanitiser.
- Provide a strong educational message across the school for good respiratory hygiene by promoting the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- A managed premises regime that includes the regular cleaning of all spaces and especially the cleaning of all frequently touched surfaces.
- Minimise contact and mixing between students and staff by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout), class sizes and timetables (such as staggered break times), including “bubble” groups to reduce the possible risk of contact and transmission across the school community.

Will hand sanitisers be provided and regular hand washing encouraged?

Yes, hand sanitisers will be available in every building and public areas and their use will be promoted at all opportunities, as will regular hand washing and other good hygiene measures.

Will there be regular cleaning and sanitising of communal areas?

On top of the regular cleaning of the School, communal and public areas will be disinfected throughout the day. The dining hall, bathrooms and boarding houses will be thoroughly sanitised at regular intervals.

Will students be required to wear masks during school-time? Will there be sufficient access to hand sanitiser within the school?

If a student becomes ill with Covid-19, where will they go?

We will arrange the nursing and medical care for any student who becomes ill in a separate facility and ensure through track and trace that we isolate any possible outbreak as swiftly as possible and in line with the latest guidance.

What medical care can we expect for our child as a boarder at Prior Park?

All boarders will be covered by the UK's free National Health Service (NHS) and all boarders at Prior Park are registered with the local GP's surgery. The doctor will regularly visit the school and can refer students to a specialist service if necessary.

On site, Prior has an excellent Health and Wellbeing Centre made up of a medical nurses and a school counsellor. All medication and treatment plans are administered by the Health and Wellbeing Centre who will also coordinate visits to the local surgery and hospital. An optional private medical insurance plan can also be arranged by the school.

Financial

What will happen to my deposit if schools cannot open in September?

PLEASE NOTE, WE THINK THIS IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

- a) In the unlikely event that the school cannot open in September all overseas students will have the option to continue or start our established and excellent remote learning programme.
- b) An alternative option would be to defer entry, either until such time that the school can open in the next academic year e.g. January 2022 or until September 2022 if this is feasible. In this case we would still hold the deposit in order to keep the place available.
- c) If neither of the above are suitable options, Prior Park is keen to be as flexible as possible and we will discuss options with you on a case-by-case basis. Please refer to the question below regarding our current notice period.

What will the school's notice period be if parents decide they do not want to send their child to the school as a result of the current circumstances?

To enable the school to plan for September, we do need to have a notice date in place, however this is subject to change depending on the government's announcements over the coming weeks. Currently we are asking for notice by 7

June 2021. We would welcome any individual discussions about this and are continuously reviewing as we appreciate the uncertainty of this period.

Can I defer to 2022 entry?

Parents considering deferring their place should contact Vicki Quinn to discuss. For any student not able to arrive in the UK in September we will be able to provide some form of remote learning and, therefore, deferment is not necessary.

Remote Learning

What is Prior Park's approach to online teaching?

Prior Park's Remote Learning Programme has been in place since 23 March 2020 when the UK went into its first lockdown. For the past two years Prior Park have been using the platform 'Microsoft Teams', enabling students to access and complete homework assignments. In lockdown, our students have continued with their studies and remained part of the school community both academically and pastorally, which includes meeting their tutor, attending house assemblies as well as continuing with co-curricular activities. Our successful virtual school will continue for as long as we are unable to open physically, and all new boarders will have access to this remote learning come September.

Are Online Lessons recorded to watch back?

Yes, all remote lessons are recorded for the students to watch back in their own time if they are unable to attend the live lessons due to the time difference. Students also have access to all resources and materials relevant to their subject that the teachers will provide.

Please see link below to our Remote Learning Policy:

<https://www.thepriorfoundation.com/resources/files/Remote-Learning-Policy.pdf>

Pastoral Care

How will students be emotionally supported when they arrive in the UK?

Prior Park offers an outstanding range of support for students. Each student will have a Housemaster or Housemistress and a Tutor. Their role is to ensure the students are given all necessary support to ensure they are happy at school and able to succeed at school.

If a student wishes to seek further support then they can speak with our Nurses in the Health and Wellbeing Centre, meet with our Lay Chaplain or Peer Mentors or, if necessary, book an appointment with a School Counsellor.

We will ensure all boarders are given a full induction into life at Prior Park and this will include opportunities to ask questions and speak about their concerns regarding Covid-19 and being away from home.

Will students be in trouble if they arrive late?

We fully understand there are logistical difficulties around travel at present and that for some families their son/ daughter may be delayed; that will not be an issue at all and we will assist in any gaps in understanding that may arise. Students will be fully supported to integrate into the routines of school life on campus and they won't be alone in this.

How will the school ensure there is no bullying linked to Covid-19?

Prior Park promotes kindness as a key value and we regularly speak to students about our 'culture of kindness'. We are a close community and we ask all members of the community to treat each other with respect. Like any school, we cannot say there is never unkindness at Prior Park. However, there are very few incidents of unkindness and bullying is rare.

Our pastoral systems and excellent staff ensure we quickly intervene if we have concerns about a student. We take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and treat any incident of bullying as a serious breach of our behaviour policy. First and foremost, we will always provide the victim of unkindness with appropriate support as detailed above.

When students return to Prior, we will speak with them about behaviour linked to Covid-19. Any comments made to a student(s) about the origins of Covid-19 or any acts simulating the symptoms of virus (coughing and sneezing aimed at an individual or group of students) will lead to a serious sanction.

Will we have a chance to meet with our son or daughter's Housemaster / Housemistress before they arrive in September?

For students joining Prior Park in September you will have recently received details of your son or daughter's House and the details of their Housemaster / Housemistress (HsMs).

Following the half-term break, HsMs will be in contact to introduce themselves. We will then arrange for later in the term, an opportunity for new parents and students to meet with HsMs on a Microsoft Teams video call.

We have a full induction process and our aim is for new students and parents to receive clear information on their House and to develop a positive relationship with their HsM.

Contact Info and Virtual Visits

How should I contact the school?

Please contact the registrar Vicki Quinn via email, phone or she is happy to set up a virtual meeting via Zoom or Teams.

vquinn@priorparkschools.com

Tel: +44 (0) 1225 831 000

How can I see the school virtually?

The following link will take you to a tour of Prior Park College with our student Heads of School:

<https://www.priorparkcollege.com/welcome/life-at-prior>

The link below is a 360 tour of areas of our girls and boys boarding houses.

<https://360imagephotography.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/Prior+Park+College/index.htm>

We are holding a virtual Open Morning with the Headmaster and key members of staff on Saturday 6 March which will be recorded and available to watch back via our website. Please follow the link below if you wish to attend:

<https://www.priorparkcollege.com/admissions/open-days>

If you would like to speak with the Headmaster, Head of Boarding or another key member of staff, please email our Admissions department:
admissions@priorparkschools.com

Please note: This document will be updated as and when new Government advice is issued.

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priorparkcollege.com