

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

An "Outstanding" Academy for Students aged 13-18
Headteacher: Dr A.A.L. Evans, B.Sc. Ph.D.



SCHOOL YEAR 2017/18 NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. My colleagues and I are very much looking forward to the next academic year. Already, we have had a very positive first week back with all year groups looking very smart indeed and settling into their new class groups and routines. In particular, Year 9 have enjoyed a great first week and Year 12 (including 27 students who have joined Prince Henry's from other schools) have also been involved in [some team building activities](#).

I hope the parents of new Year 9 students have had the opportunity to read the important information sent out over the summer holidays. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your support as parents in helping us to uphold the school rules by ensuring your child comes to Prince Henry's with the proper uniform and equipment. It is very important that our students take pride in their appearance and behaviour, respect the school, each other, and our neighbouring community. Prince Henry's has a very special reputation, and we expect very high standards indeed from our students.

At the start of every school year, there is always a great deal of information to share with parents and students. I appreciate you taking the time to read about the recent successes of current and former Prince Henry's students. Important information about our routines and procedures is also provided within this letter, which enables our school to be truly successful. A great deal of information, whether it be day to day practical guidance or news updates, is also contained on the school's website – www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk

Examinations

Congratulations to all the students, staff and parents on the outstanding exam results achieved this year. The vast majority of our [Year 13 students](#) secured their first choice places at university and we wish them every success with their future careers. Full details of these achievements, together with the achievements at [GCSE level](#) can be found on our website. We are confident that our new Year 12 students will build on their attainments at GCSE level



with their A Level studies, and we are working hard with Year 10 and Year 11 students to ensure that they too achieve the best possible results at GCSE.

Music Tour to Italy

At the end of last term, 58 students from across all year groups embarked on a wonderful music tour to northern Italy. Among the many performances they gave on the tour, the highlight had to be singing Mass in St Mark's Basilica in Venice.

Thank you to our students who as always were exceptional ambassadors for our school and to their parents for all their support. Special thanks too, to the staff who accompanied them on the tour – Mr Bullas, Miss Heywood, Mr Fisher, Mr Parker, Miss Park and Mrs Ridley, all of whom worked so hard to make the tour a truly wonderful experience.

World Challenge

After two years of preparation, 14 Sixth Form students successfully completed their four week World Challenge expedition to Laos and Cambodia this summer. The students had complete autonomy over the itinerary and administration of the expedition: they managed their budget, travel plans, accommodation and food whilst touring the countries, supporting a remote village in Laos to improve their access to water, and two treks in to the jungle. They also found time for exploring developing cities and immersing themselves in the culture, swimming in waterfalls, dolphin watching, experiencing the temples of Angkor (including Angkor Wat), and a bit of relaxing! The students worked brilliantly as a team and can rightly feel proud of everything they achieved. Thank you to Miss Giordano and Mr Findlay, who supported the preparations for World Challenge and accompanied the students on the expedition.

Tanzania Expedition

Sixteen Sixth Form students had a truly amazing experience in Tanzania when they visited our partner school in Dumila. All returned safe and well at the end of July and further information about the trip and the experiences of the students will be found on the website shortly. A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the students: Mrs Barker and Mr Martin.

Student Successes

We were delighted to learn of sporting successes for two of our students during the summer.

Following a highly successful season, [Will Gearey \(Year 10\) qualified for the British Swimming Summer Championships](#) in Sheffield. Competing against the top swimmers in his age group, he reached the finals in three of the five events he



had qualified for, winning the bronze medal in the 50m butterfly and finishing 6th in the 100m freestyle & 7th in the 50m freestyle events. As a result, he has been invited to join England Talent Programme by Swim England.

Michael Dickinson, who has just left Year 13, represented Great Britain at the European & World Junior/ U23 Canoeing Championships, finishing 19th & 38th respectively in the Men's K1 event.

Congratulations to both Will and Michael for these superb achievements.

Staffing Update

At the end of last term we said farewell to the following members of staff: Mrs Chevens and Mr Head (The Lodge), Dr Patel (Head of Year/Science) Ms Bell, Mrs Raven and Mr Downe (Science), Mrs Stead (DT), Miss Wood and Mrs Brown (Learning Support) and Mrs Jordan (administrator).

I am pleased to welcome some new members of staff to Prince Henry's:-

Mr M Line Teacher – Science

Mrs H Oldham Teacher – Science (Part-Time)

We are also welcoming Mr Cain back to the English Department, predominantly to cover Mrs Hobbiss's maternity leave.

I would also like to inform you that the following staff will be taking on new roles: –

Mr Thompson – promotion to Head of Year (i/c new Year 9)

Mrs Miles – promotion to Deputy Head of Year (new Year 9)

Mr Samrai – Assistant Deputy Head of Year (Year 10)

Mrs Fisher – SCITT Course Manager (in addition to Head of Science)

Mrs Cox – SCITT Professional Mentor (in addition to Head of DT Food & HSC)

Miss Berry – Head of ICT and Citizenship, and SLE

Mrs August – Teacher i/c French

Mrs Ridley – Sixth Form Private Study Supervisor

Congratulations to Mrs Mifflin who gave birth to a daughter in mid-August, and also to Mr Pilling, our Network Manager, whose wife recently gave birth to a daughter.

We would also like to congratulate Glo Lauer, our Cleaning Supervisor, who was recently named Employee of the Month by Accuro Cleaning Services. Glo and her team do a superb job and this recognition by the contracting company is very well-deserved.

Finally, I am sorry to advise you that we learned of the death of Roger Band, a longstanding member of our invigilation team, who passed away on 6th August after a long illness. We were also saddened to hear of the deaths of Christine Adams, who retired as Head of Food Technology in 2002 and Neil McPherson, who was a former member of our invigilation team. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Roger, Neil and Christine.

Reports and Progress Checks

We are now looking forward to the achievements of the year groups to follow, and of course it is important to monitor the progress of your son / daughter. If your son or daughter was in Year 9 or Year 10 last year he/she should have been issued with a Report at the end of last term. If you have not received these then your son/daughter must ask their Tutor who will ensure that it is issued.

Homework

Homework reinforces what is learnt in class. It goes without saying that if students adopt good working practices at home this inevitably enhances their overall learning and performance. We encourage all parents to support good attitudes to learning at home and, for students in Years 9 – 11, I have written to you separately with a letter specific to the year group your son/daughter is in. Please see the [Home School Agreement & Homework page of the website](#) (within the Parents & Students area) for copies of letters and also subject specific information about the type of homework that will be set.

[Show My Homework](#) was introduced at Easter 2016 to give parents complete homework visibility so that they can support their child at home. Over 1700 homework tasks were set before the Summer holidays and feedback from students has been positive. To allow for access to the system, students and parents will receive their passcodes over the next week.

School Uniform

Please see the [School Uniform section of our website](#) for further information about correct uniform and appearance. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our students look smart.

Contacting the School

I would like to remind parents that all routine enquiries and information about your son or daughter should be conducted through the Form Tutor. For more serious matters please try to contact the relevant Year Head, Deputy Year Head or Assistant Deputy Year Head as listed below:-

	Year Head	Deputy Year Head	Assistant Deputy Year Head
Year 9	Mr M Thompson	Mrs H Miles	Mr T Pilling
Year 10	Mrs L Biggs	Mr S Thorner	Mr A Samrai
Year 11	Mrs L Walker	Mr L Roleston	Mrs S Hall
Sixth Form	Mrs C Webb	Mr J Martin (Year 12) Mrs J Tozer (Year 13)	

For the occasional issue that can't be dealt with by the relevant Head of Year or Head of Department, you may also contact members of the school's Senior Leadership Team:-

Mrs H Wood, Deputy Head	:	Curriculum, Teaching and Learning
Mr B Freeman, Deputy Head	:	Pastoral issues, Uniform, Behaviour, Safeguarding
Mrs A Lungley, Assistant Head	:	Reports, Data and Assessment
Mrs S Thomas, Assistant Head	:	School Transport & Timetable
Mrs N Barker, Assistant Head	:	Alternative Provision, Learning Support/SEND
Mr A Duffy, Assistant Head	:	Teaching Training Programmes
Mr A Hulse, Operations Manager	:	Finance, Site Management
Mr P Barrington, Finance Manager	:	School finance

Please bear in mind that all my teaching colleagues have many commitments and that they are not always immediately available to deal with enquiries, although they will do their best to get back to you as soon as possible. If you contact the school to discuss a pastoral matter and your child's Year Head is not available, you may well be put through to Mrs Davey who acts as the school's pastoral secretary. She will ensure that your enquiry is passed on to the relevant Head of Year and that it is followed up as soon as possible. Parents who wish to see a teacher are asked to make an appointment in advance.



When contacting the School by phone, the following options are available:-

1. Reporting your child's absence in years 9-11
2. Sixth Form issues including reporting absence
3. Mrs Davey / Pastoral issues Years 9-11
4. The Finance Office

Or stay on the line to speak to the receptionist.

In case we need to contact you please keep us updated with any change of address and/or telephone numbers and any change to home circumstances.

Students' Behaviour in Public Places

A large proportion of our students walk to and from school. I would be very grateful if parents would impress upon their children the importance of consideration for others in public places, particularly where pavements are narrow and where elderly people or those with pushchairs or young children may be trying to walk against the flow of PHHS students. While this applies mostly to Evesham, it is also relevant to at least some of the villages that our students live in. Thank you for your co-operation.



Parents Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

I have been asked by Mrs Thomas (Assistant Headteacher) to inform you about the issues concerning the school at the start and the end of the school day. There are parking restrictions in Victoria Avenue at the start and end of the school day, with limited access to the school, compounded by 13 school buses dropping children off in the morning and picking them up again in the evening.

Parents using any part of Victoria Avenue or the other nearby side roads to drop children off in the morning and to pick them up in the evening cause serious problems for the bus drivers, local residents and for the school. On occasions the congestion caused by parents parking in the street or the school car park poses a major problem with traffic becoming jammed and unable to move all the way back to the main road.

Dropping children off before 8.50 am and picking them up after 4 pm is not a problem, but otherwise, would parents please arrange an alternative pick up/drop off point well away from Victoria Avenue and the surrounding streets. A local councillor, on behalf of residents, has asked if parents could also be mindful, when parking on Greenhill, of not blocking visibility for motorists trying to access Greenhill from side streets. Thank you for your co-operation.

If your child has an obvious medical problem which necessitates him/her being dropped off/picked up at school please contact Mrs Thomas. I am sure we can make a special arrangement with you.

Mobile Telephones & Electronic Devices

Mobile phones/electronic devices are a distraction to the learning process and are not required during school time. In Years 9 – 11 inclusive, these devices must not be used in school. Any mobile phone/electronic device in plain sight will be confiscated and only returned to the appropriate parent/guardian

who will need to collect it from the school office. Any mobile phone or other device that is brought into school is entirely at the risk of the student. The school will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the device.

Attendance

Our School Attendance last year was 96% with 4.8% Persistent Absence compared to 96% with 6% Persistent Absence for 2015-16. There is a very clear link between pupil attainment and attendance and this is highlighted in the pupil planners.

Please also see an important separate letter from our Attendance Officer, Mrs Jennings, which will be sent in the next few days regarding the way Persistent Absence (PA) is recorded and the impact this potentially has on parents of those students with poor attendance. An attendance of 95% still means that two weeks of school and therefore 50 lessons have been missed during the year. For this reason, we would appreciate your support in ensuring students do attend unless genuinely too unwell to do so. If your child is unable to attend, please ring the school on 01386 765588 between 8.30 – 9.15 am. Parents will receive automated notification each time their child is absent from school and we have not been informed. This is in line with government policy to notify parents of unexplained absences and is aimed at safeguarding students.

Dedicated attendance line – message on the answer phone

Option 1 – Reporting your child's absence in years 9 – 11

Option 2 – Sixth Form issues including reporting absence

Please leave details of your child's name and tutor group and the reason for their absence.

Punctuality Reminder

Students are expected to be on the school premises at 9 am, ready to move to Registration or Assembly at 9.05 am. Any student arriving after 9.30 (unless this is as a result of a school bus being delayed) will trigger a late text to a parent. We appreciate your co-operation in ensuring your child has left home in ample time to get to school.

Holidays During Term Time

Legislation that came into force in 2013 clearly states that Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A family holiday is not deemed as an exceptional circumstance. Therefore, any holiday taken in term time will be deemed as an unauthorised absence. Whilst notification of planned absences for routine events such as medical, orthodontist, music exam appointments, etc should be put in writing to form tutors, I must be informed in writing of any other planned absence.

Healthy Eating & Lifestyles

We know that most of our children eat very healthily but we are keen to improve this even further. A good range of healthy food options are available in Henry's, the school dining hall. Please do everything you can as parents to encourage your children to eat healthily and in particular, we would be grateful if you could impress upon them that they should not bring into school crisps, sweets and fizzy drinks. More information on menus and prices is available on our website.



In addition to eating healthily, we encourage our students to get plenty of rest at night by getting enough sleep, and leaving the electronic equipment alone now and then, to get some appropriate exercise.

Cashless Catering

As you know, the school's caterers operate a cashless payment system. Please can I encourage parents to use the online facility for topping up accounts with sufficient funds for several days' worth of meals. A large number of students currently top their accounts up on a daily basis, which can cause significant queues at peak times of the day. Please be assured that there is a cap on a daily spend to protect the overall balance of the account. [Full details can be found on our website](#), together with information about claiming for Free School Meals.

All-Weather Pitch (Astro Turf)

We are keen for as many students as possible to engage in exercise during the school day and for this reason, the school's all-weather pitch is available for casual games at lunch time. As long as they wear proper trainers and adhere to the rules for use, students are allowed to play casual games of football on the Astro-Turf or on parts of the field at certain times of year. There are also tennis court areas which are available for a variety of ball games including basketball for most of the year.



I would like to make it clear that these games and other casual lunch time sporting activities are not supervised, although there is always a responsible adult in the vicinity. Our students are expected to conduct themselves sensibly, to avoid injury to themselves and others.

The all-weather pitch is also available for community use after 6.00 pm and at weekends. Please contact the Sports Facilities Manager on 01386-45074.

School Premises

I would like to remind all parents that the school site, including the school fields, is out of bounds outside of school hours. This includes before school, after school, at weekends and during the school holidays. The only exception to this is for formally organised events such as sports practices and fixtures (we of course welcome parental support for our sports fixtures) and to access facilities such as the theatre, the Sports Hall and the all-weather pitch for formal activities.

Unfortunately a growing number of people within the local community seem to believe that the school fields are public property. This is not the case. There has been an increase in out of hours misuse of the premises and the fields in recent times which has led to damage being done. This means we are having to divert money and caretaker/groundsman time to make good the damage done by trespassers. Please would you make sure that your child/children understand that they are not allowed on to the school site out of school hours. Thank you for your co-operation.

Calendar

It is our intention to issue all parents with a copy of this year's calendar and if you have not already received your copy, you will do so in the next few days. Please keep this in a safe place. If there are any changes eg relating to In-Service Training Days, we will highlight these on [our website](#) and in future Newsletters which I intend to publish on the second Monday after each half term break. We will also highlight changes in The Gazette, our chronicle of school life, which is published from time to time during the school year.

Key Dates

Thursday 14th September	Y12 Parents' Information Evening
25th September – 6th October	Y11 Work Experience (one week placement per student)
Tuesday 26th September	Y13 Parents' Evening
Thursday 19th October	Open Evening – school closes at 12.45 pm
Friday 20th October	TED Day – school closed to students
Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October	Half term holiday
Monday 30th October	Return to school (Week Two)
Tuesday 31st October	Y11 Parents' Evening

And Finally,

I do very much appreciate there is a lot of information here. Prince Henry's is a very busy and vibrant school. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you once again for your help and support in all the matters referred to the above. We are all looking forward to 2017/18 being another fantastic year for Prince Henry's High School.

Yours sincerely



Dr A A L Evans
Headteacher

