

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



April 2021

SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21 NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family had a healthy and enjoyable Easter break, and were able to take advantage of the further easing of some of the lockdown restrictions. I have now fully returned to school following my recent surgery, and would like to place on record my thanks to senior colleagues who ensured that life at Prince Henry's continued as normal during my absence – particularly Mr Freeman who so ably undertook duties as Acting Headteacher.

Although COVID restrictions have continued to impact upon normal extra-curricular activities and meant that the many school trips and other events that would have taken place during the Spring Term had to be cancelled, I am still able to report some excellent news. Construction work was able to continue on our new £3.5m Design Technology, Food and Art building throughout lockdown, and at the start of term, students were able to commence learning in this fantastic state-of-the-art learning environment. This is already making a huge impact in terms of the equipment and learning environment that staff and students have at their disposal. The old DT block will be demolished in the coming weeks, and we are hoping to re-landscape this area as a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).



Art lesson in the new design and technology building

Textiles lesson in the new design and technology building

COVID-19 Precautions Reminder

Please may I remind you that students should still be carrying out twice-weekly lateral flow tests at home and reporting the results of these online (see [Covid Update letter 13](#) on the website). The government's guidance has recently be updated as follows:

At the end of March, NHS Test and Trace reintroduced confirmatory PCR testing for positive lateral flow device (LFD) tests. This means that all staff, pupils and students who get a positive LFD test, whether at home or supervised at their school or college, should get a confirmatory PCR. The PCR test should be booked immediately either online or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days of the positive LFD result.

Staff, students and pupils who had a positive LFD test result, and their close contacts and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the staff, pupil or student can return to school or college, and their close contacts can also end their self-isolation.

Students will be remaining in year group bubbles until the end of the Summer Term. They should continue to wear face coverings around the school, including in classrooms until government guidance changes.

Exams

As you are aware, the formal public exams for GCSE, AS/A Levels and vocational qualifications are being replaced this year by Centre Assessed Grades. Students in Years 11 and 13 undertook internal assessments during March and the outcomes of these will be one of the factors used in determining their final grades. A significant amount of work was undertaken by teaching staff during the TED Day on 1st April in terms of the CAG process, although students will still have one further opportunity to impact their final grades by way of the classroom-based assessments that will take place during May. The school's Centre Assessed Grades Policy has been approved by governors and submitted to the exam boards. A copy of this will be posted in the new [Centre Assessed Grades area](#) of the website when it has been approved by the exam boards.

Those students in other year groups must also continue to work hard both in school and independently at home, in order to develop the excellent study habits that are required for future examination success. Please remember that students in Years 9, 10 and 12 will also be taking internal school assessments in the coming weeks.

Copies of the overall exam timetables for all year groups, together with information relating to exam procedures are posted in the [Parents & Students/ Examinations area of our website](#), together with information regarding the issuing of results for students in the Sixth Form. A letter regarding the arrangements for Year 11 students is being sent home and a copy will be posted in the Examinations/ Year 11 area of our website.



Summer School

Dependent upon uptake, we are offering an opportunity for our Year 9 students to participate in a Summer School between Monday 19th July and Thursday 22nd July from 10am – 2.30pm each day. During these four days, students will have the opportunity for formal lessons in English, Maths, Science and PE. The Summer School will be staffed by teachers from Prince Henry's, although the teacher may be different to the person who taught your child during Year 9. As it will be the summer holiday, school transport will not be running; students will not be required to wear school uniform; and a packed lunch will be provided. There is no cost for students to participate in the Summer School.



At this stage, we are seeking indicative numbers in relation to the number of students who would attend the Summer School. Therefore, should you be interested in signing up on behalf of your son or daughter, please would you email reply@princhenrys.worcs.sch.uk, using 'Summer School' as the subject heading, giving your child's name and tutor group, and indicating which day or days you may wish them to attend.

Y11 & Y13 Leaving Dates / Prom

Year 13 students will be leaving us on Friday 14th May. There will be a celebratory assembly recognising their time and achievements with us. They have been an extraordinary year group and adapted really well to the concept of independent study forced upon them by the effects of the pandemic. Mrs Webb will be providing students with further information relating to their last-day arrangements. I would like to thank the Head Boy, Head Girl and Senior Prefects for all their support and to wish our entire senior year group every success for the future.

Year 11 students will be collectively leaving us on Friday 21st May. During the following week, they can make appointments via ShowMyHomework with their subject teachers, should they wish to clarify any outstanding assessments or pieces of coursework. There will be a special tutor time on the Friday afternoon, recognising all the efforts and achievements of students in this year group during their three years with us. I am extremely proud of this year group for the resilience they have shown in coping with the tragic circumstances of January 2020, followed so closely by the national lockdown.

Throughout the pandemic, a particular challenge has been trying to second guess when restrictions will be imposed and eased. For this reason, we have taken the difficult decision not to hold a Prom for Year 11 in 2021, as we would not want parents going to the expense of purchasing outfits, hiring cars or any of the other myriad costs associated with this event, only for it to be cancelled at short notice. As students will have been away from school for a number of weeks by then, we are also mindful that if a group of 300 is pulled together in a close social gathering, there is the potential risk of students and families having to self-isolate, thus impacting on summer holiday plans.

Sixth Form Driving

As students in the Sixth Form are now passing their driving tests and bringing their own cars to school, I would like to send out a very important reminder. This is in relation to the speed at which a few of our Sixth Form students are driving down Victoria Avenue. We continue to speak to students in assembly about the importance of safe driving and anybody who is witnessed driving inappropriately will be tackled robustly and, where necessary, we will seek parental involvement.



To repeat my previous messages, the bottom line on this issue is very simple for me. I do not wish for anybody to be injured, or for the person who is driving to have to live with potentially devastating consequences for the rest of their lives. I am sure I can count on your support with this.

With a large volume of traffic coming to and from Prince Henry's every day, we also have our local neighbours to consider and I thank you for your support on this matter.



School Uniform

Thank you for all your support in ensuring our students wear Prince Henry's High School uniform smartly. With the warmer weather set to return shortly (we hope!), please could I ask parents to continue to support us with the very high standard of uniform we require from our students. The vast majority of our students do wear their uniform with great pride.

Our school uniform supplier is The Birdseye Sports & School Shop – [contact details are on the website](#).

Parent View

I would like to thank parents for their overwhelmingly positive feedback to the Ofsted Parent View website. I mentioned the purpose of Parent View in a previous newsletter and just in case you haven't had the chance to complete a review for your child, [please click on this link](#), which will provide you with further information. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Attendance

Our attendance figure currently stands at 94.5%. Our Persistent Absence statistics, based on the government's 10% threshold, are currently standing at 7.1%. I cannot emphasise enough the fact that good attendance at school significantly correlates to success. The [attendance page on our website](#) shows some statistics that powerfully illustrate this point.

Please may I remind the parents of Sixth Form students that, when reporting student absence, they should speak to the Sixth Form office (option 2 on the phone system) or email sixthform@princehenrys.worcs.sch, rather than using option 1, which is the absence reporting line for students in Years 9-11.

Free School Meals – New Online Application System

The Local Authority have advised that, during the summer, a new online process will be introduced for managing applications for Free School Meals (FSM). This will enable parents/carers to make an application securely and to receive an immediate answer in relation to their eligibility. The LA will then be able to communicate with parents directly via email, rather than letter. Current recipients of FSM will be asked to re-apply for this benefit using the online system. Further information for parents/carers will be issued as soon as it is available.

Healthy Eating

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 is available at school and the service is quick and efficient. 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. We are pleased that many of the major supermarkets have recently introduced a ban on selling high-energy drinks to Under-16s and we are very supportive of this initiative.

Diary Dates

Monday 3rd May

4th – 14th May

Friday 14th May

21st – 28th May

Friday 21st May

31st May – 4th June

Monday 7th June

7th – 14th June

Tuesday 8th June

15th – 28th June

Tuesday 22nd June

Friday 25th June

Wednesday 30th June

Friday 9th July

Friday 16th July

Mon 19th-Thurs 22nd July

Tuesday 10th August

Wednesday 11th August

Thursday 12th August

Friday 13th August

BANK HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

Years 11 & 13 – Final classroom-based assessments

Year 13 – Final Day

Year 10 internal assessments

Year 11 – Final Day

HALF TERM

Term restarts (Week 2)

Year 9 internal assessments

New Year 9 Information Event (online event)

Year 12 internal assessments

Summer Concert (online event)

Sixth Form Induction Day

New Year 9 Induction Day

Speech Day (online event)

TERM ENDS, 3.25pm

Summer School

AS/A Level Results & Consultation Day

A Level Results Consultation Day

GCSE Results & Consultation Day

Sixth Form Entry Consultation Day

The term dates for [2021/22](#) and [2022/23](#), including all TED Days are on the website.



Best wishes,

Dr Tony Evans
Headteacher

