

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



June 2021

SCHOOL YEAR 2020/21 NEWSLETTER NO. 6

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable half-term break, and were able to take advantage of the good weather we enjoyed. This will be my final newsletter, of what has been a school year like no other, and we are all looking forward to a full return to normality in the new academic year in September. In a significant step towards this, when we returned to school on 7th June, we were able to revert to the standard school day, with a common break and lunch time for all year groups. The Year 10 bubble has now moved its base into The Grove, whilst Year 12 students have been able to move from the Gym into the Sixth Form Common Room.

Before the half-term break, we said goodbye to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have coped admirably with the challenges that the pandemic has created for their education during the past 18 months. They engaged extremely well with the assessments that have been used to determine their GCSE, BTEC and A Level grades and, with marking and rigorous moderation completed, the school is in the process of submitting the Centre Assessed Grades to the exam boards ahead of the 18th June deadline.

Years 9, 10 and 12 have also recently undertaken internal assessments and in recent weeks, it has been a pleasure to meet many of them at Rewards meetings held for groups of students from each year group.

Mr Roleston, who will be Head of Year 9 in September, has been in contact with our Middle Schools to help support the transition of their Year 8 students to Prince Henry's. Due to COVID restrictions, rather than having a meeting with the parents of our new students, [an induction package for parents and students has been released on our website.](#)



PHOTOS FROM OUR YEAR 13 LEAVERS' BREAKFAST

Although school trips and inter-school sporting fixtures have not been able to take place, a wide range of inter-house sports competitions have been scheduled, and just before the half term holiday, we enjoyed two keenly contested staff vs Year 11 cricket and rounders matches. Mr Bullas and colleagues within the Music Department have also been able to lead rehearsals and filming of performances for a scaled-down, socially distanced summer concert that will be released on the school website on 22nd June. This year's Speech Day will also be a pre-recorded online event, scheduled for release on Friday 9th July.

COVID-19 Precautions Reminder

As you are aware, the Delta variant continues to be a cause for concern in many parts of the country, and has resulted in the current COVID restrictions being extended until 19th July. 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](#)).

Important Changes to Induction and Start of Term Arrangements

The government's announcement on 14th June that the current COVID restrictions will remain in place until 19th July has meant that our plans for Induction Days to take place for Year 12 (25th June) and Year 9 (30th June) have had to be reviewed. As a result, the planned Induction Days have been postponed and the arrangements for the start of the Autumn Term revised as follows:

Thursday 2nd September 2021: Induction Day for Year 9 and Year 12. Years 9 and 12 will be the only students in school.

Friday 3rd September 2021: All students attend - first day of term.

Summer School

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that we were exploring the possibility of offering a Summer School for Year 9 students from 19th to 22nd July. This was dependent upon uptake and, as only a very few parents expressed an interest in their child participating, the Summer School will not be taking place.



School Uniform

Thank you for all your support in ensuring our students wear Prince Henry's High School uniform smartly. With the warmer weather upon us, 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.





THEO ROGERS (LEFT) AND LU HARRIS-GIBBINS (RIGHT) - RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Attendance

Our attendance figure for this academic year now stands at 94.6%. 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.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mrs Jennings (Attendance Officer), Mrs Haskell (Education Welfare Officer), the Deputy Heads of Year, Mr Freeman (Senior Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Barker (Deputy Headteacher) for their hard work and determination to support and improve student attendance.

Free School Meals – New Online Application System

The Local Authority have advised that their new online system for applying for Free School Meals (FSM) is now live for new applicants. Further information, together with access to the online form can be accessed via [Worcestershire County Council's website](#).

The LA's intention is that current recipients of FSM will be asked to re-apply for this benefit using the online system in autumn. Further information for parents/carers will be issued as soon as it is available.

Training to Become a Teacher

My sincere thanks to Mr Duffy for all the work he has done with our SCITT this year and in preparing for the launch of the [Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub](#) in September. Our current cohort of 22 trainees will shortly be completing their initial teacher training and we are delighted that several of them will be starting their teaching careers with us here at Prince Henry's in September. If you, or any friends or relatives are considering a career in teaching, please get in touch with us. A small number of places are available for September 2021, and we will soon be starting recruitment for our 2022-23 SCITT cohort. Further information is available on the [SCITT page of our website](#).



YEAR 10 REWARDS TEA PARTY



YEAR 10 REWARDS TEA PARTY



YEAR 12 REWARDS TEA PARTY



YEAR 12 REWARDS TEA PARTY

Further information is available on the [SCITT page of our website](#).



OUR 2021-22 SENIOR PREFECTS

Staff Update

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying farewell to Mrs Walker, Head of Year 11, who is retiring after 25 years' dedicated service to Prince Henry's. Our Careers Adviser, Mr Brewster will also be retiring having been at the school for 10 years. I'm sure that you will want to join me in wishing them both a long and happy retirement.

Miss Heywood will also be leaving the Music Department after eight years at the school to pursue other interests; after six years at Prince Henry's, Mrs Page-Jones will be taking up a promotion in the Maths Department of another school; and one of our Science Technicians, Mrs Oliver, will be leaving us after ten years. Thank you to all of these colleagues for all that they have done, and we would like to wish them all the very best for the future.

Diary Dates

15th – 28th June	Year 12 internal assessments
Tuesday 22nd June	Summer Concert (online event)
Friday 9th July	Speech Day (online event)
Friday 16th July	TERM ENDS, 3.25pm
Tuesday 10th August	AS/A Level Results & Consultation Day
Wednesday 11th August	A Level Results Consultation Day
Thursday 12th August	GCSE Results & Consultation Day
Friday 13th August	Sixth Form Entry Consultation Day
Thursday 2nd September	Induction Day for Years 9 and 12
Friday 3rd September	Return to school of Years 10, 11 and 13

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

Thank You

As this will be my last newsletter to you this academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for all your continued support through this most challenging of years. For a reminder of the highlights during the past academic year, please look out for the new edition of The Henrician, which will be published online shortly. I hope that you have a well-deserved and enjoyable summer holiday (when we get there).

Yours sincerely

Dr Tony Evans
Headteacher