

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



April 2022

SCHOOL YEAR 2021/22 NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your family had a healthy and enjoyable Easter break.

The terrible events unfolding in Ukraine during the past few weeks have been a considerable concern for all of us and during the last half term a special assembly was delivered to reflect upon the importance of world peace and a minute's silence was held. Interact students also organised a cake sale and a collection for the DEC's Ukraine appeal, with over £1,200 being donated by the school community.

Prior to the Easter holidays, we had two pieces of good news. Firstly, construction of the new Conference Centre was completed, and this wonderful new facility is now being used to host meetings and training sessions for our SCITT, Teaching School Hub and other organisations. It means that work will soon be able to commence on converting some of the space within the Alex Gregory Pavilion into a new Music Department. Secondly, following an independent review, Prince Henry's was re-accredited with the Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSCD) Gold Award for its curricular and extra-curricular work in this important area.

The lifting of the final Covid restrictions during last term meant that school life was able to return to normal. The final week of term saw our twice-delayed Interact 'Drop the Mic' fundraising event in the Henrician Theatre, and earlier in the week, some of our musicians participated in a fundraising concert in the Theatre organised by the Evesham Abbey Trust. Our A Level musicians also performed recitals at All Saints Church. A full range of sporting fixtures was undertaken, and a number of school trips took place, including some to see live theatrical performances. In addition, our Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award participants have all taken part in various practice walks and expeditions in readiness for their qualifying expeditions later in the Summer Term.





Rewards Assemblies were held for each year group prior to the end of term, and the Leadership Team and I had the pleasure of meeting a number of students from Years 10 and 11, as well as our Prefects at our regular Rewards Tea Parties.

The parents and carers of students in Years 9, 11 and 13 have also had the opportunity to attend online Parents'/Carers' evenings during the past half-term with much of the focus of discussion for students in Years 11 and 13 being upon their forthcoming GCSE and A Level exams and the final internal assessments they undertook during March.

COVID UPDATE

As I am sure you are aware, during the last few weeks, government guidance in relation to the coronavirus has moved to a 'Living with Covid' phase. This means that, since 1st April 2022, the provision of free Covid-19 tests for the majority of people (including school staff and students) has ceased and lateral flow testing kits will no longer be provided.

In relation to those people exhibiting symptoms of Covid, the updated guidance is:

- *Adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature*
- *Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend*
- *Adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. At the end of this period, if they have a high temperature or still feel unwell, they should continue to stay at home until they feel well enough to resume normal activities. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice is for them to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days*
- *If the individual still feels sufficiently unwell that they are unable to return to work/school after 7 days, a GP Fit Note should be provided to the school*
- *Children and young people who usually go to school, college, or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive Covid-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.*

Following the recent increase in the number of Covid cases, and the way in which new variants have mutated, the list of symptoms of Covid-19, flu and common respiratory infections has been expanded to include:

- *Continuous cough*
- *High temperature, fever or chills*
- *Loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell*
- *Shortness of breath*
- *Unexplained tiredness, lack of energy*
- *Muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise*
- *Not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry*
- *Headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual*
- *Sore throat, stuffy or runny nose*
- *Diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick*



EXAMS

In a few short weeks the main exam season will start. Please may I ask parents/carers to support us by encouraging good work habits at home. Coursework is being finalised and revision programmes are under way. Independent revision must now become a priority so that our students have the best chances for success in the forthcoming examinations. There will be additional revision sessions taking place and students will be informed of these as appropriate. We wish all our students every success in their exams.

For those students not sitting national exams, they must continue to work hard both in school and independently at home to develop the excellent study habits that are required for future examination success. Please remember that students in Years 9, 10 and 12 are also taking internal school exams 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.

Please see the [Revision Sessions](#) area of our website for times and dates of all the after school revision sessions that are being provided during the next few weeks for our Year 11 students. This page also includes links to useful revision resources.



Y11 & Y13 LEAVING DATES / PROM

Year 13 students will be leaving us on Wednesday 11th 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 Students and Senior Prefects for all their support and to wish our entire senior year group every success for the future. We look forward to seeing the students on their Results Day on Thursday 18th August.



Year 11 students will be collectively leaving us on Tuesday 17th May. There will be a special tutor time on the Tuesday afternoon, recognising all the efforts and achievements of students in this year group. I am extremely proud of this year group for the resilience they have shown in coping with the upheaval and disruption caused by the pandemic throughout their three years with us at Prince Henry's. We look forward to seeing the students at their Prom on Thursday 23rd June and their Results Day on Thursday 25th August.

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 assemblies 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.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A wide range of extra-curricular activities are now available during lunchtimes and after school. Please see the [Extra-curricular page](#) of the website for full details. Students who wish to attend an after school activity should ask their parent/carer to complete and return a consent form which is available from the teacher running the activity.



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 may I ask parents/carers 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/carers 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.



ATTENDANCE

Our attendance figure currently stands at 91.1%. Our Persistent Absence statistics, based on the government's 10% threshold, are currently standing at 7.8%. These statistics compare very favourably with national statistics for state secondary school attendance, which on 31st March 2022 (the latest available figures), stood at 85.3%. 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/carers 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.uk, 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 has recently introduced a new online process for managing applications from parents/carers for access to a free school meal (FSM) for their child/children. This enables them to speed up the application process by being able to communicate directly with families via email and/or their secure portal, rather than by letter. Further information is available from the [Worcestershire Children First website](#). All new applicants for FSM will need to follow the new process. If parents/carers do not have internet access, the Free School Meals team at Worcestershire Children First can be contacted via 01905 845280.

If families are currently in receipt of FSM, there is no need to re-apply online for this benefit and their access to this facility is protected until at least July 2023. However, if you do wish the Local Authority to be able to communicate directly with you via email or their portal in relation to your family's FSM arrangements, you will need to register your details by making an online application via the link shown above.

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.

PHHS Interact Vegetable Collection



DIARY DATES

25th April – 5th May
Monday 2nd May
3rd – 6th May
16th May – 24th June
Wednesday 11th May
Tuesday 17th May
30th May – 3rd June
Monday 6th June
Tuesday 7th June
Tuesday 21st June
Monday 27th June
27th June – 1st July
Wednesday 29th June
Friday 8th July
Tuesday 12th July
Wednesday 20th July
Thursday 18th August
Thursday 25th August

Year 12 internal assessments
BANK HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Year 9 internal assessments
External Exams – see [website for schedules](#)
Year 13 – Final Day
Year 11 – Final Day
HALF TERM
Term restarts (Week 2)
New Year 9 Induction Evening, 5.30-7.30pm
Summer Concert, Henrician Theatre, 7pm
Sixth Form Induction Day
Year 10 internal assessments
New Year 9 Induction Day
Speech Day
Activities Day / Sixth Form London Trip
TERM ENDS, 12.45pm
A Level Results Day
GCSE Results Day

The term dates for 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26 including all TED Days are on the website in the [News area](#).

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Dr Tony Evans
Headteacher

