

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



June 2022

SCHOOL YEAR 2021/22 NEWSLETTER NO. 6

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable half-term break, and were able to take advantage of the extra Bank Holidays for the Platinum Jubilee. This will be my final newsletter for another unusual school year. Thankfully, school life has now fully returned to normal, and it has been a pleasure to see so many school trips, sporting fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and other extra-curricular activities taking place. Together with Mrs Webb, Mrs Barker and members of the Sixth Form team, just before the half-term break, I joined our Year 12 students on a [Walk for Peace on the Malvern Hills](#) – a wonderful day, despite the downpour that hit us as we stopped for lunch! At the time of writing, rehearsals are well under way for our Summer Concert that will be taking place on Tuesday 21st June – tickets are on sale now.

If you have not done so already, [please take a look at our new website](#), which was launched at the end of May. The new site contains all of the key information that parents/carers, students, staff and other visitors need, but has been given a complete refresh and is designed to function equally well on smartphones, tablets and laptops, as well as desktop devices. My thanks to Mr Dyer and Mrs Barker for all their work in managing this massive project.

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 two years. They are now fully engaged with their external exams and we wish them every success with these.

Years 9 and 12 have also recently undertaken internal assessments in recent weeks, with Year 10 due to sit their internal assessments at the end of June. It has been a pleasure to meet many of our students at the Rewards meetings held for groups of students from each year group, including our new Senior Prefects who have also recently taken part in a team building event at Upton Warren.



Y12 PEACE WALK



UPTON WARREN TEAM BUILDING



SING FOR PEACE



CARDING MILL VALLEY

Mrs Thorner, 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. It was a pleasure to see so many of these students and their parents/carers at the Induction Evening on 7th June, and the students will have an opportunity to experience life at Prince Henry's, as well as meeting their new Form Tutors at the Induction Day scheduled for Wednesday 29th June. The key information needed for parents/carers and students who will be joining us in September can be accessed via the Year 9 – [First Steps area of our website](#).

One final change to make parents aware of is that, as Mr Bridgens will be leaving us at the end of term, from September Mr Thompson will become Head of PE and Mr King will be taking over as Head of Year 11. Mr King has already met with our current Year 10 students, and will be working closely with Mr Thompson during the coming months.

Important Information:

1. Timings of the School Day & Bus Arrangements

Further to [my letter dated 10th May 2022](#), since the start of this half-term, we have introduced the new arrangements whereby students use a bus bay area on the school's main top car park to disembark from and board buses at the start and end of the school day. I am pleased to report that the new system is working well and, during the summer holidays, the car park will be resurfaced and have new lines painted to denote the bus bay area.

In September, there will be a slight change to [timings at the end of the school day](#). Between 3.25 and 3.35pm, students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will have an additional Tutor Time, whilst Sixth Form students depart or move to the Sixth Form Common Room to wait for buses. At 3.35pm, Years 9-11 will depart, with those who catch buses moving directly to the bus bay via the Sports Hall entrance or rear of the school. Buses will depart as soon as all the students have boarded them – usually by 3.45pm. This new arrangement will alleviate traffic congestion around the school at the start and end of the school day, making the vicinity of Victoria Avenue safer for students, staff and local residents.



2. Speech Day – Friday 8th July 2022

On Friday 8th July, the whole school community will join together to celebrate the many events and successes at Prince Henry's during this school year, including the achievements of our students, at our annual Speech Day. A specially prepared film, which will include a contribution from this year's Guest Speaker, Arthur Williams, will be shared with students during an extended Tutor Time at 11.45am. We are delighted that Arthur has kindly agreed to take part in this year's event. Having left Prince Henry's in 2002 to join the Royal Marines, he has subsequently forged a very successful career as a TV presenter (primarily for Channel 4, including documentaries and several Paralympic Games) and motivational speaker. Following Tutor Time, the school will close and arrangements have been made for buses to arrive for 12.45am.

3. Start of Term Arrangements, September 2022

Following the success of the start of school year arrangements in 2021 that were made necessary as a result of Covid disruption, it has been decided to introduce a staggered start to the Autumn Term 2022 for students. This arrangement allows for Year 9 and Year 12 students to settle in to their new school environment before being joined by students in the other year groups. This means that the start of term arrangements will be as follows:

- Monday 5th September 2022: First day of term for Year 9 and Year 12. Years 9 and 12 will be the only students in school
- Tuesday 6th September 2022: All students attend – first day of term for Years 10, 11 and 13.

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.



HOUSE POINT TEA PARTY



HOUSE POINT SPECIAL RECOGNITION



FRANTIC ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP



YEAR 13 LEAVERS' BREAKFAST



RUGBY SUCCESS

Attendance

Our attendance figure for this academic year now stands at 90.4%, which compares very favourably with both national and county statistics, and reflects the impact that Covid had upon student attendance during the course of this academic year. Our Persistent Absence statistics, based on the government's 10% threshold, are currently standing at 7.8%. 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.uk, 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.

Training to Become a Teacher

My sincere thanks to Mr Duffy for all the work he has done with our SCITT this year and also with the delivery of the first year of the [Prince Henry's Teaching School Hub](#). Our current cohort of 15 trainees will shortly be completing their initial teacher training and we are delighted that some 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 2022, and we will soon be starting recruitment for our 2023-24 SCITT cohort. Further information is available on the [SCITT page of our website](#).

Staff Update

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying farewell to three colleagues who are retiring after a combined total of 81 years' dedicated service to Prince Henry's. Their contribution to school life at Prince Henry's has been immense: Mrs Smith (Modern Languages), 31 years; Mrs Short (Head of RE), 30 years; and Mrs Bloom (Modern Languages), 20 years. On behalf of the Prince Henry's community, I would like to thank each of them and wish them a long and happy retirement.

I must also pay tribute to our Head of PE, Mr Bridgens who, as I mentioned at the start of this newsletter, will be leaving us after 18 years to take up a Director of Sport post at a school nearer to his home. He has led an outstanding PE Department for a number of years, and seen many of our sports teams across a wide range of disciplines achieve great success.

Mrs Birch (Geography and Assistant Deputy Head of Year 11) is also leaving us to take up a position at another school. I would also like to thank Our Food Technician, Mrs Graham, who will be leaving us as she will be moving abroad later this year, and Miss Korkus, a former student who has undertaken a placement year with us as a Science Technician, and will be returning to university to complete her degree in September.

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

Tuesday 21st June	Summer Concert, Henrician Theatre, 6:30pm
Monday 27th June	Sixth Form Induction Day
27th June – 1st July	Year 10 internal assessments
Wednesday 29th June	New Year 9 Induction Day
Friday 8th July	Speech Day
Tuesday 12th July	Activities Day / Sixth Form London Trip
Wednesday 20th July	TERM ENDS, 12.45pm
Thursday 18th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 25th August	GCSE Results Day

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

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).

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely


Dr Tony Evans
Headteacher

