

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



November 2022

SCHOOL YEAR 2022/23 NEWSLETTER NO. 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this second newsletter of the academic year finds you and your families safe and well, and that you have had an enjoyable half-term break.

We have enjoyed a wonderful start to the new school year. The atmosphere in school has been excellent, with students focusing very well upon their studies and fully engaging with the wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that have been on offer. Year 9 have settled in very well since joining us in September, and Mrs Thorner and her team are very pleased with the progress they are making. Similarly, Mrs Webb is delighted with the way in which our new Year 12 students have adapted to Sixth Form life at Prince Henry's.

Having been forced to move online for the past two years, we were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to Prince Henry's for an in-person [Open Evening just before the half-term break](#). Thank you to all our students who supported us on the evening.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 3rd November. Once again, thank you to all the Subject Champions and Sixth Form students who supported us on the evening. If your child is thinking of joining our Sixth Form in 2023, our [Sixth Form prospectus](#) and details of the application process, as well as a link to the [application form](#), are available on our website.

Other highlights have included Rewards Tea Parties with students in [Years 10 and 11](#), with more scheduled to take place for students in other year groups during the coming weeks. Auditions have been completed for the school's production of 'We Will Rock You' and rehearsals are well under way for the performances which will be happening in February 2023. A wide range of overseas trips have been launched to students recently, and we are looking forward to this important part of school life resuming during the next few months.

Parents/Carers' Evenings are now well-established as online events, although we are pleased that some in-person events will also be taking place during this academic year. So far this term online meetings have been held for Years 11 and 13, as well as meetings with Year 9 and 12 Form Tutors.

OUR REWARDS TEA PARTIES





Staff Update

As you may have seen on our website, the Prince Henry's community has been devastated by the death of our much-loved [Site Manager and Head Caretaker, Nigel Hopkins](#). Nigel was a former student at Prince Henry's and joined our site team in 2000, being promoted to Head Caretaker in 2010. He did so much behind the scenes to ensure that the school always looked its best and that the site ran smoothly. His passing leaves a huge hole at the very heart of the school and our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah, Jack, Max, as well as the rest of his family and many friends.



I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise the exemplary service of Miss Hanna Berry, our Head of ICT, who has made the difficult decision to take ill health retirement following a long period of illness. Hanna joined Prince Henry's as a newly qualified Teacher of ICT in September 1999, becoming Head of Department in 2010. She has been a wonderful classroom teacher and done so much to develop the school's online learning, including ShowMyHomework and our remote learning provision during the pandemic. I am sure that you will want to join me in thanking her for all that she has done for Prince Henry's and to wish her all the very best as she progresses with her treatment.

SIMS Parent App

In September we launched the SIMS Parent App to all parents/carers. During the roll-out it became apparent that there were some technical issues (not of the school's making) affecting the performance of the app, which we appreciate will have made the experience frustrating for users. We have worked closely with our technical partners during the last half-term to iron out these issues. The app, and all of the functions within it including parental consent for activities is now working as you would expect.



Thank you very much for your patience whilst we have been resolving these issues. As this app will be the school's preferred means of electronic communication with our parents and carers, I would kindly ask you to either continue your use of the app, or to re-engage with it. Please note that you may receive texts from the school relating to important whole-school issues. In the main, these messages will contain an identifiable 'PHHS' banner making it clear that the message is from the school. However, there may be occasions when the text message originates from the school's secondary text messaging service and, in this instance, the message will not show the 'PHHS' banner, but instead the following phone number: +44786 0040301. We would advise you to save this number to your phone contacts as 'PHHS App'

If you do experience any issues either in signing up or using the app, please email simsapp@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk and our team will be able to assist you. Thank you.

Attendance

Our attendance figure currently stands at 93.4% compared to 91% for the same point last year. Our Persistent Absence statistics, based on the government's 10% threshold, are currently standing at 7.4% (compared to 7.8% in October 2021). These statistics compare very favourably with national and regional statistics for state secondary school attendance. 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.

I thank you for all your support with this, and I cannot emphasise enough the fact that good attendance to school significantly correlates to success. I must also thank Mrs Jennings our Attendance Officer and Mrs Haskell our Education Welfare Officer for the sterling work that they do.

OPEN EVENING 2022



Year 13 and Year 11 Internal Exams and Summer 2023 Exam Information

Mrs Webb and Mr King inform me that the vast majority of our Year 13 and Year 11 students are making excellent progress and we are looking forward to a high level of attainment from them in their exams next summer. It is very important that they now maintain focus on achieving the challenging target grades my colleagues have set them and we will be ensuring that as much support is put in place as possible to make sure that each student has the opportunity to attain their full potential.

A crucial part of their preparation will be the forthcoming internal exams. Details of the planned exam schedules for all year groups for the 2022/23 academic year can be found in the [Exams area of the website](#). This term, Year 13 internal exams will be taking place between 21st and 25th November 2022, whilst Year 11 internal exams will be taking place between 29th November and 9th December 2022. Mr King will be speaking to Year 11 students in assembly, emphasizing the importance of spending quality time upon independent study in the build-up to both their mock and final examinations. If they do this, they will reap the rewards next summer. It goes without saying that thorough revision will be essential for these exams.

Ofqual have advised that, provisionally, GCSE exams will take place between 15th May and 21st June 2023, with GCE (A Levels) taking place between 15th May and 26th June 2023, whilst some vocational and AS Level exams will be taken between 24th April and 12th May 2023. We do not have the exact timetable as yet and further information will be posted in the [Exams Information area of the school website](#), as soon as it is available.



School Uniform

We are very proud of the school uniform worn by our students in the lower school and Sixth Form. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our students come to school smartly dressed every day. Full information regarding school uniform, including a statement from governors is given in the [School Uniform area of the website](#).

Homework and Curriculum Information

We would encourage all parents and carers to support good attitudes to learning at home. Detailed information about homework approaches, as well as the curriculum map and learning journey (which provide breakdowns of the topics to be covered on a half-term by half-term basis) is given in the Curriculum area of our website. These can be accessed by clicking on the relevant subjects for your child's current year and scrolling down to the Downloads area within each subject.

As a reminder, I have also posted copies of the letters which were sent home to Year 9, 10 and 11 parents/carers at the start of term regarding homework in the Homework area of the website. Homework reinforces what is learned in class. It goes without saying that if students adopt good working practices at home this inevitably enhances their overall learning and performance. Thank you for your continued support.

Reminder - Procedure for School Closure

As winter approaches, I want to remind you of our [emergency school closure routine](#). As well as communicating any closure via our website, we will also text parents with key information. The intention is that, in the event of a school closure due to severe weather, lessons will be able to continue in line with the normal school timetable either via Microsoft Teams, or with work being set through ShowMyHomework.

Mobile Phones & 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/carer 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.



Training to be a Teacher

As you may be aware, at the start of term, Prince Henry's welcomed its sixth cohort of 15 trainee teachers as part of our SCITT Status (School-Centred Initial Teacher Training) and they are all settling very well into their respective training programmes. Working closely with an alliance of other First, Middle and High Schools, SCITT status means that we are able to recruit, train and "grow our own" teachers and the application process is now open for those looking to commence training in September 2023. If you, or someone known to you, is interested in a career in teaching, please see the full details on [our SCITT website](#), or contact Mr Duffy, the Director of SCITT, at the school.

Interact

The school's Interact group is part of Rotary International, supported by Rotary Evesham. It is a vibrant and core part of the school community, comprising a large number of students from all year groups. Interactors develop their leadership skills and have fun while carrying out service projects.

Events are planned by the students to meet the following aims:

CROCUS PLANTING AT EVESHAM ABBEY



- Taking action to make a difference in your school and community
- Discovering new cultures and promote international understanding
- Making new friends in the community and from around the world

In 2021/22, despite the ongoing challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic, a remarkable total of £4,750 was raised and given to a number of charities including Magic Breakfast (their chosen UK charity inspired by Marcus Rashford's work raising awareness of the need for books and breakfast for school children); WWF for Nature (their chosen international charity, supporting environmental projects tackling climate change); and the DEC Ukrainian appeal.

Interact's chosen charities for this year are Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity (to meet the group's desire to support children and the NHS); and, for their international charity, Life for African Mothers, which seeks to provide midwife training to prevent avoidable deaths in childbirth.

Interact has planned a full programme of events for this academic year. So far £157 has been raised for Macmillan, and tutor groups are busy filling Christmas shoeboxes. Thousands of crocus bulbs were planted by Interact at Evesham Abbey on 2nd November to mark the Purple for Polio campaign, which seeks to vaccinate children around the world. You may want to note in your diary that tickets will soon be on sale for our Drop the Mic evening event that will be taking place in the Henrician Theatre on Friday 9th December 2022.

Thank you to all of the students involved with Interact and to Mrs Taylor, Mrs Barker, Mrs Grove and Mrs Fordham for all the support that they give to the group.



Parent View

I am drawing Parent View to your attention, because your voice will be essential in terms of the judgement Prince Henry's receives in its next inspection. As you know, my colleagues and I have been very impressed with the way our students contribute to the school and the vast majority of students we meet and talk to seem very content and happy in their learning. The survey is not designed to receive complaints about the school. Parents who wish to make a complaint or have a serious concern regarding their child, should contact the school in the normal way and ask for the Head of Year. If you are a parent or carer, you simply need your email address and a password to register on the Parent View website at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>, or by clicking on the Parent View logo on this page. This link will take you straight there. Once your login has been activated it only takes a few minutes to rate Prince Henry's against the 14 questions. You can also look at the views of some of our other parents/carers. My staff and I would be very appreciative for five minutes of your time to kindly complete this survey for us. Thank you for your support with this.





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Economics	24
English Language	26
English Literature	28
Film Studies	30
Food Science & Nutrition	32
French	34
Further Maths	36
Game Design	38
Geography	40
German	42
Health & Social Care	44
History	46
ICT	48
Italian	50
Law	52
Maths	54
BTEC Music	56
Music	58
Physical Education	60
Physics	62
Politics	64
Product Design	66
Psychology	68
Religious Studies	70
Sociology	
Spanish	
BTEC Sport	
Visual Arts	



Welcome

Prince Henry's Sixth Form is great because there are so many opportunities, both academic and extra-curricular. You have more independence meaning you have much more freedom to work in a way that suits you. Furthermore, class sizes are a lot smaller so that you build stronger relationships with your teachers who give you lots of support across all your subjects. You get to choose your classes and your timetable.

Our Sixth Form is one big community so there is always plenty of help on hand in our shared Sixth Form Centre and there is a huge range of opportunities to get involved. This means our Sixth Form Centre always feels really welcoming making your years in Sixth Form even more enjoyable as lifelong friendships are made there. You can choose your classes and your timetable.

View our Sixth Form Online Digital Prospectus

Diary Dates

Tuesday 8th November

21st – 25th November

Monday 28th November

29th November – 9th December

Friday 9th December

Thursday 15th December

Friday 16th December

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Year 9 & Year 12 Parents'/Carers' Evening (with tutors)

Year 13 Internal Exams

TED (School closed to students)

Year 11 Internal Exams

Interact: Drop the Mic, 7pm Henrician Theatre

Christmas Concert, 6.30pm Henrician Theatre

Term Ends at 12.45pm

Spring Term begins (Week One)

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr A Evans
Headteacher

