

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



March 2023

SCHOOL YEAR 2022/23 NEWSLETTER NO. 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this latest newsletter finds you and your families well, and that you had an enjoyable break, following what had been an extremely busy and successful start to the Spring Term.

The highlight of the last half term was undoubtedly the [school's production of "We Will Rock You"](#), which played to packed audiences across four nights. The set and costumes looked amazing, the singing and dancing by the cast were outstanding, as was the band; the enthusiasm and sheer joy displayed by everyone involved was inspirational. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work, commitment and dedication over the last few weeks and months. A special mention must be made of all the staff who have supported sales, the backstage, lighting and sound crews, as well as the staff, including senior colleagues who provided front of house support for the performances. Finally, none of this would have happened without the inspirational guidance from our outstanding Musical Director, Mr Bullas and our superb Producer and Director, Mrs Cook. Thanks to everyone who made this such a memorable event. Thank you too, to the many audience members who wrote to Mrs Cook, Mr Bullas and me, letting us know how much they had enjoyed the show.

The last half term was also busy with a full programme of sporting fixtures, extra-curricular activities and school trips, including a Sixth Form trip to New York and Washington, and a ski trip to Italy during the half-term break. A number of [Rewards and House Tea Parties](#) involving students from all year groups also took place. We were also pleased to welcome our [local MP, Nigel Huddleston, back to Prince Henry's](#). As well as taking a question and answer session with Sixth Form students in their assembly, his visit provided an opportunity to show Nigel around the school and for members of the Leadership Team to have a wide-ranging discussion with him in relation to the current educational landscape and issues affecting schools.

Photos from 'We Will Rock You'





Nigel Huddleston visits Prince Henry's



Year 9 Rewards Tea Party

Our Parents'/Carers' Evenings have continued to work very well, with the majority taking place online, although this academic year we have reintroduced 'in person' events for the parents and carers of students in Years 10 and 12, with online Parents'/Carers' Evenings scheduled to take place for Years 9, 11 and 13 prior to the Easter break. Year 9 students are currently considering their exam subject options for Year 10, and full information is available on our [new online Options Booklet](#), featuring video clips from our Subject Champions. Students in Year 10 have also had the opportunity to consider future career pathways and opportunities with our recent Destinations Day.

Students in Years 13 and 11 will be undertaking internal assessments prior to the Easter break and, as these will play an important part in preparing them for their A Level and GCSE examinations in the Summer Term, please do all you can to encourage them to continue their good study habits and revision. We will, of course, be doing everything possible to support and prepare students for these exams, but if your child seems particularly daunted by the challenges facing them, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff, eg their Form Tutor, Subject Teacher or Head of Year.

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 our students come to school smartly every day. [The link here](#) takes you to a page on our website detailing our school uniform requirements. Please be aware of the school rules concerning piercings, hair styles, outdoor coats and electronic devices.



Attendance

Please remember that if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you should ring the school on **01386 765588 between 8.30 - 9.15 am**. This is in line with government policy to notify parents/carers of unexplained absences and is aimed at safeguarding students.

Dedicated attendance line- message on the answer phone

Option 1 - Reporting your child's absence in Years 9 -11
Option 2 - Sixth Form issues including reporting absence

Please leave details of your child's name and tutor group and the reason for their absence.

Considerable work is being undertaken by Mrs Barker and the Attendance and Learning Support teams to support students whose attendance has been impacted for a variety of health or other issues. I cannot emphasise enough the fact that good school attendance significantly correlates to success.

Curriculum Information

[The Curriculum area of the school website](#) contains a wealth of information for students, parents and carers regarding the course content for each subject, broken down by year group. On each subject page, you will find links to information about homework; the curriculum and curriculum map (the order in which topics will be taught during the academic year); and the learning journey from Years 9 to 11. Each subject page also includes links to a wide range of additional resources, including exam boards, PHHS Live and subject-specific external websites.

Homework

Just as a gentle reminder: I have posted copies of the letters sent home to Year 9, 10 and 11 parents/carers at the start of the academic year regarding homework [onto the website](#). Homework reinforces and develops 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. We encourage all parents/ carers to support good attitudes to learning at home. ShowMyHomework is a very useful aid to help parents/ carers keep track of the homework that has been set for their children. Students are also expected to record their homework in their school planners and these should be checked and signed on a weekly basis by parents/carers.

Destinations Day 2023



Tackling the Sales of Vapes to Children

Worcestershire Children First has recently sent a message to all schools regarding the increasing problem of young people vaping. They have asked schools to share this information with parents and carers.

"Vaping is becoming increasingly popular with young people and is replacing cigarettes. Brightly coloured, sweet-flavoured and branded disposable vapes are very attractive, easily hidden and affordable at around £4.

Vapes are of concern because as their lungs grow and brains develop, children are vulnerable to the harms caused by these devices. Some vapes are non-compliant with UK law and may contain toxic materials.

What we do know is children and young people who vape are at three-times higher risk not only of nicotine addiction, but of going on to use cigarettes and tobacco.

The legal age someone can purchase a vaping product is 18. Trading standards regularly carry out test purchasing exercises at premises where they have been informed of or have received intelligence about selling to children under the age of 18.

Trading Standards are working closely with Public Health to tackle this issue, they urgently need teachers, parents and children to come forward and tell them of any traders who are selling these products to underage children. They need as much information as possible, including trading names, addresses, and times of sales. Every piece of information can be seen as a jigsaw piece which helps them see the full picture.

Information can be provided by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 (anonymously if you wish) or [via their online form](#) or anonymously via the Worcestershire Trading Standards 'Tip Us Off' page. There is also a general Trading Standards e-mail address TSEnquiries@WorcestershireTS.gov.uk. Please use this email address if you would like to speak to someone from the team working on underage sales."

I have spoken to students in recent assemblies about the issues surrounding vaping and smoking and have made it clear to them that the school has a zero tolerance approach towards any student found vaping or smoking on the school site.

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.





School Transport

Whilst Mrs Thomas (Deputy Headteacher) is the point of contact with County Transport in relation to school bus services and has responsibility for overseeing the arrival and departure of students from school, please may I remind you that the school is not responsible for transport to and from Prince Henry's. [The following is detailed on our website:](#)

"Any queries or issues in relation to school transport and bus services should be addressed to the School Transport team either via TCLUtransportcommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk or contact the Hub Service on 01905 765 765. Please note that School Transport are responsible for co-ordinating and communicating bus routes and schedules and that these may change from time to time."

Students Driving or Riding Bikes/Scooters to School

Please may parents/carers remind students who choose to bring bikes or scooters to school to ride them responsibly and be mindful of pedestrians and traffic, especially so in the vicinity of Victoria Avenue at the end of the day. Please remember that Victoria Avenue is a public highway, and not part of the school site and can get very busy with moving traffic.

Similarly, 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.

Finally, the bottom line on this 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.

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.

Parents/Carers Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

Please may I remind you about the issues concerning access to the school site at the start and end of the school day and to ask for your co-operation with this important safeguarding matter.

With 10 school buses dropping children off in the morning and picking them up again in the evening, plus staff and Sixth Form students accessing and leaving the school's car parks, parents/carers using any part of Victoria Avenue, the other nearby side roads, or indeed the school car park, to drop children off in the morning and to pick them up in the evening cause serious problems for the bus drivers, local residents and for the school.

On occasions the congestion caused by parents/carers parking in the street or the school car park poses a major problem with traffic becoming jammed and unable to move all the way back to the main road. I would therefore ask you to ensure that if you bring your child to school by car, you drop them off on Greenhill well away from the entrance to Victoria Avenue (but also ensuring that visibility is not blocked for motorists trying to access Greenhill from other side streets). Thank you for your help.



Teaching School: SCITT & Internship Programme

The growth of a school-led system for Initial Teacher Training is providing opportunities for all new entrants to the profession to be trained by practising professionals in outstanding schools. This includes Prince Henry's SCITT, which has been successfully training the next generation of teachers since 2017.

We have already secured a number of trainee teachers for September 2023 across a range of subjects and will be interviewing further applicants during the next few weeks. However, we still have some vacancies for September 2023 across a range of subjects including Computer Science, MFL, Chemistry, Maths, English, Geography and Physical Education to name but a few. For further details visit our SCITT website at: <https://www.phhscitt.co.uk/> , and follow us on Twitter at: @PHHS_SCITT.

As it has done in previous years, Prince Henry's will be running a Paid Internship Scheme for potential teachers of Maths, Physics, Computer Science and Modern Foreign Languages. We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering the same programme towards the end of the Summer Term 2023. The programme is open to undergraduates currently in their first, second or third year of studying for Maths, Physics, Languages, Computer Science or Engineering degrees. Candidates will be paid £300 per week for a three-week placement either in Prince Henry's or one of our partner schools. The aim of the programme is to attract new entrants to teaching much earlier in their degrees and this programme gives the interns a real insight into the workings of a school and the day-to-day lives of teachers. For further information, contact TSH@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.





House System

The House System, which involves students across all year groups, is designed to engage students with school life through a range of extra-curricular activities, House assemblies and inter-House competitions. These have busily been taking place this year, with House Points also being collected by students across all year groups to recognise excellent attitude to learning.

Student Voice is an important part of the culture of Prince Henry's, and as in previous years, a new group of Student Ambassadors (drawn from Years 9 – 11) and House Leaders (drawn from Year 12) have been elected onto the House and Diversity Council. This student body is also for the first time being led by one of our Head Students, Theo Rodgers, to promote a student focus to these important discussions.

With House competitions being fiercely battled this year, the current House standings as of February are as follows:

Total House Points

Burlingham	20255
Deacle	19663
Holland	17453
Lichfield	16511
Workman	17271

TOTAL = 91,153 Points

Sports News

There has been a full programme of sporting fixtures, with our football, rugby and netball teams all engaged in matches against other local schools and the [weekly results are published on our website](#).

We have also seen some excellent individual sporting achievements from Prince Henry's students, with Will Holley and Dan Jones qualifying for the National Cross Country Championships. Emily Grove, Sophie Arrandale, Harvey Gough and Pippa Thomas all won their respective County Table Tennis groups and qualified for the Regional Finals in Bristol. Following this, Emily and Sophie qualified for the National Finals, which will be taking place later this term. Congratulations too, to Ella Crowley, who has been selected to play Netball with the Severn Stars Nova Academy U18s squad against teams from Bristol, South Wales, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire.

Prince Henry's has held the School Games Platinum Award since the award's inception in 2016/17, and we were delighted to learn recently that we have been recognised by School Sport magazine as one of the top 200 schools in the country for our commitment to sport. This wonderful achievement places us within the top 5% of state and independent schools for school sport and is a testament to the hard work and efforts of our staff and students, as well as the parents/carers who give so much support to their children.

Families in Partnership Worcestershire

Families in Partnership Worcestershire have recently issued their [latest newsletter for February 2023](#) which contains details of a series of surveys to find out what is happening with SEND families across the county. The aim is to establish the current status of our SEND families across Worcestershire. This will enable them to identify new themes that are emerging as well as the recurring issues that we will all be familiar with. FiP and Worcestershire Children First have requested that schools share this information with parents and carers.



Diary Dates

W/c 27th February	Year 13 internal assessments
Tuesday 28th February	Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
Thursday 9th March	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
Wednesday 15th March	Potential NEU Industrial Action (details to follow)
Thursday 16th March	Potential NEU Industrial Action (details to follow)
W/c 20th & 27th March	Year 11 internal assessments
Tuesday 21st March	Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
Wed 29th March – Tue 4th April	Year 10 History Trip to Berlin
Wed 29th March – Sun 2nd April	Year 10 Geography Trip to Amsterdam
Mon 3rd – Fri 7th April	Sports Trip
Friday 31st March	End of term, 3.35pm
Monday 17th April	Term re-starts (Week 1)
Sun 23rd – Tue 25th April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expedition
24th – 28th April	Year 12 internal assessments

Looking further ahead, I can also confirm the following important diary dates:

Thursday 11th May	Year 13 students' final day in school
Wednesday 24th May	Year 11 students' final day in school
Wednesday 21st June	Year 11 Ball

Thank you for all your continued support.

Best wishes,

Dr A Evans
Headteacher