

PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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



February 2024

SCHOOL YEAR 2023/24 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 "[Grease](#)", which played to packed audiences across four nights. The set and costumes looked amazing, the singing and dancing by the cast was 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 Producer and Director, Mrs Cook and our superb Musical Director, Mr Bullas. 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 Classics trip to Rome](#) and a Geography trip to Sorrento during the half-term break. A number of Rewards and [House Tea Parties](#) involving students from all year groups also took place.

Our Parents'/Carers' Evenings have continued to work very well. 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 will also have the opportunity to consider future career pathways and opportunities with our forthcoming Destinations Day.

Photos from "Grease"



Trip to Rome



Year 10 Tea Party





Interact Service Recognition Reward



STEM Club

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.

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.

School Uniform

We are very proud of the school uniform worn by our students in Years 9, 10, 11 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.



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.

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."



Interact Cake Sale



Sixth Form Breakfasts



Middle School Music Workshop



Year 11 Tea Party



House Council Meeting

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 and South Worcestershire Initial Teacher Training (formerly Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire SCITT) working in partnership with The Arthur Terry SCITT, which has been successfully training the next generation of teachers for a number of years.



We have already secured a number of trainee teachers for September 2024 across a range of subjects and will be interviewing further applicants during the next few weeks. However, we still have some vacancies for September 2024 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.teachwithprincehenrys.co.uk/>, and follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at: @PHHS_ITT.

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 2024. 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.

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 of five minutes of your time to kindly complete this survey for us. Thank you for your support with this.



House System

The House System, which involves all year groups and staff, 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. So far this year both Deacle and Burlingham Year 10 tutor groups have organised fundraising events to help World Vision, which is one of the charities chosen by Interact.

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

Total House Points

Burlingham	22357
Deacle	26310
Holland	17967
Lichfield	19535
Workman	18494

TOTAL = 104,663 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 Scarlett Eagland qualifying for the National Cross Country Championships and Will Holley being on standby for the same event. Pippa Thomas and Phoebe Allcock won their respective County Table Tennis groups and qualified for the National Finals. Following this, having won the West Area Finals, our Under 16 Girls' Table Tennis team qualified for the National Semi-Finals, which are due to take place on 9th March.

Diary Dates

W/c 19th February	Year 13 internal assessments
Wednesday 28th February	Year 9 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
Thursday 29th February	Year 10 Destinations Day
Wednesday 6th March	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
11th to 22nd March	Year 11 internal assessments
Thursday 14th March	Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening (online)
15th to 20th March	Year 10 History Trip to Berlin
16th to 21st March	Year 10 Geography Trip to Geneva
Friday 22nd March	End of term, 3.35pm
Monday 8th April	Term re-starts (Week 2)

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

Friday 10th May	Year 13 students' final day in school – finishing at 10.45am
Monday 20th May	Year 11 students' final day in school – finishing at 3.25pm (those leaving on foot or cycling) or 3.35pm (if catching buses)
Thursday 20th June	Year 11 Ball – 7pm to 10pm (Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Worcester)
Tuesday 25th June	Sixth Form Induction Day

Thank you for all your continued support.

Best wishes,



Dr A Evans
Headteacher

