

SCHOOL YEAR 2024/25 NEWSLETTER NO. 1

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. My colleagues and I are very much looking forward to the new academic year and we have a full range of school trips, sporting fixtures and extracurricular activities planned for the coming months. Students will be learning more about these via assemblies and Tutor Time. Already, we have had a very positive first week following the staggered start to the term which allowed Years 9 and 12 (including a significant number of students who have joined our Sixth Form from different schools) to enjoy an Induction Day on Monday 4th September, with Years 10, 11 and 13 starting their term on Tuesday 5th September. All the year groups are looking very smart indeed and settling well into their lessons and new routines.

I hope that parents/carers of students in all year groups have had the opportunity to read the [important transition information posted on the website](#) to help support your child's next steps on their journey through Prince Henry's. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for your support as parents/carers in helping us to uphold the school rules by ensuring your child comes to Prince Henry's with the proper uniform and equipment. It is very important that our students take pride in their appearance and behaviour, respect the school, each other, and our neighbouring community. Prince Henry's has a very special reputation, and we expect very high standards indeed from our students.

At the start of every school year, there is always a great deal of information to share with parents/carers and students. I appreciate your taking the time to read about the recent achievements of current and former Prince Henry's students. Important information about our routines and procedures is also provided within this letter, which enables our school to be truly successful. A great deal of information, whether it be day to day practical guidance or news updates, is also contained on the school's website www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

At the end of last term, we received confirmation that Prince Henry's has been re-accredited with the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre of Excellence and the School Games Platinum Award 2024-2026.



SIMS Parent App

The school uses SIMS Parent App to communicate directly with parents/carers and for parents/carers of students who are new to the school, you will receive information regarding this and an invitation to join the service during the first week of term. Information about this is also available on the [website](#).

At the start of each academic year, you will receive several messages asking for your consent for your child to engage with a range of extra-curricular activities. Please provide consent and 'Accept' for any activities that your child wishes to participate in and 'Decline' any activities they are not interested in.

[Help and guidance for the use of the SIMS App](#) is available on the website.

Texting Service

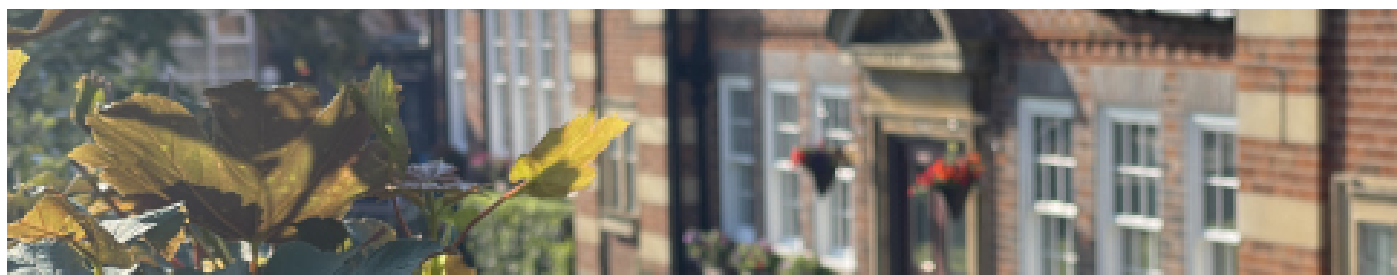
For many years, Prince Henry's has communicated urgent updates to parents/carers via Text Message. These have always been delivered with a heading of "PHHS" in front of the message. The SIMS App, also sends text alerts to parents/carers. When the App system sends a text, it will show as coming from a specific phone number – 07860 040301. We recommend that parents/carers add this number to their contact lists so that you can be sure that a message received is from Prince Henry's and is genuine information.

As our use of the SIMS App increases across parents/carers, we will also be moving towards sending in-app notifications to parents/carers for less urgent matters, making them easy to see and reference later.



GCSE and A Level Results

Congratulations to all the students, staff and parents/carers on the outstanding exam results achieved this year. The vast majority of our Year 13 students secured their first choice places for either university or apprenticeships and we wish them every success with their future careers. A celebration of our students' achievements at [GCSE](#) and [A Level](#) can be found on our website. We are confident that our new Year 12 students will build on their attainments at GCSE level with their A Level studies, and we are working hard with Year 10 and Year 11 students to ensure that they too achieve the best possible results at GCSE.



Staffing Update

I am pleased to welcome the following members of staff to Prince Henry's:

• Miss M Bourn (MRB)	Teacher – MFL
• Mr M Butler (MDB)	Teacher – Humanities/Geography
• Miss K Davis (KLD)	Teacher - Geography
• Mrs C Greathead (CSG)	Teacher – DT
• Mr D Lightfoot (DRL)	Teacher – Mathematics
• Mrs W Rees (WSR)	Teacher - Science
• Mrs K Bateman	Learning Support Assistant
• Mrs D Bryson	Attendance Officer & Reintegration Co-ordinator
• Mrs H Keen	Science Technician
• Miss M Kennedy	Learning Support Assistant
• Miss B Maiden	Cover Supervisor
• Ms M Mouben	Cover Supervisor
• Miss A Roberts	Learning Support Assistant

Congratulations to several colleagues who got married during the summer – Mr Heafield, Mr Loader, Miss Loverock and Mrs Stones. There is only slight change of name - Miss Loverock is now Mrs Loverock (EJL)

This year, the following colleagues will be taking on new roles:

• Mrs Nolan	SENDSCO & Head of Learning Support
• Mrs Thorner	Student Wellbeing and Diversity Lead
• Mrs Deakin	Head of Geography & Citizenship
• Miss Park	Deputy SENDSCO (relinquishing Head of Physics post)
• Miss Banfield	Assistant Deputy SENDSCO
• Mr Pethybridge	Head of Physics
• Miss Jackson	Head of Travel & Tourism (in addition to Bronze DofE Co-ordinator)
• Mr Heafield	Deputy Head of Year (Y10) & Boys' Mentoring (Y9 & Y10)
• Mr Loader	Deputy Head of Year (Y11) & Head of House
• Miss Smedley	Deputy Head of Year (Y9) & Sustainability Co-ordinator
• Mr Pigott	Assistant Deputy Head of Year (Y9)
• Miss Woodman	Assistant Deputy Head of Year (Y10)
• Miss Fenney	Teacher of PE
• Mrs De Silva Morgan	Part-time Teacher of Science & Diversity Co-ordinator
• Mrs Jennings	Education Welfare Officer

Site Update

As usual, the summer holidays have been busy in terms of works undertaken around the school site. In addition to routine maintenance, servicing and decorating works, these have included:

- On-going works for the 3G Pitch, set to be completed for the end of October
- Refurbishment of the Henrician Theatre Foyer, Coffee Bar, Changing Rooms, Scene Dock and Control Rooms
- Preparatory work for improvements to some teaching and learning areas that will take place during the coming months

My thanks to Mr Hulse, Mr Bell and the Site Team for all their hard work to ensure that the school looks at its best for the start of the new school year.

Student Photographs

As is normal at the start of the school year, professional photographs of students in Years 9 and 12 will be taken by Tempest Photography during the first few days of term. Whole-class photographs will also be taken of every Tutor Group. Please note that, whilst students have the right to opt out of having their photographs used for display and marketing purposes (including on the school website), it is essential that the school holds on file a photograph of every student. This will be held on the school's SIMS database for safeguarding purposes in order that each student may be identified. Therefore, if a student, for whatever reason, does not have their photograph taken by Tempest, or we do not currently have a photograph of them on SIMS, a sweep-up session will be undertaken by the school to ensure that we satisfy this important safeguarding requirement.



Homework

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. We encourage all parents/carers to support good attitudes to learning at home and, for students in Years 9 – 11, I have written to you separately with a letter specific to the year group your child is in. These letters may be viewed in the [Homework area of the website](#). Please also see our [Home School Agreement & Expectations on the website](#).

The school uses ShowMyHomework to give parents/carers complete homework visibility so that you can support your child at home. To allow for access to the system, students who are new to the school and their parents will receive their passcodes over the next week. Any existing parents/carers or students who have misplaced their login details, should request new information from Mr Brant via enquiries@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

Before and After Hours Provision

There is an opportunity for those students who would benefit from a healthy breakfast to attend our Before Hours provision in Henry's. This will be supervised by Mrs Jennings, following a referral from a Head of Year. If you think your child would benefit from this provision, which is available from 8am onwards, please contact the relevant Head of Year.

Our After Hours provision will continue this term for invited students. Students will be invited to attend from 3.35-4.30pm on allocated days in the Learning Resource Centre. Following consultation with the relevant Year Team, letters of invitation will be sent home

Reports and Progress Checks

We are now looking forward to the achievements of the year groups to follow, and of course it is important to monitor the progress of your child. If your child was in Year 9 or Year 10 last year they should have been issued with a progress report at the end of last term. If you have not received these then your child must ask their Tutor who will ensure that it is issued.



School Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring our students have started the new academic year wearing their school uniform with pride. We have seen this first hand over the last few days, through their appearance in assemblies and around the school. Our uniform promotes a sense of belonging and an identity within the Prince Henry's community, and also beyond. It creates a sense of pride in our students, in all year groups including the Sixth Form, and when uniform is worn purposefully, it is obvious that your child is ready to study and learn. Our uniform ensures there is no peer pressure, which in turn helps to cultivate equality and promote students' wellbeing. Thank you very much for your support with this.

Please do have a look at the [pictures on our website](#) which show how engaged our students have been with their studies since returning last week. I have now spoken to all students about our school values and our high expectations relating to all aspects of school life. I have to say my staff and I are immensely proud with the way our students have commenced this new academic year. We are now looking forward to seeing our students engage in everything Prince Henry's has to offer across the new academic year.

Please see the [School Uniform section of our website](#) for further information about correct uniform and appearance. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our students look smart.

Contacting the School

I would like to remind parents/carers that all routine enquiries and information about your child should be conducted through the Form Tutor. For more serious matters please try to contact the relevant Year Head, Deputy Year Head or Assistant Deputy Year Head as listed below:

Year Group / Pastoral Area	Names	Job Titles
Year 9	Mr L Roleston	Head of Year
	Miss C Rimell	Deputy Head of Year
	Miss K Smedley	Deputy Head of Year
	Mr B Pigott	Assistant Deputy Head of Year
Year 10	Mr J King	Head of Year
	Mrs H Miles	Deputy Head of Year
	Mr S Heafield	Deputy Head of Year
	Miss L Woodman	Assistant Deputy Head of Year

Year 11	Mr T Cooper	Head of Year
	Mr M Cain	Deputy Head of Year
	Mrs L Weller	Deputy Head of Year
	Mr C Loader	Deputy Head of Year
Sixth Form	Mrs C Webb	Head of Sixth Form
	Mr J Martin	Deputy Head of Sixth Form
	Mr T Pilling	Assistant Head of Sixth Form
	Mr B Bornoff	Assistant Head of Sixth Form
	Mrs K Mifflin	Assistant Head of Sixth Form
	Mrs H Oldham	Assistant Head of Sixth Form
	Mrs G Pearce	Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Learning Support / SEND	Mrs S Nolan	Head of Learning Support / SENDCO
	Miss C Park	Deputy SENDCO
	Miss H Banfield	Assistant Deputy SENDCO
Student Wellbeing Lead	Mrs S Thorner	Student Wellbeing Lead

For the occasional issue that can't be dealt with by the relevant Head of Year or Head of Department, you may also contact members of the school's Senior Leadership Team:

Mr B Freeman, Snr Deputy Head	:	Pastoral issues, Uniform, Behaviour, Safeguarding
Mrs A Lungley, Deputy Head	:	Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, Reports, Data & Assessment
Mrs S Thomas Deputy Head	:	School Transport & Timetable
Mrs N Barker, Deputy Head	:	Alternative Provision, Learning Support/SEND
Mr A Duffy, Assistant Head	:	Teacher Training Programmes
Mrs C Webb, Assistant Head	:	Head of Sixth Form
Mr A Hulse, Chief Operations Manager	:	Site Management, Data Protection Officer
Mr M Brunt, Chief Finance Manager	:	School Finance

Please bear in mind that all my teaching colleagues have many commitments and that they are not always immediately available to deal with enquiries, although they will do their best to get back to you as soon as possible. If you contact the school to discuss a pastoral matter and your child's Year Head is not available, you may well be put through to Mrs Davey who acts as the school's Pastoral Secretary for Years 9 – 11, or Mrs Tranter for the Sixth Form. They will ensure that your enquiry is passed on to the relevant Head of Year and that it is followed up as soon as possible. Parents who wish to see a teacher are asked to make an appointment in advance.

When contacting the School by phone, the following options are available:-

1. Reporting your child's absence in Years 9-11
2. Sixth Form issues including reporting absence
3. Mrs Davey / Pastoral issues Years 9-11
4. The Finance Office

Or stay on the line to speak to the receptionist.

In case we need to contact you please keep us updated with any change of address and/or telephone numbers and any change to home circumstances.



Students' Behaviour in Public Places

A large proportion of our students walk to and from school. I would be very grateful if parents/carers would impress upon your children the importance of consideration for others in public places, particularly where pavements are narrow and where elderly people or those with pushchairs or young children may be trying to walk against the flow of PHHS students. While this applies mostly to Evesham, it is also relevant to at least some of the villages that our students live in. Thank you for your co-operation.

Students Travelling by Bus

Any queries in relation to bus passes should be directed to the [Transport Team at Worcestershire County Council](mailto:TCLUTransportCommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk), by email TCLUTransportCommissioning@worcestershire.gov.uk or telephone 01905 765765.

Parents/Carers Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

I have been asked by Mrs Thomas (Deputy Headteacher) to inform you about the issues concerning the school at the start and the end of the school day. Please be aware that there are parking restrictions in Victoria Avenue at the start and end of the school day, with limited access to the school, compounded by 12 school buses dropping children off in the morning and picking them up again in the evening.

Parents/carers using any part of Victoria Avenue or the other nearby side roads 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.

Dropping children off before 8.50 am and picking them up after 4 pm is not a problem, but otherwise, please arrange an alternative pick up/drop off point well away from Victoria Avenue and the surrounding streets. Local residents have also requested that parents/ carers also be mindful, when parking on Greenhill, of not blocking visibility for motorists trying to access Greenhill from side streets. Thank you for your co-operation.

If your child has an obvious medical problem which necessitates them being dropped off/picked up at school please contact Mrs Thomas. I am sure we can make a special arrangement with you.

Mobile Telephones & 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. For all students, any mobile phone or other device that is brought into school is entirely at their own risk. The school will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the device. We ask parents/carers wishing to contact their child whilst at school to do so via the main school office and encourage parents/carers not to text or phone their child's mobile phone during the school day.



Attendance

There is a very clear link between students' attainment and attendance and this is highlighted in the students' planners.

Please also see an important separate letter from our Attendance Officer, Mrs Bryson, which will be posted on the [website](#) in the next few days regarding the way Persistent Absence (PA) is recorded and the impact this potentially has on parents/carers of those students with low attendance. An attendance of 95% still means that two weeks of school and therefore 50 lessons have been missed during the year. For this reason, we would appreciate your support in ensuring students do attend unless genuinely too unwell to do so. If your child is unable to attend, please ring the school on 01386 765588 between 8.30 - 9.00 am. Parents/carers will receive automated notification each time their child is absent from school and we have not been informed. 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.

Punctuality Reminder

Students are expected to be on the school premises at 8.55 am, ready to move to Registration or Assembly at 9.00 am. Any student arriving after 9.25 (unless this is as a result of a school bus being delayed) will trigger a late text to a parent/carer. We appreciate your co-operation in ensuring your child has left home in ample time to get to school.

Holidays During Term Time

Our school policy is not to grant any leave of absence for family holidays during term time unless there are exceptional reasons. Therefore, any holiday taken in term time will be deemed as an unauthorised absence. Whilst notification of planned absences for routine events such as medical, orthodontist, music exam appointments, etc should be put in writing to form tutors, I must be informed in writing of any other planned absence.

Safeguarding and Online Safety

As I am sure you will be aware, in recent years there has been a considerable focus in the media upon the issues of online safety and child-on-child abuse. At Prince Henry's we take these issues very seriously and parents/carers will find on our website areas that are dedicated to [Safeguarding](#) and [Online Safety](#). Within these areas you will find links to useful resource material for you and your child/ren. Please may I ask you and your child/ren to pay particular attention to [my letter relating to the student access to the internet at school](#) and the school's [Online Safety Policy](#), which includes our Acceptable Use agreement for Students, Parents and Carers.

Healthy Eating & Lifestyles

We are pleased with how well our dining facilities are used. Please help us by encouraging your child to eat in a healthy way by discouraging them from bringing such items as crisps, fizzy/energy drinks, chocolate and sweets or chewing gum, etc, into school, and by ensuring they have eaten breakfast before they come to school.

In addition to eating healthily, we also encourage our students to get enough sleep, to leave their electronic equipment alone now and then, and to get some appropriate exercise.

Cashless Catering

As you know, the school's caterers operate a cashless payment system. Using the ParentPay system avoids students needing cash and buying unhealthy snacks on their way into school. Students can spend up to £3.00 per meal and £6 per day in Henry's unless parents/carers have increased the limit individually. Full details can be found in the [School Catering area of our website](#), with information about claiming for Free School Meals.

All-Weather Pitch (Astro Turf)

Students using the Astro Turf must wear proper trainers and adhere to the rules for use. Students are allowed to play sport on the Astro Turf or on parts of the field during lunchtime at certain times of year. There are also Tennis court areas which are available for a variety of ball games including Basketball for most of the year. Our students are expected to conduct themselves sensibly, to avoid injury to themselves and others.

The all-weather pitch and other sporting facilities are also available for community use after 6 pm and at weekends. Please contact the Sports Complex Manager on 01386 45074.

School Premises

It is important that all parents/carers understand that the school premises, including the school fields, Astro Turf and Tennis courts, are private property. The Sports Hall, Astro Turf and Henrician Theatre are available for community use and may be booked in advance using the proper channels. The school also organises a wide range of extra-curricular activities using these and other facilities. However, under no circumstances should students of the school, their friends or other family members be on any part of the school site outside of school hours, including during the evening, weekends and school holiday periods. Any adult or child who is on the school site, but not engaged in a proper formal activity arranged through the school, will be trespassing. Thank you for your co-operation.

Calendar

Please see the [calendar for future events](#). [Term/TED dates](#) are also on the website. If there are any changes eg relating to TED Days, we will highlight these on our website and in future Newsletters which I intend to publish on the second Monday after each half term break.

Key Dates

Thursday 5th September	School Photographs - Year 9 & Year 12 students
Thursday 5th September	Year 12 Parents'/Carers' Information Talk, 6pm (Henrician Theatre)
Wednesday 18th September	Year 13 Parents'/Carers' Evening (in person), 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 3rd October	Year 11 Parents'/Carers' Evening (in person), 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 24th October	Whole School Open Evening 5pm-8pm school closes at 12.50pm
Friday 26th October	TED Day - school closed to students
Monday 28th Oct – Friday 1st	Nov Half term holiday
Monday 4th November	Return to school (Week One)
Thursday 7th November	Sixth Form Open Evening 5pm-7pm
Tuesday 12th November	Years 9 & 12 Parents'/Carers' Evening with Tutors (online)

And Finally,

I do very much appreciate there is a lot of information here. Prince Henry's is a very busy and vibrant school, and we are delighted that we are able to look forward to a full calendar of trips, extra-curricular, enrichment and other events. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you once again for your help and support in all the matters referred to above. We are all looking forward to 2024/25 being another fantastic year for Prince Henry's High School.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Evans'.