PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH SCHOOL

An "Outstanding" Academy for Students aged 13-18

Headteacher: Dr A A L Evans BSc(Hons), PhD

November 2026

SCHOOL YEAR 2026/27
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 Mr King and his 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.

We were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to Prince Henry's for our whole school Open Evening just before the half-term break on Thursday 22nd October. Thank you to all our students who supported us on the evening. Please see the website for photographs and other information about this event.

We also enjoyed a wonderful Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 5th 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 2027, our Sixth Form prospectus and details of the application process are available on our website. A series of breakfasts are currently taking place for Year 11 Tutor Groups to provide them with an opportunity to meet informally with Sixth Form students and staff to learn more about life in our Sixth Form and the many opportunities that are available.

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 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' and rehearsals are well under way for the performances which will be happening in February 2027. A wide range of school trips has already taken place, and a number of overseas trips have been launched to students.

Several Parents/Carers' Evenings have taken place, with in person meetings for held for Years 11 and 13, and online meetings with Year 9 and 12 Form Tutors scheduled to take place on 10th November 2026.

SCHOOL EVENTS





REWARDS TEA PARTIES





MyChildAtSchool App

The MyChildAtSchool app is used by the school to communicate with parents and carers. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date so that you can receive important information from the school.

Further help and guidance about using the MyChildAtSchool app is available on the school website.

Attendance

Our Whole School attendance figure currently stands at 94.16% compared to 93.7% for the same point last year. These statistics compare favourably with national and regional statistics for state secondary school attendance. You will have been recently notified that the school Attendance Team will be regularly writing to you as parents & carers to highlight the importance of good school attendance; in addition, you will also receive a monthly message through the Bromcom App highlighting your child's attendance.

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

Year 13 and Year 11 Internal Exams and Summer 2027 Exam Information

Mrs Webb and Mr Roleston 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 2026/27 academic year can be found in the Exams area of the website. This term, Year 13 internal exams will be taking place between 16th and 20th November 2026, whilst Year 11 internal exams will be taking place between 1st and 11th December 2026. Mr Roleston will be speaking to Year 11 students in assembly, emphasising the importance of spending quality time on independent study in the build-up to both their internal exams 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 GCSE and GCE (A Level) exams will take place between 10th May and 18th June 2027. The timetable for Summer 2027 is available on the Exams Information area of the school website: Curriculum > Exams > Summer 2027. Within the timetable there are contingency dates set by the awarding bodies; all students must be available on Wednesday 23rd June 2027.

Also available on the Exams Section of the main school website are PowerPoints for students to watch to support them with internal and external exams and a Student Examinations Handbook 2027, which details the full process and procedures set out by the awarding bodies, which students must adhere to.

OPEN EVENING 2026





Homework and Curriculum Information

We 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. If students adopt good working practices at home this inevitably enhances their overall learning and performance.

Thank you for your continued support.

School Uniform

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

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/carers 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. 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.

Parents/Carers Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

I have been asked by Mr Freeman (Senior Deputy Headteacher) to remind you about the issues concerning car access to 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 (including immediately in front of the school's main entrance) 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 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.

Training to be a Teacher

As you may be aware, at the start of term, Prince Henry's and South Worcestershire SCITT welcomed its tenth cohort of 14 trainee teachers. All the trainees are all settling very well into their respective training programmes.

Applications are now open for those wishing to begin their teacher training, and we warmly encourage anyone interested in a career in teaching to find out more. Full details are available on our SCITT website, or you can contact Mr Duffy, Director of the Teaching School Hub and SCITT, for further information, or visit our website at princehenryshub.co.uk/SCITT.

Interact

The school's Interact group is part of Rotary International, supported by the Vale of Evesham Rotary club. 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:

- 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 2025/26 our local/national and international charities were the Midlands Air Ambulance and Amnesty International. Prince Henry's raised over £6,000 for not only our chosen charities but also Young Minds, Teams4U Shoe Box Appeal, Children in Need, and Comic Relief.

After a great deal of research at their annual conference held in January, Interact members determined that in 2026/27, Prince Henry's will support the LGBT Foundation, a national charity with LGBTQ+ health and wellbeing at the heart of everything they do. They celebrate and empower LGBTQ+ individuals and diverse communities to realise their full potential, every day. The international charity chosen was Cool Earth, which protects rainforests and works with Indigenous leaders and in-country NGOs to get the donations where they are needed most.

Interact events so far this term have included a ice-lolly sale and a Traitors style Halloween event. 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 4th December 2026.

Thank you to all of the students involved with Interact and to Mrs Fyles, Mrs Kirby and the other members of staff who do so much to support Interact.

High Standards, Common Sense and Pride in Prince Henry's

There has been a great deal of discussion in the national media recently about parenting, the challenges of bringing up young people in today's world and whether standards of behaviour and expectations in schools are declining. These are important conversations, and I think we would all recognise that raising and educating young people has never been without its challenges.

However, I want to reassure parents and carers that our expectations at Prince Henry's have never been higher. The overwhelming majority of our students consistently do the right thing, and we are immensely proud of them, our staff and the culture of our school. We have a wonderful community, and I remain absolutely committed to ensuring that every young person benefits from an environment characterised by high standards, mutual respect, kindness and a genuine pride in belonging to Prince Henry's.

Today (Monday 9th November), Mr Freeman and I spoke to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 during a series of assemblies about some of the simple but important expectations that underpin life at our school. These include punctuality, wearing uniform correctly, arriving at lessons properly equipped, showing courtesy towards others and taking responsibility for our classrooms and wider environment.

None of these expectations is particularly complicated, nor are they new. They are about developing good habits, personal responsibility and an understanding that how we conduct ourselves matters.

One area I particularly wanted to address was the importance of making the most of learning time, including how we approach requests to leave lessons to use the toilet. Let me be absolutely clear: at Prince Henry's, students will always be able to use the toilet when they genuinely need to. We are not introducing a punitive approach, nor would we ever want a child to feel uncomfortable, embarrassed or anxious about asking. We recognise that young people have different needs and that medical conditions, additional needs and individual circumstances must always be treated with sensitivity and common sense.

However, there is also an important lesson in helping young people understand that, wherever possible, we should plan ahead, manage our time sensibly and recognise that there are occasions when our responsibilities require us to remain focused on what we are doing. Whether that is arriving somewhere on time, dressing appropriately for an occasion, being prepared for the task ahead or recognising when it is sensible to take a break, these are habits that will serve our young people well throughout their lives.

An increasing amount of valuable teaching time is being lost through students leaving lessons, sometimes unnecessarily. Individually, a few minutes may not seem significant, but across a school day and over the course of a year, those minutes matter.

I have therefore asked students to think carefully about this and, wherever possible, to use the toilet before school, during break or at lunchtime. Of course, if they genuinely need to go during a lesson, they will be supported. To help us understand the extent of the issue, we have introduced a permission slip when a student needs to leave a lesson to use the toilet. Visits will be recorded on our school system so that pastoral colleagues can recognise any patterns. Sixth Form Ambassadors will also help oversee the arrangements at designated points around the school, under staff supervision. Where we have concerns, the relevant Head of Year may contact you so that we can work together. This is not intended to penalise children or to question genuine needs. Rather, it will allow our pastoral teams to identify any patterns, understand individual circumstances and, where appropriate, work with students and their families to encourage sensible routines.

I believe this is a reasonable and proportionate approach, rooted in care, common sense and high expectations, rather than unnecessary rules or restrictions. More broadly, I want our students to understand that belonging to Prince Henry's brings with it both opportunities and responsibilities. Wearing our uniform with pride, treating others with courtesy, looking after our surroundings and making the most of every lesson are all small but important ways in which we demonstrate respect for ourselves, for others and for our school.

We should never underestimate the importance of these everyday habits. They help young people develop the self-discipline, independence and consideration for others that will stand them in good stead long after they have left us. As parents and carers, you play an enormously important role in reinforcing these values, and I am very grateful for the support you continue to give the school.

Ultimately, our ambition is not simply to have students who follow rules because adults ask them to. It is to develop thoughtful, responsible and confident young people who understand why these expectations matter and take pride in meeting them.

Prince Henry's is a very special school, and maintaining the standards of which we are rightly proud is a responsibility we all share.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust, encouragement and support.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 10th November	Year 9 & Year 12 Parents'/Carers' Evening with Tutors (Online)
16th – 20th November	Year 13 Internal Exams
Wednesday 25th November	Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – Henrician Theatre 4pm – 4:45pm
Friday 27th November	School closed to staff and students
Monday 30th November	TED (School closed to students)
1st – 11th December	Year 11 Internal Assessments
Friday 4th December	Interact: Drop the Mic, 7pm Henrician Theatre
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Celebration - 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Friday 18th December	Term Ends at 12.50pm
Monday 4th January 2027	Spring Term begins (Week Two)
Tuesday 19th January 2027	Pre-Loved Uniform Sale – Henrician Theatre 4pm – 4:45pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Dr A Evans
Headteacher

Pre-loved Uniform
Sales 2026 - 2027

Thursday 15th October
Wednesday 25th November
Tuesday 19th January
Thursday 18th March
Wednesday 12th May
Thursday 17th June
Tuesday 13th July

4.00-4.45pm in The Henrician



Payment can be made by card or cash
Any donations of pre-loved uniform gratefully received at Main School Reception during school opening hours

