



Newsletter

February 2023

As the John Steinbeck quote goes, 'What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness'. Indeed, it is good to remind ourselves that the days are now getting longer. Personally, I love the winter, spending crisp, cold days outside feeling the vague warmth of the low sun, seeing your breath against the landscape as a reminder of the extremes of temperatures. Not everybody can feel optimistic at this time of year and it is worth reminding ourselves of some of the struggles experienced by some in the short dark days of winter. We started this term with a staff training day, the focus of which was mental health and behaviour and how the two are often intrinsically linked. Although it is early days in our focus on the new challenges post-pandemic, it is important to raise awareness of trauma-informed practice and to embed and adapt strategies to meet the ever-increasing needs of our young people in today's and, indeed, tomorrow's world. With seven weeks since the Winter Solstice, we can once again look forward to longer, lighter days with the promise of spring, but we will continue to try to meet the needs of our community as best we can. It is not always easy with the funding given to schools to serve needs beyond those which are purely educational, but we are resolute that we will continue to try and prioritise as best we can. Please be patient with us on our journey – we cannot be a substitute for medical professionals for those in need of specialist help, but we will continue to try and put sticking plasters on in the meantime and refer to appropriate agencies, as necessary. We do promise, however, compassion and kindness.

With all of this said, we have a great deal to celebrate and of which to be extremely proud at the moment, and as ever. With the Ofsted report for Prince Henry's now 'live' we are able to discuss openly the ramifications of this. You may remember from my recent communication that we received the best outcome we could have hoped for in our ungraded designated inspection. We could only ever get the judgement that 'we continue to be a good school' (as previously inspected) but it came with the additional comment that there is evidence that we could now be judged outstanding. Hearing the inspectors describe our school, our students and our community as 'exceptional' was an extremely proud moment, and reading the endorsement in black and white was reassuring. With our annual Celebration Evening, highlighting our students' achievements, held the same week, we ended term on a real high but so ready for Christmas!

As we head towards the February break once again, it has been an action-packed half term. Last week saw our annual production; this time the turn of 'Billy Elliot'. It was somewhat ironic that the topical strikes depicted in the storyline mirrored the industrial action taking place in schools on the opening night! The show must go on, though, and indeed it did. I cannot remember a more poignant, gritty, accomplished performance from a cast so varied and so young. That some of the main characters were played by students in Year 8 who had never been on such a stage before was impressive, to say the least. The camaraderie and support stood out in a musical that was funny, sad, and with each element from the dancing, singing, playing, acting, lighting, set, backstage and, of course, direction, really shining through. Thank you, students and staff – you did us proud yet again and continue to amaze us!

Roll on whatever next half term will bring!

Best wishes

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

As ever, this half term has seen Key Stage 3 students pack in a wide range of activities. **Year 9** students have been focused on making their GCSE Options choices ahead of this Friday's deadline. To support them, students have attended the Year 9 Options Information Evening, taken part in 'taster' lessons and also completed Year 9 exams, whilst this week's Year 9 Progress Evening provided an opportunity for individual questions to be addressed. We are grateful for how well students and parents have engaged with this process, and it has been pleasing to see the mature approach taken by students. This bodes very well for their next step to GCSE studies.

Year 8 students have been working in their form groups to produce their own "BBC Young Reporter" news report. The winning form will spend time compiling the school's submission to the BBC.

Year 7 form groups have been approaching their fundraising activities with great enthusiasm and innovation. They have come up with a host of ideas to raise money for this year's chosen charities (Prickly Pigs, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and The Brain Tumour Charity). Students in 7 Bratley and 7 Cave have already held a variety of fundraising events and we look forward to seeing the efforts of the other form groups next half term.

Mr S Day

Progress Leader: Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4 news

Year 10 parents and carers will receive the second Year 10 Progress Report after the half-term holiday, indicating your child's progress, predicted grades and Minimum Estimated Attainment (MEA) grades. Students have settled well into their GCSE programme and we are really pleased with the progress they are making.

Year 11 students have now been issued with a timetable for the Core trial examinations in Maths, English and Science which will take place from Monday 27th February. Parents and carers will receive the final Progress Report at the end of March, highlighting teachers' predictions based on current performance. This will be given to students in the Year 11 Predicted Results Ceremony on Friday 24th March. Students will be able to discuss their predicted results with teaching staff and see if they meet the entry requirements of their chosen sixth form courses. This process aims to focus students on the upcoming exams and spur them on to even greater achievements.

Exam timetables (once published), study guides, revision tips and revision timetables can all be found on our website [here](#).

Mr S Knight

Progress Leader: Key Stage 4



Travelling to school by car

In order to reduce congestion and pollution, we encourage parents/carers to avoid bringing their child to school by car, wherever possible. If you do need to drop off/pick up your child by car, please remember the message from West Yorkshire Police that students must not be dropped off/picked up near the Newall Carr Road / Farnley Lane exits from school, on the approach road to school from Newall Carr Road or in Prince Henry's Court. It is especially dangerous, and **illegal**, to stop on the zig zag area by the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Farnley Lane entrance.

The Police have asked us to record registration numbers and pass these on where warnings are being ignored.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)



Personalising the curriculum

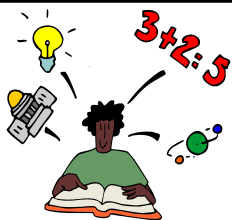
The **Year 9** Options process draws to a close this Friday (10th Feb), when students are expected to have submitted their completed Options form online. I hope that you and your child have felt supported and informed throughout this process. You will receive an invitation to provide feedback on the process at the end of this week.

Year 11 students who are considering furthering their education in our sixth form are currently undergoing interviews with the sixth form team.

It is our intention that both Year 9 and Year 11 students will receive written confirmation of the availability of their choices by Easter.

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)



External examinations summer 2023

To support students preparing for external examinations, next half term Year 13 students will have a trial exam series for all A Level subjects. Students in Year 11 will have a second trial exam series (for English, Maths and Science only) in March. Information about these has now been distributed and is available [here](#) (Year 11) and

[here](#) (Year 13). As well as helping to prepare students for the public exams, these 'mock' assessments will help to inform staff planning for further revision and consolidation.

To assist parents/carers and students in understanding our expectations around the summer exams, early in the new half term, all Year 11 and 13 students will receive a copy of a personalised exam information booklet. This document is important, as it clearly explains the processes and systems used to support students sitting exams, along with a personalised copy of each student's exam timetable.

Finally, the DfE has produced a guide for students, available [here](#), on coping with exam pressure.

Mr M Stone

Executive Officer: Exams, Assessment & Curriculum

Sixth Form next steps support

During the recent PSHE Day, **Year 12** students completed an 'Apprentice' style challenge focusing on the type of group activities used at assessment centres by graduate recruiters, as well as covering some aspects of the PSHE curriculum. Throughout the rest of this term, students will be using Unifrog to look at next steps and collating further evidence for their personal statement or CV, in preparation for the full programme of HE and Careers support which will start in the summer term.

Our Higher Education and Alternatives Information Evening takes place on 23rd March 2023, where parents and students can find out more about the UCAS application process, as well as alternative options, such as apprenticeships. Invitations to this event will be sent out after the half-term holiday.

Year 13 students spent time on the recent PSHE Day looking at how to revise effectively in preparation for trial exams in March, before taking part in a range of 'life skills' activities, from cooking through to managing exam stress. Students not applying to university are reminded that they can book appointments with the careers adviser through the Sixth Form office to discuss options and next steps.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post 16 Learning



Sustainability news

Design & Technology faculty staff have recently delivered year group assemblies focussing on 'fast fashion and sustainability' to raise students' awareness of the actions

which they can take to 'reduce, re-use and recycle' in terms of clothes and fashion. Please consider making use of our school uniform recycling bank if you have unwanted uniform/PE kit to donate, or if you want to see what items are available for a small donation to our chosen charities. Contact our receptionist, Alison Kilmartin, for details.

Last month we secured funding to commission a full Heat Decarbonisation Plan for Prince Henry's. This forms part of our wider Environmental Sustainability Strategy Plan to reduce the school's carbon footprint and help to tackle the climate emergency. Further details of our recently updated plan can be found on the school website [here](#).

Finally, in order to support sustainable, healthy lifestyles, students in Years 7 and 8 have been offered the opportunity to take part in a full day cycle training course called 'Bikeability'. Please see our website [here](#) for further details.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Please remember to top up your child's lunch card online. This will help us to avoid queues at the re-valuation machine at the start of the half term.



Proposed strike action

As advised previously, it is possible that there will be disruption due to strike action on Tuesday 28th February, Wednesday 15th March and Thursday 16th March. Details will follow when confirmed.

Attendance

A huge well done to the form groups below with the highest attendance in their year groups:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| 7 Robinson | 11 Fairfax |
| 8 Robinson | 12 Fortiter |
| 9 Naylor | 13 Parade |
| 10 Naylor | |

Special congratulations go to students in form 7 Robinson, who have the highest overall attendance for the whole school so far this academic year.

Please remember that any absence results in gaps in learning. A reminder that parents/carers are required to contact the school office before 8.30am on the first day of their child's absence. Please either:

- ♦ call the Student Absence Line (01943 855682)
- ♦ email us at info@princehenrys.co.uk
- ♦ use the unique text message number assigned to you by Arbor

If the school is not notified of the reason for the absence, it will be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Thank you for your support.



Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

97% = 6
attendance days off
= 30 hours
of learning lost



Prince Henry's
Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Forthcoming dates

Holidays

| Close | Re-open |
|-------------|-------------|
| 10 Feb 2023 | 20 Feb 2023 |
| 31 Mar 2023 | 17 Apr 2023 |

Events

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 27 Feb 2023 | Year 11 Core trial exams start |
| 13 Mar 2023 | Year 13 Trial exams start |
| 15 Mar 2023 | Year 8 Progress Evening (online) |
| 23 Mar 2023 | Sixth Form vs Staff Quiz |
| 23 Mar 2023 | Year 12 Higher Education and Alternatives to HE Information Eve |
| 24 Mar 2023 | Year 11 Predicted Results Ceremony (afternoon) |
| 28 Mar 2023 | Year 10 Progress Evening (online) |
| 30 Mar 2023 | Prince Henry's Bands' Night |

Please see previous page for a reminder of possible disruption due to proposed strike action

Curriculum information

Remember that the Curriculum area of our website [here](#) provides an overview of what your child will study in each of their subjects over the course of the year (scroll down the page to view each subject). We are continuing to develop the information provided and encourage you to visit this area frequently to help you to understand what your child is covering in each subject, and how they may be assessed throughout their time in lessons.

Mr S Jackson

Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education

All students in Year 8 recently took part in workshops provided by

#Free2Bme
@phgs

the Anne Frank Trust to look at the issue of transphobia, and to consider what they can do to promote an inclusive, respectful culture.

Six students from Year 12 have successfully applied for a place on the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project with the Holocaust Educational Trust. As well as visiting Auschwitz and taking part in online seminars, the students will undertake their own 'next steps' project to share their learning about the consequences of intolerance.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



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