



Newsletter

December 2022

As has become almost part of a newly formed tradition, it would be remiss of me not to start this newsletter with a commentary on the changing seasons. It really doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing of the long, hot, dry summer having given way to the autumn colours and now, once again, we are experiencing a sharp change in conditions with the arrival of the wintry sub zero temperatures and even the threat of snow. With the excitement of Christmas on the horizon, the biggest question I now get at breaktimes from students is 'Will you close the school if it snows, Miss'? Up until Monday, this was closely followed by 'Will we have time off, if England make the finals?' As I reflect on their perspective, a break from routine is clearly something which would be popular (for most, but not all, I suspect), yet routine is the very thing which we have all learnt to value in recent years. So in answer to your questions, dear students, we will always do everything we possibly can to stay open so that you can continue to learn and have the consistency you deserve and we all need. Of course, if there are those particularly challenging conditions which make it unsafe, we will make that call as soon as possible and notify you by text message. Thank you for understanding and communicating our commitment to your children - just in case of disappointment!

Reflecting on the past term, it has been another busy one, which has seen our Year 7 students adapt to life at a large secondary school. Tuesday mornings are a busy time for me, as this is when students with particular achievements come to see me. I am delighted to say that I have been inundated, with a queue out of the door every week to collect their 'Headteacher's Stamp' and 'Positive Praise' on Arbor. I have calculated that I must have seen over half of the year group now. As they blossom into keen and mature learners, my only frustration is that as there are so many to fit into one period, I don't have longer to chat with each of them. I'll take that for the time being, though, as will other SLT colleagues who have the same with their designated year groups, experiencing just how many have been nominated for special praise. Well done all – keep it up!

As we enter the final week of a long, busy term, we must take the time to reflect on the achievements of all our students. There have been so many highlights with academic endeavour, perseverance, sporting, dramatic and musical prowess, and, of course, 'the little things' such as students being noticed for their respect, kindness, or other personal qualities which make such a positive difference around school. We are immensely proud of our school and are looking forward to celebrating with our students and their families at our annual Celebration Evening which will be held at Leeds City Museum on Thursday 15th December.

You may also have heard that the Sunday Times 'Parent Power' guide has named Prince Henry's Grammar School as the top comprehensive school in the North. Another incredible accolade and proud moment. This was quickly followed by our Ofsted visit in the last week of term, to really keep us on our toes! Thank you for your support in contributing to what makes us a special place, for all your feedback, kind words and in helping us to be even better. We always want to hear your feedback, so that we can continue with an upward trajectory. I'm sure 2023 will be no exception!

With my very warmest wishes for a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

All students have contributed to a very productive term, and we hope they all enjoy a well-deserved Christmas break.

We are grateful to all parents/carers who have engaged with the school this term, either through the Year 7 Parent-Tutor sessions, the KS3 Information events or any of the other ways in which this has happened.

It has been a pleasure to host this week's end of term rewards assemblies for Years 7, 8 and 9. Many students received awards recognising the number of stamps they had gained, or for making a positive difference around school as one of their 'Form Heroes'. Some students in Years 8 and 9 have also been invited to attend this week's Celebration Evening to collect prizes for best Attitude to Learning, Progress, Attainment and Service to School for the last academic year.

We will continue to monitor all students to ensure that their attitude in lessons and around school enables them to achieve their very best. As always, if you do have any enquiries, please contact either myself or the relevant Year Manager.

Mr S Day
Progress Leader: Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4 news

As we approach the Christmas holiday, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Key Stage 4 students an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Parents/carers of **Year 10** students recently received the first Key Stage 4 Progress Report which indicates Attitude to Learning, predicted grades and Minimum Estimated Attainment (MEA) grades. The vast majority of students have fared really well, and it is pleasing to see that so many students are on track to achieve their MEA grades.

We hope that all **Year 11** parents/carers will be able to 'attend' Year 11 Progress Evening on 26th January. This will be an invaluable opportunity to meet online with subject teachers to receive feedback on progress, discuss the recent trial exams and look ahead to the summer exam series.

GCSE Exam timetables and important information will be sent home in February. GCSE Exam timetables (once published), study guides, revision tips, revision timetables and subject specific material can all be found on our website [here](#). There is also information from last month's Year 11 Parents' Revision Strategy Evening which you will find useful if you were unable to attend in person.

Mr S Knight
Progress Leader: Key Stage 4

Fundraising news

This year, our students have opted to support The Brain Tumour Charity (chosen by the Student Council) and local conservation charities Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Prickly Pigs (selected by Year 7 students) as the beneficiaries of our school-wide fundraising efforts. They have already made a great start, with the recent Christmas 'candy cane delivery service' raising over £550. Plans for next term include a sixth form v staff quiz event. Look out for details of other fundraising activities for the rest of the year.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust



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 term.



Term Dates for 2023-2024 can be found on our website [here](#).



School uniform

We encourage students to wear an outdoor coat on their way to and from school and when outdoors at break and lunchtime. The coat must be worn over the blazer. Students are only required to remove coats (and other outdoor clothing such as scarves, hats and gloves) when they are in the school building. However, please remember that casual 'hoodies' are not allowed anywhere on site at any time.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)



Year 9 Options

Next half term, students in Year 9 will be given a range of information to help them make decisions about how they wish to personalise their curriculum from Year 10. Students will receive a detailed 'Options booklet' on Wednesday 4th January outlining the process, key dates and options available. On Thursday 5th January at 6.00pm, we will be holding our annual Options Evening (an invitation letter with details was sent out last month and is available on our website [here](#)). Options Evening is an important event which gives students and parents/carers the opportunity to hear about the process, speak to subject staff about the range of options available and ask any questions.

To provide further support with decision making, students will receive feedback following year group exams (9th - 13th January), through the second Progress Report and Year 9 Progress Evening. They will also be offered 'taster' lessons in some subjects, as well as the chance to speak with our Careers Adviser, Mrs Robinson. Decisions need to be finalised and the final options submitted by Friday 10th February 2023 (the last day of next half term).

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)

Year 13 UCAS reminders

The vast majority of Year 13 students who intend to apply to university have now done so and are receiving offers. For those still intending to apply, the final UCAS deadline is 26th January 2023. Applications need to be sent in by 18th January at the very latest so that they can be processed and submitted by the deadline.

For students not intending to apply for university, Mrs Robinson will be running career and apprenticeship application sessions on Wednesday afternoons starting in late January, introducing students to employers and supporting them in their preparation. We have a list of students who have expressed interest already, but there is space for any others who wish to join. Please encourage your child to contact Mrs Robinson-Junni, if interested.

Sixth Form applications

It is great to see so many of our Year 11 students applying for a place at our highly successful Sixth Form. Please fill in the application form on our website [here](#), if you have not already done so. Interviews will take place next term for all students who have applied, with provisional offers of places made by the end of next term.

The Sixth Form Taster Morning on 21st January 2023 is an opportunity for students who are still unsure about choices to come in and try lessons in different subjects.

Mrs C Willis
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning



Save the date!

1 - 3 February 2023 at 7pm

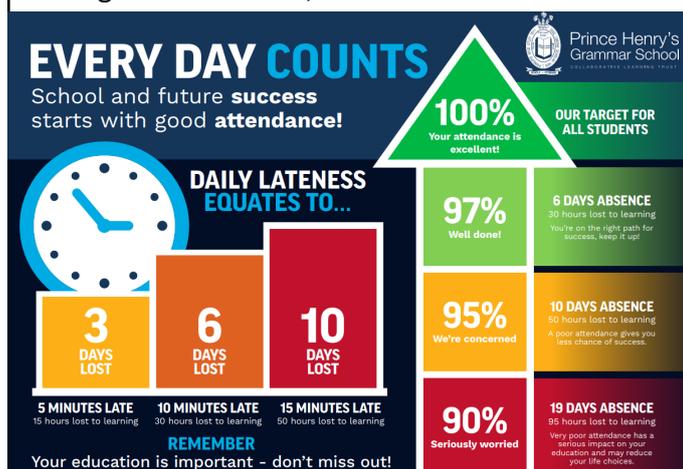
Tickets for this year's school musical go on sale on Monday 9th January 2023. Look out for a letter in the first week of next term.

Attendance

As we look towards the new year, we continue to drive the importance of attendance across the school. During this half term, we have ensured that there are common attendance visuals in all classrooms and students are now recording their attendance in their Student Planner each week. We have also published our new Student Attendance and Absence Policy which can be found on our school website [here](#).

Finally, we encourage parents/carers to visit our new Attendance and Punctuality page on our website [here](#) for further guidance about how we can work together to support young people to drive improvements in their attendance.

Mr L Wilson
Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support



Scarlet Fever and Strep A

As you will have seen reported in the media, the UK has seen an increased number of cases of Group A streptococcus (Strep A) compared to normal at this time of year.

What are scarlet fever and Strep A?

Scarlet fever is caused by bacteria called Group A streptococci (Strep A). The bacteria usually cause a mild infection that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare occasions, the bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause an illness called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms can include:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel

On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

What should I do if I'm concerned?

The DfE advises that parents/carers contact their GP practice or NHS 111 to seek advice. You can also find more information, including helpful images and a video, [here](#).



Keep up to date with school news by following us **@PrinceHenrysGS**. You can also follow our Twitter feed on the school website.



Sustainability news

Following the completion of our roof replacement and insulation works, our 276 kWp solar panel scheme has now been fully commissioned. The system has already generated over 256 MWh of solar energy since Easter 2021, stopping over 58t of CO2 emissions.

Students from our Eco-committee recently attended the launch event of the Otley Nature Recovery Project where they spoke about their work to guests including the Leader of Otley Town Council as well as entomologist and TV presenter George McGavin.

This term has seen the launch of our new Active Travel Ambassadors (ATA) programme. The scheme provides young people with the opportunity to address transport issues affecting their school community. Our ATA student group has now started work to research and develop behaviour change campaigns, focusing on road safety as well as active, sustainable travel. Year 7 students will also be offered the opportunity to take part in 'Bikeability' (Level 3) training next term.

Finally, students in our Geoscience Club are investigating the *hypothetical* feasibility of installing a ground-source heat pump on our site, having successfully secured a project grant from the Royal Society to purchase specialist research equipment.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Update on 3G pitch project

We are delighted that construction of the new community 3G pitch will begin on site next month. After many years of hard work to secure funding and planning permission, we are very much looking forward to this significant addition to our sports facilities. The new pitch (which actually comprises multiple pitches) will directly benefit Prince Henry's students as well as dozens of local sports clubs and teams, and is expected to be completed during the summer term. Thank you to all parents/carers who have supported the project in any way, including through donations to our fundraising appeal earlier in the year.



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.



Bus travel

School bus services for Prince Henry's are provided by Connexions. We have a positive relationship with the company and their staff are generally very complimentary about the behaviour of our students on their buses.

On some occasions recently there have been last minute amendments to the running times or routes of some buses. Where we are notified in advance, we will seek to inform parents/carers. Connexions will always try to run the usual services, but where they are unable to they will ensure that the service they provide enables all students to get home, even if there are alterations to routes or delays. The company has asked us to thank you for your understanding with this.

Forthcoming dates

Holidays

Close

16 Dec 2022

10 Feb 2023

Re-open

*3 Jan 2023

20 Feb 2023

**Training Day - school closed to students*

Events

15 Dec 2022

16 Dec 2022

05 Jan 2023

09 Jan 2023

21 Jan 2023

26 Jan 2023

26 Jan 2023

01-03 Feb 2023

07 Feb 2023

08 Feb 2023

09 Feb 2023

10 Feb 2023

Annual Celebration Evening

Early closure (12.25pm)

Year 9 Options Evening

Year 9 Exams start

Sixth Form Taster Morning

PSHE/Citizenship Day 2

Year 11 Progress Evening (*online*)

School Production - Billy Elliot

Year 9 Progress Evening (*online*)

SLT Open Access Evening

Year 12 HE Information Evening

(Early deadline applicants)

Year 9 Options Choices Deadline

Following our application for the Stonewall School Champion Award over the summer, we have now received confirmation that we have achieved the very highest level of the award (Gold). The assessors' feedback commented "We were incredibly impressed with your submission. Your commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion is clear and we can see you're doing a brilliant job safeguarding and supporting LGBTQ+ pupils and engaging all pupils on the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusion."

#Free2Bme
@phgs

Congratulations to students from our Equality & Diversity Group for their contribution to our application, but also to all students and staff for the part which they play in helping to make Prince Henry's a place where we are respectful of others and where we celebrate differences. It is only by everyone in our school community speaking up against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, disability discrimination and any other form of prejudicial behaviour that we can create a culture where everyone really can be "Free2Bme".

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Building an alumni network to inspire our students



We are working with the education charity Future First to build a thriving alumni community. Amongst our former students is a whole host of talented role models who we want to connect with, in order to celebrate their success and inspire our current students. Alumni can be invited back to school to offer careers and education advice, mentor students, provide work experience placements and much more besides.

Please help us reach out to our former students using your own networks. From doctors to dancers, pilots to plumbers, we need alumni from a range of careers to open our students' eyes to what's possible. Former students can sign up [here](#) or by contacting Pippa McPherson at mnp@princehenrys.co.uk.



Prince Henry's Grammar School

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Farnley Lane, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BB

T: 01943 463524

E: info@princehenrys.co.uk

W: www.princehenrys.co.uk