



Prince Henry's Grammar School

SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE



# Newsletter

**December 2017**

As Christmas approaches, we have much to celebrate at Prince Henry's. Not least is the high quality learning that can be found in our lessons day in and day out. As Headteacher, I have the privilege of visiting a variety of lessons and seeing the fantastic work produced by our students. Recent highlights are wide-ranging, from observing Year 12 A level German students learning new vocabulary to help them describe TV and film, to working with Year 7 students as they write a computer programme to analyse spending on Christmas presents! It is always a pleasure to see such high quality teaching, complemented by the positive attitude to learning displayed by students and the excellent relationships between students and teachers. These are the things that help make Prince Henry's Grammar School so special. And it is not just me who thinks this! A recent 'external review' (led by an experienced education consultant who observed lessons, talked to students and interviewed staff) confirmed this very positive view of our school.

This final week before the holiday is busy for everyone, but please take time to read all the articles in this newsletter as they contain important reminders and updates to help you prepare for the term ahead. To ensure you are always up to date with school news, remember to let us know immediately if there are any changes to your contact details. If you are not receiving school letters (including these half termly newsletters) via email then please contact the school with details of your email address if you wish to have school news sent direct to your inbox.

This week our annual Celebration Evening, held at Leeds City Museum, will recognise the achievement, contribution and positive attitude to learning of even more students from Year 8 to Year 13 as well as students who have recently left school. Anne Longfield OBE, Children's Commissioner for England and ex-Prince Henry's student, will be the guest speaker and award the prizes. All tickets have been allocated for the evening so there will be a 'full house' to ensure maximum recognition and praise for the successful students. One of the hardest tasks in preparation for this event is the selection of students for the various awards. This is always a problem in Prince Henry's where so many students achieve so much. If your son or daughter hasn't been invited this year, do encourage them to continue working hard, as there are many other opportunities to receive praise and rewards throughout the year – and they may be selected for next year's Celebration Evening.

January may well bring icy conditions and even snow, but we will always endeavour to keep the school open for students as long as it is safe to do so. Please remember to check the school's website if you are concerned about school closure. In the meantime, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Ms J Sheriff  
Headteacher

## Key Stage 3 news

Well done to Key Stage 3 students for their positive approach during the busy first term of the year. We have been very pleased with the smooth transition which Year 7 students have made to Prince Henry's, and have appreciated the positive parental engagement from Key Stage 3 parents/carers throughout the term. This has included events such as the English and Maths Information Evening, Parent and Carer Consultation Evening and Progress Day.

Students who have demonstrated positive Attitude to Learning have received praise and rewards. 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

## Fundraising news

Each year in the autumn term, Year 7 students select a local charity for the whole school to support for the coming year, alongside a national or international charity, chosen by the Student Council.



This year, our students have opted to support the Leeds-based homelessness charity, St George's Crypt, as well as the national Teenage Cancer Trust. Both organisations have worked with our students as part of our PSHE / Citizenship programme over the past year.

These two charities are now forming the focus for the whole school's fundraising efforts, and activities have already included a sixth form versus staff quiz and a 'candy cane delivery service.' Students are aiming to beat last year's impressive total of over £6,400, which they raised for St Gemma's Hospice and Syria Relief.

Mr C Lillington  
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

## Key Stage 4 news

### Year 10

Parents and carers will receive the second Year 10 Progress Report during the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, indicating progress, predicted grades and target grades. The Year 10 Parents' Evening takes place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Letters will be sent home prior to the event with instructions on how to use our online and telephone booking systems. We look forward to seeing you to discuss your child's progress.

### Year 11

Year 11 students have now completed their mock examinations. Results will be issued by individual subject teachers and students will record these in their Student Planner. Mock exam results will inform the second Year 11 Progress Report (published week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018) which outlines teachers' GCSE predictions based on current performance. This will be followed by the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Exam timetables (once published), study guides, revision tips, revision timetables and subject specific material can be found on our website under Parent Zone / Key Stage 4 Study Support.

Mr S Knight  
Progress Leader: Key Stage 4

## Sixth Form applications and Taster Morning

It is fantastic to see so many of our Year 11 students applying for a place at our highly popular and successful Sixth Form. Interviews will take place next term for all students who have applied, with provisional offers of places being made by the end of term.

Those Year 11 students who are undecided about subjects and courses are invited to attend the Sixth Form Taster Morning on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. Booking forms need to be returned to school by 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (additional copies can be found on the school website)

Mrs C Willis  
Progress Leader: Key Stage 5 / Head of Sixth Form



## 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. All students will receive a detailed 'Options booklet' on Wednesday 3rd January 2018. This will outline the process, key dates and options available.

On Thursday 4th January 2018 at 6.30pm, we will be holding our annual 'Options Evening' (an invitation letter with further details was sent home on 30th November 2017 and is available on our website under Parent Zone / Letters home). Options Evening is an important event that gives students and parents the opportunity to hear about the options process, speak to subject staff about the range of options available and ask any questions.

To help with decision making, students will receive additional feedback from year group exams, the second Progress Report and Year 9 Parents' Evening next half term. 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 by February half term, with the completed option form handed in on Friday 9th February 2018.

Mr S Clarkson

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator



If you haven't yet set up access to the Parent/Carer Firefly Portal, see the step-by-step guide on our school website under Parent Zone / E-learning and online safety / Firefly.

## Year 13 UCAS applications

The vast majority of our Year 13 students have applied to university and are now receiving offers, with more unconditional offers being seen than ever before! For students who are still intending to apply, the final UCAS deadline is 15th January 2018. Applications need to be sent in by 11th January 2018 at the absolute latest so that they can be processed and submitted by the deadline.



## Online safety evening

The school will be running an online safety session on **Tuesday 16th January 2018** at 6.30pm.

This has been planned to make parents and carers aware of the additional issues online access can create for young people, and provide practical safety advice for parents and carers when managing online activity in their home. There will also be an opportunity to ask specific questions. Amongst other things the evening will include:

- ◆ Home internet/ISP content filters
- ◆ YouTube, Google, iPad, XBOX 360 and social media filter settings
- ◆ Safe browser apps

Further information will be sent out after Christmas.

Mr C Rowbottom

Deputy Headteacher: Learning Infrastructure



## Safety in the car park

A reminder that, for the safety of *all* students, parents and carers must not pick up or drop off their child in the school car park. Where there are specific medical or mobility issues, permission must be sought from your child's Year Manager. In such circumstances, or when visiting school at the end of the day for other reasons, please wait until the buses have left (3.10pm) before attempting to leave the car park. Please also remember the message from the police that parents must not use Prince Henry's Court as a drop off or pick up point.

Mr C Rowbottom

Deputy Headteacher: Learning Infrastructure

## Attendance



The attendance figure for Years 7-11 so far this school year is 95.4%. Congratulations to students in 7PIM, who have had the highest form group attendance this half term, with an impressive 98.7%.

If your child is unable to attend school, please call as early as possible and leave a message stating the child's name and form, the nature of the illness and the expected length of absence. If we do not receive a message and your child is absent, we will instigate our emergency contact protocol.

Finally, a reminder that the Headteacher can only authorise leave of absence during term time in 'exceptional circumstances'. If applicable, please request the necessary form from reception. If unauthorised absence is taken in term time, we are obliged to inform the Local Authority, who will consider a fixed penalty notice.

## Forthcoming dates

### Holidays

#### Close

15 Dec 2017

09 Feb 2018

#### Re-open

\*\*2 Jan 2018

19 Feb 2018

\*\*Training Day. School re-opens for students on 3 Jan 2018

### Events

14 Dec 2017

04 Jan 2018

13 Jan 2018

16 Jan 2018

24 Jan 2018

25 Jan 2018

31 Jan - 02 Feb 18

07 Feb 2018

08 Feb 2018

27 Feb 2018

13 Mar 2018

14 Mar 2018

22 Mar 2018

23 Mar 2018

26 Mar 2018

Celebration Evening

Year 9 Options Evening

Sixth Form Taster Morning

Online safety evening

PHSE Day 3

Year 11 Parents' Evening

School Show

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 12 HE Information Evening  
(Early application)

Year 10 Parents' Evening

PHSE Day 4

Year 7 Parents' Evening

SLT Open Access Evening

Year 12 HE & Alternatives to  
Higher Education Info Evening

Year 11 Predicted Results  
Ceremony

Year 8 Parents' Evening

## Keep us informed

Have your contact details changed? Please remember to keep us informed if you change phone number or email address, or if you move house. Likewise, it is extremely important that we have up to date details for each of your child's emergency contacts. Please get in touch with the school office or your child's Year Manager if any details need to be updated.



## School Musical

After Christmas, tickets will be going on sale for our annual school musical production. Join us for a fun-filled evening of doo-wop, dentists and derring-do as we face a deadly threat to our very existence in the fabulous rock n roll musical *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Performances run from Wednesday 31st January to Friday 2nd February 2018.



## Finance news

Remember that you can use the online payment system to add credit to your child's lunch card before the start of the new term. This will help to reduce the usual start of term queues at the re-valuation machine. If you have mislaid your log in details, please contact the Finance Office.

Payment can also be made online for most school trips. However, please remember that the reply slip must always be returned to the Finance Office, even if paying online. Applications for trips will only be considered from students who have submitted **both** the reply slip **and** the payment by the trip deadline.



Prince Henry's Grammar School

SPECIALIST LANGUAGE COLLEGE



Farnley Lane, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BB

T: 01943 463524

F: 01943 850978

E: [info@princehenrys.co.uk](mailto:info@princehenrys.co.uk)

W: [www.princehenrys.co.uk](http://www.princehenrys.co.uk)