



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Newsletter

March 2023

With the clocks having already 'sprung forward', Spring is finally in the air. Just a fortnight ago we had to call a 'snow day' due to heavy fall overnight and safety concerns. These decisions are never taken lightly and it won't surprise you to know that I was awake early checking in with colleagues consulting on conditions, forecasts and pending decisions. Having made the call to close – which is never an easy one – how typical was it that the heavy dump became a mere memory by lunchtime? British weather really is unpredictable!

I have received a number of messages from parents and carers recently in support of everything we are juggling as a school and, particularly, as a profession. These messages are hugely appreciated and I would like to thank you for taking the time to convey these sentiments – it really does make a difference to hear positive feedback in a world which is sadly getting used to negativity. We are certainly in challenging times at the moment as we continue our recovery from the pandemic, especially as students prepare to sit exams and the stress this causes everyone. With the strike days hopefully behind us, perhaps we can look forward to more continuity and predictability. In my last newsletter, I spoke of the huge rise in needs with the reduction of provision and funding – yet another perfect storm. Indeed, on our 'snow day' I had the added challenge of getting on an early train to Birmingham for the annual Headteacher and Leadership Conference. To hear keynote speakers refer to schools as 'the fourth emergency service' was sobering.

Moving swiftly onto the positives, which, I am happy to report (if you are still reading!), far outweigh the negatives, both in number and level of achievement. Once again, it really has been a half term to celebrate our amazing students and their achievements and Prince Henry's continues to ride high on the crest of a sporting wave of success, amongst a sea of other areas. Firstly, a huge congratulations must go to our U15 Rugby Team who won the bowl at the National Finals at StoneX Stadium two weeks ago. This is a fantastic achievement and it really was a proud moment to watch the match, which was streamed on the internet, as well as to welcome the boys back to school and celebrate with them in whole Staff Briefing. Sporting success seems to be breeding with so many accolades swiftly following, including our U18 Rugby Team becoming Yorkshire Champions and our U16 Girls' Rugby Team winning the Yorkshire Cup. As the rugby and netball tour of South Africa departs during the Easter holidays, I can't help but wonder at how life does move on so quickly to provide such a stream of positive and proud moments for our students, staff and, of course, families. We have also celebrated success in Design and Technology inter-school competitions, Active Travel Ambassadors and countless others, as the list goes on. Thank you, students and staff – you all continue to do us proud and amaze us every day. What will tomorrow bring?

Finally, as part of our annual review of school uniform, we have considered student feedback and also reviewed our expectations in relation to value for money, in particular given current cost of living concerns. Consequently, we will be introducing additional flexibility in some areas – please see page 5 for the slightly amended expectations, which will come into effect from the return to school after Easter.

Have a good Easter holiday, whether it be rain or shine, and keep the positivity coming!

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Bank Holidays in May

Please note that school will be closed on both
Monday 1st May (May Day bank holiday) and
Monday 8th May 2023 (Coronation Bank Holiday).

Key Stage 3 news

A very busy half term has seen all year groups pack in a huge amount! Students have been engaged in a range of activities during form time. All year groups have reviewed their most recent Progress Report with the support of their form tutor and have been challenged to set themselves action targets based on their latest report and their aspirations. We will review targets with students at the end of the school year.

The summer term will see Year 7 and 8 students sitting their end of year exams between 22nd May and 9th June 2023. We will be using form time and assemblies to introduce a host of revision skills to assist them with this. Please encourage your child to prepare fully for these important assessments.

As always, we are very grateful for positive parent/carer engagement and hope the recent Year 8 Progress Evening proved useful for all those involved. Whatever your child's year group, should you have any ongoing concerns, please contact their Year Manager in the first instance to discuss.

Mr S Day

Progress Leader: Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4 news

Year 10

The [timetable](#) for the forthcoming Year 10 Exams (Thursday 4th - Friday 12th May in the Sports Hall) was emailed to all parents/carers last week. Subject teachers will inform students of which areas they need to revise. This will be the first set of GCSE trial exams which Year 10 students will have undertaken, and it is important that they spend an adequate amount of time revising. There are revision technique materials available on our website [here](#). Parents/carers have recently received the second Year 10 Progress Report indicating progress, predicted grades and MEA grades. The predictions are very promising and suggest that this cohort of students has the potential to do very well in future examinations.

Year 11

The Year 11 Predicted Results Ceremony took place last Friday, providing students with an accurate milestone as they approach the summer exams. It also gave them the invaluable opportunity to discuss their predicted results with teaching staff to confirm whether they met 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 success. All students should now have their personalised exam timetable. If you have not received your child's exam timetable, please contact our Exams Office for a copy. Study guides, revision tips, timetables and subject specific material can be found on our website [here](#). On behalf of the Key Stage 4 Team, I would like to wish all students the best of luck in their upcoming exams.

Mr S Knight

Progress Leader: Key Stage 4

Sixth Form applications

Year 11 students will be receiving letters soon after Easter confirming their Sixth Form options and giving instructions about how to accept their place. Any student who is worried about their options and would like to discuss these further is encouraged to speak to a member of the Sixth Form team.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

Recent year group assemblies have focussed on how we can all help to

"change the world" every day by the choices we make about the language we use and the way we behave to those around us, with a particular focus on racism. Students were also reminded of the importance of being an 'upstander', rather than a 'bystander'. Please reinforce with your child the responsibility which all members of our school community share to 'speak up', if they witness racism, prejudice or bullying of any kind.

We are now starting to plan for our annual Equality & Diversity Week, which will take place in school from the 10th to the 14th July 2023. If you feel able to contribute in some way, or know someone who might (e.g. as a guest speaker, running an activity for students, etc), please do contact me at school.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

#Free2Bme
@phgs

Sixth Form news

Our outgoing Senior Students ran a successful Staff/Student Quiz as their final fundraiser and are now planning the final details for their Prom (Tuesday 27th June). Recruitment for the new Senior Student team will start during the next half term, and we are looking forward to hearing the ideas of our current Year 12 about how they could contribute to leadership across the school and Sixth Form.

Finally, a number of Sixth Form students have built up negative balances on their school catering account. I would be grateful for your support in ensuring that these are cleared before the start of next term, as students will not be served in The Quad / Henry's unless their account is in credit.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning



Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust



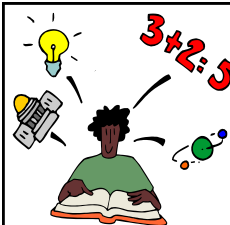
Fundraising and non-uniform day

A reminder that we are holding a non-uniform day this Friday for all students in Years 7-13, with proceeds going to the students' chosen charities for this year: The Brain Tumour Charity and local conservation charities Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Prickly Pigs. We are recommending a contribution of **£2.00** which can be made using the online payment system or through a cash donation to be collected during registration on Friday. For full details and important reminders, please see last week's [letter](#).

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported last week's Staff v Student Quiz organised by our Senior Students, which raised almost £200.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



Exam preparation

As we approach the main public exam season, students in the relevant year groups have recently received an

Exams Information booklet with information on what to expect, along with their personalised timetable. If you have not received your child's exam timetable, please contact our Exams Office. Students will receive further information over the next half term as we aim to support all our students through the exam period to ensure they have the best chance of success.

From Monday 15th May (when GCSE exams begin), all **Year 11** students will follow an adapted timetable. This will see students attend subject 'Master Classes' whenever they are not sitting a GCSE exam. These compulsory Master Classes will all have been carefully planned by subject staff to offer students vital information, reminders and key messages in final preparation for the exam they will shortly sit. Therefore, students must attend school every day during normal school hours throughout this period. Revision Leave will begin on Thursday 25th May.

Year 13 students will continue to attend lessons until Friday 19th May, when they will begin their Revision Leave. After Revision Leave begins, students in **Years 11 and 13** will only be required to attend school when they have exams, although many subjects will continue to offer extra pre-exam sessions prior to specific exams. Further details will be published before Revision Leave commences.

Finally, Ofqual has published this [Student Guide](#) which may be of interest to students sitting public exams this summer and parents/carers.

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)

Positive praise emails



Has your child received a positive praise email this half term? As we continue to develop our systems to ensure they remain robust, clear and encouraging to students, some of you will have received an email from one or more of your child's teachers praising their performance in their subject. Moving forward, we are asking staff to send these emails at least half-termly to students deserving particular recognition of their efforts. Look out for more praise emails as the year progresses.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)



Parent/Carer Behaviour Survey

As previously outlined, we are reviewing aspects of the behaviour system which we use at Prince Henry's. We do not envisage making significant changes to the system or the high expectations we have, but we are keen to gather views from all stakeholders on their understanding and experiences of our Positive Discipline system. Staff and students have had opportunities to have their say throughout this year, and we would now like to invite parents/carers to share their views. All parents/carers are therefore invited to complete the short behaviour survey found [here](#) by Monday 17th April 2023.

The information gathered from this survey will be considered as we move forward, and will contribute to planning for a Parent and Carer Consultation Evening (with a focus on behaviour) in the near future.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)

SEND news

Thank you to everyone who responded to the SEND survey. We appreciate your feedback and aim to be in contact shortly regarding some of the individual questions raised.

We are delighted to launch our "SEND Parents' Drop-in Coffee Evening" on Thursday 11th May from 3.15pm to 4.30pm for parents/carers who would like to discuss their child's learning and additional needs. This is an opportunity to seek advice and have a chance for a conversation with me, as SENCO, over a coffee and biscuits. Numbers will be limited so if you would like to attend, please email Gemma Owens at OSG@princehenrys.co.uk.

A reminder that our Home Learning Club runs from 3pm to 4pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, supported by Teaching Assistants. If you think your child would benefit, please contact their Year Manager.

Tips for helping your child at home

- ◆ Tackling work in smaller, manageable chunks can help to keep students engaged. Suggest completing a certain number of questions or put a time limit on work, factor in a break, and come back refreshed to tackle the next part.
- ◆ Post-it notes are great for visual reminders and breaking information into chunks.
- ◆ Colour coding their timetable can help make it easier to read. Use colours they associate with different subjects. Files and folders can be used in these colours to help with organisation at home.
- ◆ If they struggle with reading lots of text, simply covering parts of the text to reveal only small sections will help them to digest the information and not become overwhelmed.

Ms N Sadler

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

Attendance

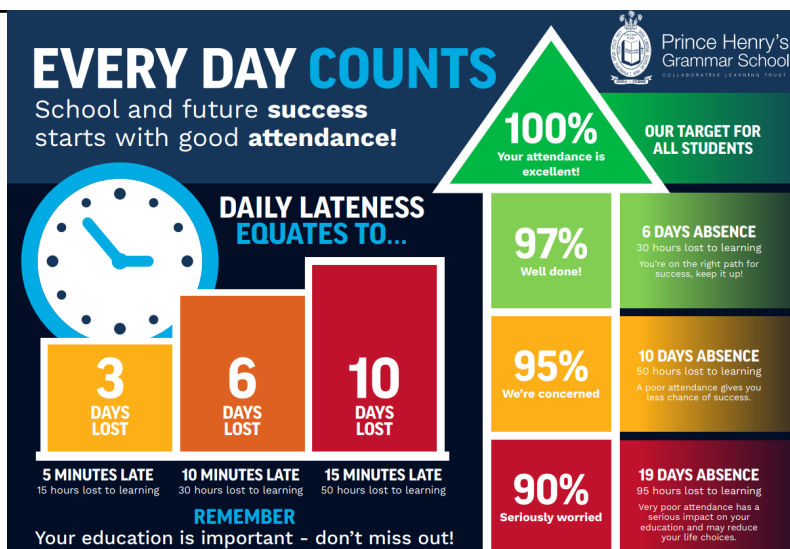
Well done to the form groups below with the highest attendance in their year groups:

7 Robinson	10 Bratley	12 Fortiter
8 Jennings	11 Fairfax	13 Parade
9 Naylor		

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

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support





School uniform requirements from April 2023

Prince Henry's is one of the broad majority of English schools where it is agreed policy that students wear school uniform. Our smart uniform is designed to be practical and affordable. We aim to promote a sense of pride, and teach students that they have a responsibility to themselves and each other to ensure that the good name and reputation of the school are preserved and developed.

A small number of amendments have been made to our uniform requirements in light of feedback from students and to take account of affordability considerations. These will replace the current expectations shown in the Student Planner and will come into effect after Easter. The most significant changes relate to **skirts, tights and hair styles**, as follows:

Blazer	Navy-blue blazer with embroidered school crest worn at all times within the school building. Teachers may give permission to remove blazers if the classroom is particularly warm or the learning activity requires it.
Trousers	Navy trousers – these should be boot cut or tailored, must have a waistband, traditional zip and cover the ankles. Slim, skinny fit or tapered trousers are not allowed. Invisible/concealed zips are also not acceptable.
Skirt	Navy - Traditional tailored school skirt. Without pleats and must not be a pull-on Lycra skirt. This should be worn no more than 5cm (approximately the width of a mobile phone) above or below the knee.
Shirt	Plain white tailored style with traditional collar, long sleeved (not to be worn with sleeves rolled up) or short-sleeved. The shirt must be long enough to remain tucked in to trousers or skirt at all times.
Tie	Basic school design or Sports tie or Music tie. (There are different ties for Key Stage 3 / Key Stage 4).
Socks	Navy or black ankle socks only are permitted.
Tights	Plain navy or neutral shade preferred. Black is permitted.
Shoes	Students must wear plain black shoes that have no logos or white decorative element. Boots are not allowed and footwear must be tailored to fit under the anklebone. Cloth pumps or trainers are not allowed in school. Heels must be no higher than 5 cm.
Jumper	<i>Optional</i> - Navy blue 'V' neck jumper with embroidered school crest. Students must not wear any other jumper or hoodie under their blazer.
Belt	<i>Optional</i> - Black. No decorative buckle.
Outdoor wear	No outdoor wear such as coats, hats, scarves and gloves may be worn in the building before 3.00pm. Denim, non-uniform jumpers, baseball caps or 'hoodies' must not be worn at any time within the school grounds.
Jewellery	Watch. One earring per lobe – plain gold or silver stud only. No rings, bracelets or necklaces are permitted. Body/facial piercings including nose, eyebrow and tongue piercings (including the use of retainers) are not allowed in years 7-11.
Make up	Key Stage 3: No make up or nail varnish may be worn. Key Stage 4: Discreet make up may be worn. No nail varnish may be worn including acrylics.
Hair	Respect must be given to our expectations of high standards of presentation as well as the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long hair must be tied back for PE and other practical subjects. • Hair colours must be natural - no bold or extreme hair colouring is allowed. • Visible lines/patterns/symbols shaved into the head are NOT allowed. • The head must NOT be fully shaved below a grade 2 (lower grades are permitted at the side and back) • Hair accessories should be one plain colour only.

◇ Students who purchase skirts that are too short or too long will be asked to change them.

◇ Students who purchase trousers that are too slim or skinny will be asked to change them.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Working Together to Secure Success

Collaborative Learning Trust news

Our Trust continues to develop and grow – both in terms of the central services offered to schools and in the number of partners. In recent months, we have appointed a Director of Education (Primary) and an IT Director to join our Central Team, directly supporting schools with quality of education and implementing the best technology for learning and school operations respectively. With the Director of Education focusing on primary school improvement, I have more capacity to support secondary education and to develop our Trust. With that in mind, we are delighted that Ashfield Primary School in Otley and Trinity All Saints Church of England Primary School in Bingley have consulted with staff and parents with the intention of joining our partnership later this year, taking the total number of schools in our Trust to seven.

Our programme of Trust-wide professional development for staff continues; our recent training session, Supporting All Children to Thrive, focused on strategies to help children who suffer with trauma or mental health problems. Key staff from all seven schools attended, so this training will have a positive impact on children and young people in all of our schools.

If you want to find out more about how our Trust supports your school and your child's education, do look at our Trust [website](#).

Janet Sheriff OBE
CEO, Collaborative Learning Trust



Where possible, please top up your child's lunch card online before the start of the new term to reduce queues at the re-valuation machine.

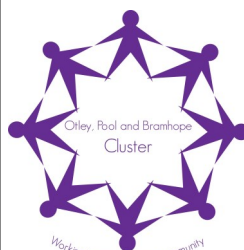
Forthcoming dates

Holidays

Close	Re-open
31 March 2023	17 Apr 2023
28 Apr 2023	02 May 2023 (May bank holiday)
5 May 2023	09 May 2023 (Coronation Bank Holiday)
26 May 2023	05 Jun 2023

Events

30 Mar 2023	PHGS Bands' Night
31 Mar 2023	Non-uniform Day
02 May 2023	Senior Concert
02-03 May 2023	Y9 DTP, Men ACWY Vaccinations
04 May 2023	Year 10 exams begin
11 May 2023	SEND Parents' Drop-in Evening
15 May 2023	GCSE/GCE exams begin
	Year 11 Master Classes begin
19 May 2023	Year 13 Revision Leave begins
22 May 2023	Year 7 and 8 exams begin
25 May 2023	Year 11 Revision Leave begins



Easter holiday activities

The Otley, Pool and Bramhope Cluster has arranged for InGear Coaching, Speed for Sport Academy and Leeds Rhinos Netball Camps to offer a range of activities for young people during the Easter holidays. If your child is interested in accessing these sessions, please visit our website [here](#).



Sustainability news

Students from our Eco-committee recently produced a short film with researchers from the University of York to be screened at the "Leaders for Change" event, as well as delivering their own student-led assembly at Ashfield Primary School. Meanwhile, our Active Travel Ambassadors have secured £250 to help to implement their campaign after pitching their ideas to a panel at Leeds City Museum.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



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