



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Newsletter

May 2023

Rather fittingly, our first newsletter of the Summer Term is being written in glorious sunshine and, as the weather continues to improve at last, our Year 11 and 13 students are teased by the desire to spend more time outside whilst having to revise and sit exams inside for long periods. I often think that the traditions of our education system do not always make sense, and the exam schedule is just one example. Listening to the musings of our students is a highlight of being out on lunch duty on a regular basis, and it interests and sometimes surprises me as to what their perspective is on a variety of topics, including having to 'bear the burden' of summer exams. As one Year 11 student remarked, "At least my shorter hair (now permitted in school due to his dedicated campaigning with the Student Council) is cooler, so that's one thing to feel grateful for". It made me reflect on how often we complain rather than seeing the positives in challenging situations, but if someone in the middle of one of the most challenging periods of their life to date can see a positive, I'll take that!

By the time you read this newsletter, Year 11 and Year 13 students will have had (or be about to have) their Celebration Assemblies, during which the opportunity to look back on their time at Prince Henry's will have caused tears and laughter for many, alongside looking forward to chapters or pastures new. I am sure that many of those memories will have been positive, despite the significant disruption that this generation will have unfortunately experienced. What is not in doubt is just how many opportunities our students have once again been offered, many of which will have made a real impact on their lives. This academic year has seen a full array of enrichment activities and trips abroad, including skiing in Italy, field trips to Iceland and Holland and the South Africa Sports Tour - as well as those to France, Spain, Germany, Belgium and The Gambia shortly departing. Of course, there have been many more trips and activities closer to home, too. As a result of our commitment to seeing so many Prince Henry's students through their D of E Award, Mrs Ellis and I had the privilege of attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace last week to celebrate young people and their commitment to the programme as well as to thank the staff who dedicate so much time towards supporting DofE. It is wonderful to have opportunities to showcase the work of our school community and to celebrate our students and staff, and after the disruption we have all experienced, there is nothing better than to be reminded of how rich our lives are and that we have every reason to be proud, and grateful, as the young man in Year 11 attested.

We have recently sought a variety of views on our 'Vision and Values' and our behaviour systems; we are grateful to those of you who responded to the latter, in particular. It has prompted Mr Clarkson to put together an article which discusses many of the findings, and we are hoping that this blog will become a regular way of communicating with parents, carers and students on a variety of topics. You can access the first blog via the link on page 4 of this newsletter. You will also be able to find future blogs on our website through this same link.

As we look towards our final half term before the long summer holidays, it is important to take a moment to reflect on work in progress. We are delighted to have been able to open the Chippindale Pool in part at last, and that the work on the 3G Pitch has started, although we are having to navigate moments of necessary 'radio silence' through the exam period after rain stopped play too much recently. Looking on the bright – and sunnier – side, in the words of G.K Chesterton and as paraphrased by a Year 11 student, I will leave you with the quote "When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude."

Best wishes

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 News

It will be a busy final half term for students in **Years 7 and 8**, whose end of year assessments in all subjects began this week and will continue until 9th June. These will help staff and students to reflect on progress made and ensure that students' MEAs remain challenging and ambitious. Students have engaged in revision work over the last few weeks, experimenting with different techniques.

After the half-term holiday, **Year 7** form groups will be producing resources to support Year 6 pupils in their transition to Prince Henry's. **Year 8** students are completing an independent study on careers to begin the process of thinking about career paths they might like to follow. Some Year 8 students will also be contacting the Year 6 cohorts coming to Prince Henry's to support them in their transition and act as ambassadors on July's transition days.

Year 9 students will make the transition to Key Stage 4 in the first week after the half-term break. They will then be under the leadership of Mr Knight (Progress Leader) and Mrs Wood (Year Manager). Mrs McQuire and I would like to say how much we have enjoyed seeing them progress as young people, and how admirably they have coped with the challenges of the past few years. They have conducted themselves in a mature fashion and we are sure they will make the step up to Key Stage 4 with great success.

Mr S Day

Progress Leader: Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4 news

Year 10 students have now completed their internal examinations and received their results from subject teachers. The students' conduct and effort in these exams was excellent, and I am sure this will be reflected in their results. Subject teachers will give detailed feedback in class, focussing on what went well and also things which can be improved upon for next time. Students' results will be an accurate indication of their progress, as will Year 10 Progress Report 3, which will be published on the 19th June.

Year 11 revision leave will begin this week on Thursday 25th May. A special Leavers' Assembly will be held in school on that day to celebrate their time at Prince Henry's. Exams will continue throughout June, with a range of pre-exam revision sessions taking place in school. Please do encourage your child to attend these 'masterclasses', as they will be an invaluable opportunity to receive last minute feedback and exam support from subject teachers. The KS4 Support section of the school website [here](#) contains exam information and revision support material.

I would like to wish all students the very best of luck in all their exams, and look forward to congratulating them when results are published in August. Ahead of that, we look forward to celebrating students' wider achievements at the Year 11 Prom, which takes place at the Hilton Leeds City on Wednesday 28th June.

Mr S Knight

Progress Leader: Key Stage 4



Farewell Year 13!

Year 13 students have now started their official revision leave, and we wish them all the best in their exams after what has been a challenging few years. On A Level Results Day (Thursday 17th August), results will be available to collect from 8.30am, at which point students will also be able to check whether they have secured their university place using UCAS Track. Sixth Form staff will be available to offer advice and support to any students who have not gained their university place or wish to defer. Good luck, Year 13 – we will miss you!

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post 16 Learning



Have your say!

We will be holding a Parent and Carer Consultation (PCC) Evening on **Wednesday 14th June 2023**. On this occasion, we will be focussing on home learning. As well as giving you the chance to find out more about the rationale for our approach, we will be seeking your views on proposed changes to the quantity and frequency of home learning for different year groups, and asking you what more we could do to support students with their learning at home.

The evening runs from 7.00pm to 8.30pm and will be led by Assistant Headteacher Claire Willis. If you would like to attend the evening, please register [here](#).

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Sixth Form induction for Year 11 students

If your child is in Year 11 and intends to join our Sixth Form, please remind them to fill in their acceptance form on our website [here](#) by **this Friday**, and to complete the form [here](#) regarding our Sixth Form Induction morning (Monday 10th July 2023). All students received an email last week with further details.

Mrs C Willis
Assistant Headteacher: Post 16 Learning



Year 12 HE and Careers Preparation

Year 12 students will start their programme of preparation for Higher Education applications and career planning next half term, including the HE Preparation Day on **Thursday 15th June**, when the main university application process will begin. It is vital that students attend this day to receive key information about UCAS and apprenticeship application procedures. In the afternoon, students will visit Leeds Beckett University to attend the UCAS Discovery Exhibition where they will find out more about university courses and apprenticeship pathways. Students will shortly receive an email about how to register for the exhibition.

Nearly all Year 12 students have now secured work experience placements, which is great news. Well done, Year 12.

On **Monday 17th July 2023**, Year 12 students will have their 'Progression and Future Planning Day'. Most students may choose to take home study on this day to spend time reflecting on their work experience and to work on university or career research and applications. For students where there is concern over their progression onto Year 13 courses following Year 12 exams and Progress Report 3, meetings will be arranged on this day with the Sixth Form team to discuss options. A letter giving further details about this day will be issued after the half-term holiday.

Mrs C Willis
Assistant Headteacher: Post 16 Learning



Rewards Day

Advanced notice that our annual Rewards Day takes place on **Monday 17th July 2023**. Students who are eligible to participate will receive a paper letter on the first day back after the half-term holiday outlining the three reward options available to them. Both payment and reply slips **MUST** be with us by **Friday 23rd June 2023** or we will not be able to include your child in any of the external activities.

It is pleasing to note that the reward of an alternative to regular lessons is one that the vast majority of our students will experience - a reflection of the largely positive behaviour our students exhibit. Sadly, some students will miss out. If your child does not receive a letter (and so is not eligible this year), please encourage them to reflect on the year that has passed and consider what they could do differently in order to participate in the 2024 rewards day.

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

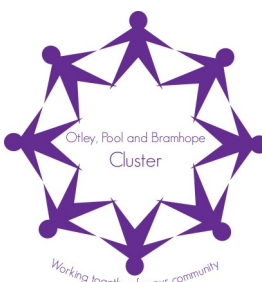
A group of Year 9 students recently spent two days engaged in the

#Free2Bme
@phgs

Anne Frank Trust's 'Voices for Equality' project. As part of this, students worked with Yorkshire-based poet and activist Matt Abbott to create poetry-based resources aimed at sharing an anti-prejudice message with their peers.

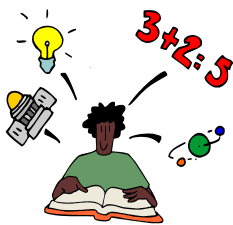
Please reinforce with your child the responsibility which all members of our school community share to 'speak up', if they witness racism, homophobia, sexism, disability discrimination or prejudice-based language or behaviour of any kind.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



Summer holiday activities

The Otley, Pool and Bramhope Cluster has arranged for local providers to offer a range of sports camps for young people during May half term and the Summer holidays. If your child is interested in accessing these sessions, please visit our website [here](#).



External examinations

GCSE and A level exams are now underway. Students have so far had a really positive approach to these and are to be commended. All students received a copy of the exam expectations and their personal exam timetable earlier this year. They have also attended assemblies outlining key messages and reassuring them of the appropriate approach to take should things not go to plan. Year 11 students begin their revision leave this Thursday and from that point need only attend school for exams and, should they wish, scheduled masterclasses.

If your child is taking external examinations this year, please reiterate the following key points, which will ensure that exams continue to run smoothly. Students must:

- ◆ Arrive for morning exams by 8.45am and for afternoon exams by 1.00pm.
- ◆ Sign in/out at reception if they remain on site at any other time beyond published exam or masterclass timeslots.
- ◆ Not bring bags into the exam venue.
- ◆ Not bring any electronic devices (e.g. phones, tablets, fitness trackers, watches) into the exam venue. If a student is spotted with such a device on their person (even if it is switched off), we have a duty to report this to the exam board. This is likely to lead to the student having their paper cancelled and not achieving a grade in that subject.

Students will be able to collect AS/A Level results from 8.30am on Thursday 17th August 2023, and GCSE results from 10.00am on Thursday 24th August 2023. Collecting their results in person means that students will be able to seek support with next steps, if required. This year all students will also have their results emailed to their school email account on the afternoon of results days. As a reminder, a copy of the exams booklet, which answers most exam-related queries, can be found on the school website [here](#).

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)

New webpage: Inside Stories

We are always looking at ways of engaging with parents/carers in new and interesting ways. Today we launch our 'Inside Stories' page on our school website [here](#). The aim of this page is to share information with you on different aspects of life in school. These musings will cover a range of topics and we hope that you will find them insightful into areas that impact on the day-to-day running of the school.

Over the next year, we envisage including information from different staff on topics such as the curriculum, attendance, transition, diversity, our vision and values and our Sixth Form. The first article in this section is a response to the recent parental survey on behaviour at Prince Henry's. We hope that you find this useful.



Feet First - Safe and Sustainable Travel to School

Our student **Active Travel Ambassadors** have been running a project to discover what are the biggest barriers to travelling to school sustainably - and safely.

Feet First Drop Off Points

If you must use a car to travel to school, avoid the queue over the bridge and congestion at the school gate by dropping off your child elsewhere in Otley, leaving them to walk the last 5 or 10 minutes to school. Our Active Travel Ambassadors have arranged with Leeds City Council and Wharfedale Hospital that students can be dropped off and picked up from the **North Parade Car Park**, the **Beech Hill Car Park** (now) and, for those on the north of river, the **Wharfedale Hospital Car Park** (from September) - with no need to pay for the short times that parents/carers will spend in these car parks. These can also be used at school pick up.

Find out more on the school website [here](#). Please support the work that these students are doing by using these new drop off points and reducing congestion around the entrances to school.

Mrs P McPherson

Admin Manager: Community Engagement



Attendance

Wow, the weeks are flying by as we approach the summer holidays. We continue to work with students and families to support them to

make improvements in their attendance. A huge well done to the form groups below for having the highest attendance in their year groups:

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

Please provide the following information if calling school to inform us that your child will not be attending because they are unwell:

- 1) Full name of the student
- 2) Year group and form group
- 3) Reason for the absence

If the absence relates to Covid, please also provide us with the date when your child tested positive. This will allow us to calculate when they should return to school, if well enough.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support



Sustainability news

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. We would also appreciate your support for our sustainability efforts by:

- ◆ avoiding driving your child to/from school. If this is unavoidable, consider using the new 'Feet First' drop-off arrangements (see page 4).
- ◆ Ensuring that your child brings a filled, reusable water bottle to school each day.
- ◆ Asking your child to support the recycling arrangements in Henry's Diner.
- ◆ Encouraging your child to support our 'Meat Free Mondays' to reduce meat consumption.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Forthcoming dates

School closure

Close

26 May 2023

*24 - 25 Jul 2023

Re-open

05 Jun 2023

*04 Sep 2023

**Training Days - school closed to students*

Events

25 May 2023	Year 11 revision leave commences
14 Jun 2023	Parent and Carer Consultation Evening
14 Jun 2023	SLT Open Access Evening
15 Jun 2023	Year 12 HE Preparation Day
22 Jun 2023	Year 12 exams begin
23 Jun 2023	Year 13 Official Leaving Day
26 Jun 2023	Year 5 High School Experience Day
27 Jun 2023	Summer Concert
28 Jun 2023	Junior Band Day (Year 6)
06 Jul 2023	Year 7 Progress Evening (in school)
10-14 Jul 2023	Equality & Diversity Week
10-14 Jul 2023	Year 12 Work Experience Week
10 Jul 2023	New Year 12 Induction Day
11 Jul 2023	PSHE/Citizenship Day: Timanyane Day
11 Jul 2023	Active Travel Fair
12 Jul 2023	Sports Awards Evening
12 Jul 2023	Design & Technology Exhibition
12-14 Jul 2023	Year 6 Induction Days
13 Jul 2023	New Year 7 Parents' Transition Evening
14 Jul 2023	Year 10 Sixth Form Experience Day
17 Jul 2023	Rewards Day
17 Jul 2023	Year 12 Progression and Planning Day
18 Jul 2023	School Olympics Day
21 Jul 2023	Students finish at 12.25pm

End / Start of term arrangements

- ◆ **Mon 17th July 2023** - Rewards Day for eligible students. Other students will attend timetabled lessons.
- ◆ **Tues 18th July 2023** - Olympics Day (weather permitting!). Families are welcome to come and support participants at Wharfemeadows fields (afternoon).
- ◆ **Fri 21st July 2023** - School will close for the holidays at 12.25pm. There will be an extended morning break so that students can purchase food. School buses will leave school at 12.30pm.

Next term

- ◆ **Tues 5th Sep 2023** - First day of term for all students. New Year 7 and 12 students arrive for 8.30am. Other year groups start at 11.00am.



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