



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Newsletter

December 2023

The festive season is upon us and the end of term – along with the shortest day – is firmly in sight. It has been another challenging year in education and in terms of world events, and it is sobering to reflect on what we all do day in and day out to mitigate for the stress in the lives of our family and friends without perhaps even having time to think about ourselves. This week, exhausted colleagues are trying to cajole and support students and each other through to Friday, with the excitement of breaking up for Christmas apparent in classes and on corridors. It is certainly proving challenging when trying to deal with a range of emotions. For me, I am spending each day not knowing what it might bring both at school and personally. With the range of weather we are having, I worry about my horse Dixie, and if I have put her in the right rug daily, for the cold/wet/warmer/arctic conditions, and how to relieve her stress and increase her comfort as we go through various treatments for lameness and ulcers. Of course, we all experience family traumas from time to time which can be challenging, but when we are dealing with animals, or people who can't communicate with us easily, this brings a whole new level of questioning.

It has occurred to me that this analogy is representative of the stresses and questions we all have about our loved ones, and things which often go unsaid, for various reasons, or are unexpected. Our inner dialogue is our own worst enemy – when do we ever sit back and NOT question ourselves or others? Maybe Christmas is a time to put on our own life jackets, and to give ourselves a break without questioning. A time to spend quality time recharging and just being. A time to think about being kind and respectful to ourselves, for once. I really hope that whatever your Christmas entails, it brings you peace, happiness and comfort. Professionally, the last week of term for me has been a joy and a great source of pride, celebrating students' achievements at their assemblies, our annual Celebration Evening in Leeds, and at our amazing Christmas concert.

So, with 2023 coming to a close, old chapters end and new ones begin. I am sure you will join me in thanking staff who are leaving this week for all their hard work and care of our students over the years. Chris Rowbottom, Deputy Headteacher, leaves us officially on Friday to take up the role of Principal at Bradford Academy in January, where he has been seconded more recently. Chris will be missed by many, and we wish him every success in his new post. Following an external recruitment process, I am delighted to confirm that Stephen Clarkson was successful in being appointed as permanent Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes, after acting in this role in the interim. Waqas Khan leaves his teaching position in Computing after many years to work in a promoted role in a Bradford school, and will be replaced by Sarah Beresford in the New Year. Kelly Wells, Year Manager, left us last week, with Gemma Parker taking over Year 11, and David Gracey will start with Year 9 in place of Serenity Stewart who starts her maternity leave. Jennifer Yeomans, teacher of Science, also leaves us, with Kelsey Byles joining us in her place. In Humanities, Nikki Edney has recently given birth to a gorgeous baby girl and her Faculty Leader position will be covered by Paul Low, with Gemma Thomas stepping up to Area Leader of History and Lizzie Gordon joining us as a Geography teacher. We also say goodbye to Joanna Kieliszczyk in Design and Technology and welcome Kelly Jenkins in January, along with Jenni Mills who joins us as our new Law teacher, alongside new Teaching Assistants Klare Jackson, Sharon Van der Burg and Frances Griffin. Welcome to all our new colleagues – we look forward to you flourishing in your role and enjoying your time with us.

With our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Look after yourselves and see you in 2024.

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. I have very much enjoyed hosting this week's end of term rewards assemblies for Years 7, 8 and 9. Many students have received awards 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 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 in any other way.

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.

Finally, from January, we welcome Mr Gracey as Year Manager for Year 9, and wish Mrs Stewart well as she begins her maternity leave.

Mr S Day
Key Stage 3 Director

SEND newsletter

Please see [this link](#) for the latest edition of our SEND newsletter. Although particularly relevant for parents/carers of students with SEND, the article on student mental health may be of interest to all.

Mrs R Hunter
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

Year 7 home learning

As part of our phased approach to home learning, from January Year 7 students will receive home learning in Computing, History, Geography and Music (in addition to English, Maths, Science, MFL). Teachers will explain when home learning will be set for students to record on their home learning timetable. All tasks will be set on Arbor, but students may be asked to complete the work in books or using other apps.

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 indicating Attitude to Learning, predicted grades and Minimum Estimated Attainment (MEA) grades. Our predictions at this stage are very positive, with the vast majority of students showing excellent progress. It is pleasing to see that so many students are on track to achieve their MEA grades.

We look forward to meeting with **Year 11** parents/carers at Year 11 Progress Evening on 25th January. This will be an invaluable opportunity to receive feedback on progress, discuss the recent trial exams and look ahead to the summer exam series. Progress Report 2 will be sent home shortly before this and will contain up to date predictions as well as mock examination results

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.

Finally, I would also like to welcome the new Year Manager for Year 11, Mrs Parker, to the team.

Mr S Knight
Key Stage 4 Director

Fundraising news

This year, our students have chosen to support local charity Hug On a Tray (which supports Haematology patients and families at St James's Hospital, Leeds) and Parkinson's UK as the beneficiaries of our fundraising efforts for the year.



PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

They have made a great start, with the Christmas 'candy cane delivery service' raising over £250. Look out for details of other fundraising activities next term.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Year 13 next steps

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 31st January 2024. Applications need to be sent in by 12th 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 from late January, introducing students to employers and supporting them in their preparation. A number of students have already expressed interest, but there is still space for others who wish to join. Please encourage your child to contact Mrs Robinson-Junni, if interested.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

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 during the school day for all students who have applied, with provisional offers of places made by the end of next term.

If you have already applied and changed your mind about your chosen courses, don't worry - this can be discussed at interview.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning



Year 9 Options

Students in Year 9 have now started to receive a range of information to help them make decisions about how they wish to personalise their curriculum from Year 10. Yesterday, all students received a detailed 'Options booklet' following Monday's launch assembly. This booklet outlines the process, key dates and options available. On Thursday 11th January 2024 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 (second week after the Christmas holidays), 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 9th February 2024 (the last day of next half term).

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)



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.

Attendance: Every day counts



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school. We want to work with parents/carers to ensure that every child's attendance is as high as possible as there is a clear link between attendance, progress and wellbeing.

The NHS has produced clear guidelines to be used by schools and parents/carers which state when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. We will be referring to this guidance to determine if we are able to record absences as authorised or unauthorised. You can find this information using [this link](#), which can also be accessed on the Attendance page of our school website. We hope you find this information useful.

If you do feel that your child is too unwell for school, it is vital that you contact us to let us know that your child will not be in and provide the reason. We ask that you do this before 8.30am on the day of absence.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support



Prince Henry's Catering

Over the past year our Catering Team have continued to offer a varied, healthy menu using quality products at a time of significant cost increases. Although it will be necessary to revise some menu prices from January, we have worked hard to limit these.

The cost of a main meal will increase by 10p to £2.40, whilst the 'meal deal' offer will continue to provide maximum value at the slightly higher price of £2.90 per day (main meal *or* panini plus dessert *or* small drink *or* soup). Please remind your child that, in order to benefit from the meal deal, they must purchase both items at the same time. For full details of prices from January 2024, please visit our website [here](#).

A reminder, too, that you can set up an alert on Scopay to tell you when your child's lunch balance is running low. To do this, select the 'Alerts' option from the main menu.



Arbor

PD on Arbor

As you know, we have now started the process of moving the administration of the school's Positive Discipline system across to Arbor (please see Miss Bishop's recent update [letter](#) for more details). Further updates will be provided throughout the rest of this year.

Over 92% of our parents/carers have used Arbor and the move to electronic recording allows parents/carers to see information in 'real time'. We encourage you to check Arbor frequently to help support your child with their home learning and organisation, to view attendance and progress data and, moving forward, to see information regarding your child's behaviour.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes



Sustainability news

Thanks to the work of our Active Travel Ambassadors, Prince Henry's was recently named *Leeds City Council Secondary School of the Year* at the Modeshift STARS Regional Awards. This accolade recognises our students' work in promoting active and sustainable travel through their [Feet First](#) campaign, as well as their efforts to engage other students. This has included launching their own form group videomaking competition which was won by students in 7 Knight.

Students from our Eco-committee recently met with staff from York University's 'Fix Our Food' campaign. They have also been busy delivering assemblies in school. Plans for next term include running sustainability workshops for local primary schools.

The past couple of weeks have also seen completion of the next phase of our biodiversity enhancement works which form part of the 3G Pitch construction project. This has included planting more than 400 trees and shrubs across the site.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

Food bank

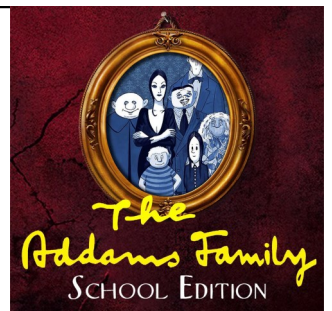
Sixth Form ASDAN students have again organised a collection for Otley Food Bank, with a huge number of items being donated to support families who may struggle over the Christmas period. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Save the date!

31 Jan - 2 Feb 2024 at 7pm

Tickets on sale Monday 8th January 2024 for this year's musical production.

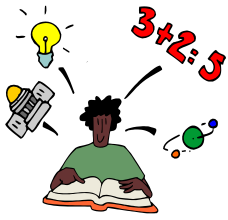
Look out for further details in the first week of term.



Travelling to/from school

- ◆ For students travelling by bus - Please remind your child of the need for appropriate behaviour at the bus stop as well as on the bus.
- ◆ For students travelling by car - Please do not drop off/pick up your child in the school grounds, on the approach road from Newall Carr Road or on Prince Henry's Court. It is also dangerous, and illegal, to stop on the zig zag area by the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Farnley Lane entrance. We encourage you to make use of the 'Feet First' [drop-off points](#), wherever possible.

Further information on expectations and sanctions can be found on page 36 of the Student Planner.



What is my child learning?

We continually update the curriculum pages of our school website with an overview of what your child has been / will be learning in each subject. Click [here](#) and scroll down to find links to all our subject pages.

Well done to all students for the fantastic effort they have put into their lessons this half term!

Mr S Jackson
Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education

Parent Governor Election – Prince Henry’s Local Governing Committee

Please look out for your opportunity to vote in the upcoming Parental Ballot for the vacancy of Parent Governor. This week, ballot papers will be passed to your child/children to bring home to you. Instructions will be included in terms of completion and return.

Forthcoming dates

Holidays

Close
22 Dec 2023
09 Feb 2024

Re-open
8 Jan 2024
19 Feb 2024

Events

21 Dec 2023	Annual Celebration Evening
22 Dec 2023	Early closure (12.25pm)
11 Jan 2024	Year 9 Options Evening
15 Jan 2024	Year 9 Exams start
17 Jan 2024	Sixth Form Tours Afternoon
25 Jan 2024	PSHE/Citizenship Day 2
25 Jan 2024	Year 11 Progress Evening (<i>in school</i>)
31 Jan 2024	School Musical Production -
- 02 Feb 2024	The Addams Family
06 Feb 2024	Year 9 Progress Evening (<i>online</i>)
07 Feb 2024	SLT Open Access Evening
07 Feb 2024	Parent and Carer Consultation Eve
07 Feb 2024	Design & Technology Exhibition
08 Feb 2024	NSPCC Online Safety Workshop
08 Feb 2024	Year 12 HE Information Evening (Early deadline applicants)
09 Feb 2024	Year 9 Options Choices Deadline

Please note that our **Term Dates for 2024-2025** can be found on our school website [here](#).

Recent year group assemblies have focussed on the power that we each have to make other people’s lives better - or worse - with the words that we choose to use. As part of this, students have been encouraged to reflect on how what they say can make other people feel. They have also been urged to use their voice in a positive way, both to be kind to others and to ‘speak up’ if they, or someone they know, is being bullied, or is the victim of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, disability discrimination or any other form of prejudicial behaviour



Last half term we invited you to contribute to a survey on anti-bullying and discrimination as part of our work with the charity Diversity Role Models. To build on this, we will be holding a Parent and Carer Consultation Evening on Wednesday 7th February 2024 with a specific focus on creating a respectful culture. As well as giving you the chance to find out more about our work in this area, we will be seeking your views on what more we can do to ensure that Prince Henry’s is a place where differences are celebrated and where everyone really can be “Free2Bme”. Look out for an email next month with details of how to register.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community



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