



# Newsletter

October 2023

"Time is not measured by the passing of years, but by what one does, what one feels and what one achieves". An apt quote as we hurtle towards the clocks going back this coming weekend, plunging us into winter daylight hours, and one which particularly struck me as we have almost completed the first half term of our new academic year. This half term has certainly brought feelings of joy, firstly celebrating the amazing results which our Year 11 and 13 students achieved in their GCSE and A Level exams, collected during the summer holidays. It is always a highlight to open our doors in August to nervous faces at first, which, in most cases, then turn to beaming smiles and jubilation as they leave. The fact that many Year 11s return to our Sixth Form, as Year 13 start new and exciting adventures as adults, always gives an immense feeling of pride and satisfaction. Well done, classes of 2023 - do keep in touch so we can hear about your future journey and success.

In September, we welcomed our new Year 7 and 12 cohorts embarking on their new ventures into a large secondary school, or the Sixth Form. It has been wonderful to watch our students grow in confidence and begin to shine in so many ways. We are excited about what they can achieve in the future and look forward to sharing that with them. Similarly, we have welcomed new staff to our team here at Prince Henry's and are delighted to introduce Mr Michael Howard and Miss Sophie Lee to our English and Maths faculties respectively, Mrs Nicola Walsh as our second Student Wellbeing Officer, Mrs Helen Doyle as Sixth Form Study Support Assistant, Mrs Ivola Dombay as Learning Mentor, Ms Alice Winter as a TA, Ms Poppy Howell as Office Administrator and Mr Cameron Hinchcliffe as Sports Lettings Supervisor looking after the newly opened 3G pitch. We also look forward to welcoming back Mrs Cheryl Marshall returning to the Art faculty from maternity leave. We hope you all have a fulfilling, long and happy time with us.

Alongside joy, unfortunately I regret to inform you that there have also been feelings of great sorrow as time has been tragically cut short for one of our own, as we mourn the passing of Polite Moyo, who left our Sixth Form in the summer and who was sadly taken in a car accident in September. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they lay him to rest on Friday, and also with fellow former student Ahmed Elwan and his family as he receives medical care; we send our love and best wishes for his speedy recovery and the journey ahead.

We have now launched our full vision and values, which are displayed prominently around school as a reminder to staff and students about what we stand for. You may remember us gathering views to consult on this, the result of which is brought to life through the following:

*"Prince Henry's will become internationally recognised as an exceptional school with a culture of **respect**, where we can all **flourish and achieve**".*

Having introduced these in assemblies, we are embedding these values in our everyday language and actions and hope that we continue to thrive living by them. With a new term comes new opportunities, and if your child has not already signed up for one of our extra-curricular activities, we would appreciate your encouragement. We want all our students to flourish and develop their confidence and independence and take up new opportunities for their benefit.

As ever, thank you so much for taking the time to support and challenge us in our journey to becoming truly exceptional. Don't forget to turn the clocks back this weekend, but for now, have a wonderful half-term holiday.

Sally Bishop  
Headteacher



## Key Stage 3 news

We have been delighted to see how well Key Stage 3 students have settled into the new school year and embraced the new challenges, routines and huge range of extra-curricular opportunities available.

Our new **Year 7** students have made a positive first impression and a great start, whilst a high number of Year 7 parents/carers came to our KS3 Information Event last month (if you were unable to attend, please see our website [here](#) for a copy of the materials). Year 7 parents/carers are also taking part in this week's online Parent/Tutor Afternoons to discuss how well students have settled into life at Prince Henry's.

It has been pleasing to see the high number of students already achieving their Bronze certificate for receiving 250 stamps. Students in **Year 8** and **Year 9** have also been making good use of the Bedrock app during form time to support their literacy.

The first Progress Report for all year groups will be shared with you next month. If you have any questions about this, please do contact me, or the relevant Year Manager.

Mr S Day  
Key Stage 3 Director

## New SEND newsletter

We are delighted to share [this link](#) to our brand new SEND newsletter. We have new faces in the team, and lots of information to share with you, and will publish these newsletters throughout the year with useful updates.

The newsletter is particularly relevant for parents/carers of students with SEND, but the articles on cognitive load and ADHD may be a useful read for all. We have included staff photos, as well, so you can put a face to a name that your child may have mentioned!

Mrs R Hunter  
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator



**Did you know** that you can set up an alert on Scopay to tell you when your child's lunch card balance is running low? Select the 'Alerts' option from the menu.

## Key Stage 4 news

Key Stage 4 students have made an extremely positive start this year, and I am delighted with the attitude and engagement of the vast majority of students. We are all now focused on working hard to prepare students for success in their examination courses.

**Year 10** parents/carers will receive the first Year 10 Progress Report in early December, indicating how well your child has settled into their GCSE studies. Important GCSE information, including exam boards, revision techniques and strategies, can be found on the KS4 section of our school website [here](#). A detailed overview of how GCSEs work, helpful advice for parents/carers and key information from GCSE English, Maths, Science and MFL can all be found in the [presentation](#) from last months' Year 10 GCSE Information Evening.

**Year 11** parents and carers will receive the first Progress Report next month, highlighting teachers' GCSE predictions based on current performance. Important GCSE information including exam boards, revision techniques and the current timetable of revision and catch-up sessions can be found on the Key Stage 4 section of the school website [here](#).

For your advance planning, please note that the Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for Parents/Carers will take place in school on 16th November at 7.00pm. I will email all Year 11 parents/carers with further details shortly.

Mr S Knight  
Key Stage 4 Director

## Forthcoming dates

### School closure

Close	Re-open
27 Oct 2023	06 Nov 2023
22 Dec 2023	08 Jan 2024

### Other Dates

07 Nov 2023	Year 12 GCSE re-sit exams start
09 Nov 2023	Sixth Form Open Evening
14 Nov 2023	Performing Arts Showcase
16 Nov 2023	Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for Parents/Carers
22 Nov 2023	PSHE / Citizenship Day 1
23 Nov 2023	Year 13 Progress Eve (in school)
23 Nov 2023	SLT Open Access Evening
04 Dec 2023	Year 11 Trial Exams start
13 Dec 2023	Year 12 Progress Eve (online)
19 Dec 2023	Christmas Concert
21 Dec 2023	Annual Celebration Evening
22 Dec 2023	Early close to students (12.25pm)

## Year 12 opportunities

Year 12 students have made a great start to Sixth Form, with many taking up the opportunity to volunteer in a variety of capacities in school.

The Academic Pathways group (for students looking to apply for Oxford, Cambridge or the medical pathways) will be starting next half term. All students will be involved in activities on November's PSHE day starting to look at Higher Education and planning for next steps.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning



## School uniform

As we move into the colder months, a reminder that 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. Please remember that casual 'hoodies' are not allowed anywhere on site at any time.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)



## Online safety

If you missed our recent online safety evening, visit our school website [here](#) for a range of strategies for parents/carers to employ to help to keep their children safe online.

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)

## Student Planner

We are aware that, despite it being early in the year, some Student Planners are missing pages. We have raised this issue with the Planner company. For now, please encourage your child to take care of their Planner and to speak to their form tutor if they have lost, or are about to lose, pages. Over the next year, we are hoping to move away from a paper-based planner and make greater use of Arbor. This will not only be more sustainable, but will also help us avoid this issue! More details will follow later in the year.

## Year 13 UCAS applications / career planning

Many Year 13 students have made a good start to their university and apprenticeship applications, following our 'futures' focus in PSHE lessons this half term, and some have received university offers already. The internal deadline for Year 13 students to complete UCAS applications is 13th November 2023. This will allow time for applications to be processed before Christmas, giving students the best chance of gaining offers for their chosen courses.

For students who are unsure about their next steps, there is a range of information on the UCAS Hub, about both university and apprenticeship opportunities.

Please encourage your child to make use of the regular student bulletin which we distribute, sharing information about careers webinars, events and opportunities to support them in making careers decisions. Please remind them, too, that our Careers Advisor is available to support students with one-to-one interviews.

Mrs C Willis

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

## SIXTH FORM Prince Henry's Grammar School

### Sixth Form Open Evening

All Year 11 students, parents and carers should now have received an invitation to our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Thursday 9th November 2023**. This will be a great opportunity to find out more about the A level and BTEC subjects on offer at Prince Henry's and to gain an insight into Sixth Form life from some of our students.

It has been great to see so much interest already, but if you have not already indicated which subjects you would be interested in visiting on the evening, the online form can be found [here](#).

Most Year 11 students will also have the opportunity to take part in A Level taster lessons on the next PSHE Day (22nd November 2023). The application form for Sixth Form will be live on our website after Open Evening.

This term, we have been working with the charity Diversity Role Models as part of our

**#Free2Bme**  
**@phgs**

work to prevent and, where necessary, tackle bullying and discrimination. This included a training session for staff informed by the results of surveys completed by over 950 students, staff, parents/carers and governors. Thank you if you contributed to this - be assured that all comments are valued and taken seriously. Look out for details in the next Newsletter of a face-to-face consultation event on this topic. In the meantime, please reinforce with your child the importance of not 'being a bystander' and urge them to 'speak up' if they experience, or witness, any form of bullying or prejudice-based behaviour.

We have recently re-launched our Student Equality & Diversity Group to all students in Years 7-13. If your child is interested in supporting this work, please do encourage them to get involved (Thursdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in the Library).

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Community

## Student behaviour

We continue to seek ways to praise those students who are 'getting it right' - those who turn up to school regularly, strive to meet our expectations and contribute positively in lessons. Many parents/carers should receive an end of half term praise message in the next few days. This is a boost to acknowledge those students who are rarely in trouble - which, thankfully, is the vast majority!

In fact, at the time of writing, just 5% of our students have received more than one after-school detention this year. When you consider all the interactions with other students and staff across 25 different lessons, breaktimes, lunchtimes and movement to/from lessons, the fact this figure is so low is testament to how well students understand the part they play in making our school a happy, respectful, safe place where we can all flourish. Well done, students!

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Leadership for Learning (Acting)

## External exams: additional needs

Each year during the exam season, we receive requests from students and/or parents/carers for additional support in exams. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to meet these requests.

The exam regulations specify that a candidate may only receive additional support where there is an established difficulty and, given that support has been in place to reduce its impact **prior** to the main exam season, it is the student's 'normal way of working'. Evidence must be submitted to the exam boards in February of the exam year. The earlier we can start collating this evidence, the better. If you feel that your child is likely to need additional support during their exams and this has not already been established, please contact me to discuss.

Mrs R Hunter

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator



## Sustainability news

Congratulations to members of our student Eco-committee who have secured the Eco Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction.

We would appreciate your support for our sustainability efforts by:

- ◆ avoiding driving your child to/from school. If this is unavoidable, consider using the 'Feet First' drop-off [arrangements](#).
- ◆ donating unwanted uniform/PE kit items to our school uniform recycling bank.
- ◆ 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

## Inside Stories

Last term we launched our 'Inside Stories' webpage [here](#) to share with you our reflections on different aspects of life in school. The first article was a response to the parental survey on behaviour at Prince Henry's. This week's post considers the importance of school values and explains the process which led to the launch of our new 'Vision and Values' statement and graphic (see introduction to this Newsletter).

## Attendance and punctuality

### Why are attendance and punctuality so important?

Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Prince Henry's Grammar School seeks to ensure that every student receives a full-time education which maximises opportunities for each student to realise their true potential, both socially and academically. Over a period of five school years, a student with 90% attendance will have missed half of a whole year of schooling. Similarly, students with poor punctuality miss valuable lesson time and, if it happens regularly, progress will be jeopardised.

**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**  
IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR  
97% = 6 attendance days off  
= 30 hours of learning lost

Prince Henry's Grammar School

The graphic features a blue background with a white calendar icon showing several days marked with red 'X's. The text is in white and yellow, with the school logo at the bottom left.

### Definitions of attendance

Outstanding	98 - 100%
Good (no more than 5 days off per year)	97- 97.9%
Cause for concern	95- 96.9%
Cause for serious concern	< 94.9%
Persistent Absentee – possible legal action	< 90%

We expect outstanding attendance for all. However, we do recognise that there are times when students will be absent from school. As a school, we work relentlessly to support students and families.

If you child is not well enough to come to school, please do one of the following:

- ◆ call the Absence Line (01943 855682)
- ◆ email us at [info@princehenrys.co.uk](mailto:info@princehenrys.co.uk)
- ◆ use the unique text number assigned to you by Arbor

Contact with school should be made before 8.30am on the first day of absence. Please inform us of your child's name, year group, the reason for absence and when you would expect them to return to school.

Medical appointments should be made for after school, wherever possible. We may ask to see evidence of medical appointments where these are taken during school time.

Please visit our 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



**COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST**

Working Together to Secure Success

### Collaborative Learning Trust news

There have been further Trust developments since we last updated parents/carers. As well as Trinity All Saints Church of England Primary School (Bingley) and Ashfield Primary School (Otley) joining the Trust (in July and September respectively) we have expanded our Central Team to include a SEND specialist, to help develop provision for all our SEND pupils across the Trust.

Our governor networks have expanded with termly SEND, Safeguarding and Chair of Governors' meetings, to support and develop a collaborative culture across our schools. Staff networks have also grown, with the addition of more Subject Networks for teaching staff and some Associate Staff networks (such as Office Manager and HR Teams).

To keep everyone across the Trust up to date, we have also refreshed our [website](#). This is a good place to look to find out more about how the Trust is supporting your school.

We are looking forward to connecting with Heads and Governors of other local schools at our Trust Information Event in November. This is where schools can connect with us and find out about the benefits of collaborative work in a multi-academy trust. If you know anyone who might like to attend, please direct them to our website for further details.

Janet Sheriff OBE

CEO, Collaborative Learning Trust



## Who to contact at Prince Henry's

To contact your child's Year Manager, call 01943 463524 and enter the appropriate extension number (see below). For enquiries relating to Special Educational Needs, contact our SENCO, Mrs R Hunter.

For matters relating to specific subjects, email [info@princehenrys.co.uk](mailto:info@princehenrys.co.uk) or call school and leave a message for the appropriate subject teacher or Faculty / Area Leader.

PASTORAL TEAM	Key Stage Director	Assistant Key Stage Director	Year Manager		
			Year	Manager	Ext.
Key Stage 3	Mr Day	Mr Weston	Year 7	Mrs McQuire	Ext. 224
			Year 8	Miss Crosby	Ext. 262
			Year 9	Mrs Stewart	Ext. 237
Key Stage 4	Mr Knight	Mr Walsh	Year 10	Mrs Wood	Ext. 235
			Year 11	Mrs Wells	Ext. 295
Key Stage 5	Mr Faulkner (Y12) Mrs Willis (Y13)	Miss Rosillo	Year 12/13	Mrs Robinson-Junni	Ext. 220

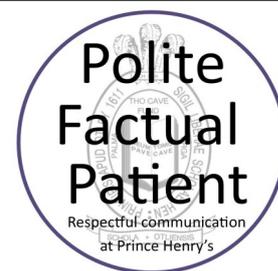
### CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

Art	Mr S Green	Law / Psychology / Sociology	Mr M Faulkner
Business Studies / Economics	Mr M Faulkner	Mathematics	Mrs L Wray
Design Technology and Innovation	Mrs A Blakeley	Media Studies	Mr S Hunt
Drama	Mr P Condry	Modern Foreign Languages	Mrs J Barber
English	Mr C Smith	Music	Mr P Condry
Ethics, Philosophy and Religion	Mrs N Edney	Photography	Mr S Green
Geography	Mrs N Edney	Physical Education	Mr D Curtis
Health and Social Care	Mr S Hunt	Politics	Mrs N Edney
History	Mrs N Edney	Science	Mrs S Richards
ICT / Computing	Mr S Hunt		

### Communication protocols

Please be aware that all members of staff have a range of responsibilities, teaching commitments and pre-scheduled events (such as 'child in need' meetings) which can not be moved. Whilst staff endeavour to respond to queries promptly, please do not expect an instant response. Some queries require significant investigation which can involve speaking to many students, or different members of staff, which takes time.

Members of staff will always seek to deal with a situation and support students in school first, with a response to parents/carers at an appropriate point, when time allows. This particularly applies to Year Managers, who each support the pastoral needs of over 250 students. Please show patience and remember to follow the respectful communication protocols which we ask all adults to follow as we work together in the best interests of our young people.



Prince Henry's Grammar School  
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



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