



Prince Henry's Grammar School
COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



Newsletter

March 2024

With many schools already on their Easter holiday and enjoying the increase in time and relaxation afforded to them, our students will be looking forward to the same tomorrow. With GCSE and A Level exams looming the other side of the Easter break, however, spare a thought for our Year 11 and 13 students who are busy finalising timetables for revision over and beyond the holiday. It is such a daunting task as they enter the final countdown, and I vividly remember just how stressful I found it many, many years ago! Some students seem to take it in their stride, whilst others find it almost impossible to see the wood for the trees. To those students, you are not alone. Please remember "Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence" (Vince Lombardi). I cannot remember the amount of times I have been counselled with "You can only do your best". Whilst this is true, I prefer the adage from Winston Churchill: "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts". If we take our own advice through our values, we will achieve through ambition and resilience. Whatever analogies chime with you or your children (young adults), I know you will support them all the way. Please be assured that we will be doing just that at school as well, and in the final weeks that all-embracing team work and support are hugely beneficial. Keep communicating with us if there is anything more we can do to help, and we will do the same. Above all, make sure you and your family enjoy some relaxation amongst the hard work. All work and no play...!

As I frequently say, one of the best parts of this job is seeing students flourish in school, whether in or out of the classroom, and I am deeply grateful to colleagues who provide so many opportunities to enrich their experience. Sometimes, as a society as well as a school, we lose sight of the many positives and have a tendency to dwell on the negatives. This term has been no exception as we have rolled out electronic recording of 'stamps' and 'incidents' on Arbor. Any change to a system doesn't come without challenges, and we are listening to your feedback and adapting as necessary to ensure that communication is both useful and timely. We are also constantly consulting with staff and students as to their views on the data we are now able to collect and, more importantly, act upon at the touch of a button. For further details please see Mr Clarkson's article (page 4), which pulls out just some of the very pleasing headline figures demonstrating that, on average, 95% of our students receive no Red incidents (those relating to learning) on a daily basis. Students have commented that receiving Yellow incidents does act as a deterrent and we have seen an initial figure of around 17% of our students receiving any incidents reduce to 12% over time.

So, signing off from yet another busy term which has seen alumnus Danny Care officially open our 3G pitch and talk to students in school, an 'old boy' from 1957 who remembers a very different PHGS but still has his name on the Scholarship board and visited the school recently to impart his tales, alongside visitors from near and far - it really does remind us how central to the community we are, both past and present. That's truly what makes Prince Henry's such a special place. As an illustration of perspective, we are fondly looked back on as 'some of the best days of my life' as told by many. Try telling many of our current students that!

With grateful thanks for your part in making our school such a positive, warm and special place. Enjoy Easter and the long-awaited Spring (and Summer), when it finally arrives.

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

Students and tutors have been able to make use of the new Arbor behaviour recording system to monitor stamps and sanctions. This has enabled form time to be used for reflection and encouragement. All year groups have also reviewed their most recent Progress Report with the support of their form tutor and have been challenged to set action targets based on their latest report and aspirations. We will review targets with all 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 20th May and 7th June 2024. We will introduce a host of revision skills to assist them with these. Please encourage your child to prepare fully for these important assessments.

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 concerns, please contact their Year Manager in the first instance.

Mr S Day
Key Stage 3 Director

Key Stage 4 news

It will be a busy final term for Key Stage 4 students as both Year 10 and Year 11 students prepare for the upcoming examination series. We will be working hard to support all our students, and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Year 10

The [timetable](#) for the forthcoming Year 10 Exams (Tuesday 30th April - Wednesday 8th May) was emailed to parents/carers a fortnight ago. 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.

Year 11

This week, parents/carers will receive the latest Year 11 Progress Report highlighting teachers' GCSE predictions based on current performance. This follows on from last Friday's Predicted Results Ceremony, which provided a useful milestone as students compared their predictions to the entry grades they need for their next steps. The KS4 section of the website now contains a [subject by subject guide](#) to what students need to revise for the upcoming GCSEs. This should also be a useful resource for parents/carers.

Mr S Knight
Key Stage 4 Director

Fundraising news and non-uniform day



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

A reminder that we are holding a non-uniform day tomorrow (Thursday) for all students in Years 7-13, with proceeds going to our students' chosen charities for this year: Hug On a Tray and Parkinson's UK. We are recommending a contribution of £2.00, which can be made using the online payment system or through a cash donation on the day. For full details and important reminders, please see last week's [letter](#).

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Staff v Student Quiz or this week's Easter Egg tombola, both organised by our Senior Students. Along with Year 7 form group fundraising activities, these have helped to bring the total raised in recent months to over £1,100. Let's see if we can triple that figure by the end of tomorrow!

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Sixth Form news

Following the success of their final fundraising activities, our outgoing Senior Students are now planning the final details for their Prom (26th June 2024) and Year Book. We will be looking for applicants for the new Senior Student team during the summer term to lead fundraising and student voice activities across the school. The contribution of our current team has been brilliant and we hope to recruit an equally strong team for next year.

Many Year 12 students are working through their final enrichment modules of the year, doing everything from British Sign Language to Wellbeing Walks. Once these modules have been completed, students will be able to use the extra time for exam preparation and Higher Education/Careers preparation.

Mrs C Willis
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning



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 to ensure they have the best chance of success. In addition, Ofqual has published this [Student Guide](#) for students sitting public exams this summer.

From Tuesday 7th May (when GCSE exams begin), all **Year 11** students will follow an adapted timetable. This will see students attend regular timetabled lessons or subject 'Master Classes' whenever they are not sitting a GCSE exam. These compulsory Master Classes will have been carefully planned by subject staff to offer students vital 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 time. Year 11 students' final day at school is Thursday 23rd May; their Revision Leave will begin on Friday 24th May.

Year 13 students will continue to attend lessons until Friday 17th 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.

Mr A Fishburn

Assistant Headteacher: Learning Facilitator (Acting)

Attendance Matters

We are keen to work with parents/carers to ensure that all students have the very best attendance. Please see below and do not hesitate to contact our Attendance Officer (Mrs Waite) if we can offer any support.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Learner Support

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



1. Parents should report any absence to the school via the absence line on **01943 855682 before 8.30am**. Parents should provide the child's full name, form/year and reason for absence.
2. Parents should contact the school for **each day** a child will not be attending school.
3. If the school are not notified of the absence, parents will be contacted through our **absence text** messaging service **by 9.45am**. This will be followed up with a phone call to request the reason for absence.
4. **Students must be onsite by 8.25am**, all gates are locked at 8.27am. Any student arriving after this will be marked as late.
5. Students arriving after 9.00am they will be marked as a U code, which is **unauthorised absence** and this will mean that they can only get 50% attendance for that day.
6. We will **request medical evidence** if a child's absence is **5 or more consecutive days**.
7. We will request a **specialist letter** when there is an absence of more than **2 weeks**.
8. Term time leave will only be granted by the headteacher in **exceptional circumstances**.
9. Where possible **all appointments should be made outside of the school day**.
10. We will conduct home visits if your child is absent from school.

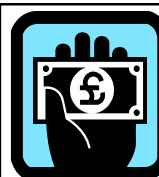
Sixth Form applications

Year 11 students have recently received letters confirming their Sixth Form options and giving instructions on 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



Catering reminder

Please use the online payment system to top up your child's lunch card before the start of the new term, if possible. This will reduce queues at the re-valuation machine.

Recent year group assemblies have focussed on why **respect** is key to the foundations needed to build a culture where everyone can flourish and achieve. Students were asked to consider the impact on others of what they choose to say and do. They 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.

#Free2Bme
@phgs

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Positive Discipline (PD) update

It has been six weeks since we moved to recording all comments (or 'incidents') on Arbor. As expected, this adjustment has taken some time for all parties to get used to. Students have responded really positively to the tiered element of negative comments, which was introduced following feedback gathered last year. We have also received positive feedback from the Student Council on how the changes have impacted students. Recording centrally in Arbor enhances our ability to understand what issues are impacting lessons and how students are performing. For example, the data highlights that on a daily basis over 95% of our students in KS3/4 achieve ZERO Red incidents (given for impacting the learning environment). This is a really positive figure and further emphasises how the huge majority of our students want to learn and achieve, and that they know that the best way to do this is to work respectfully with their teachers.

Following further feedback, we are now making a number of small adjustments to the system from the start of next term. These include:

- ◆ Failure to complete home learning will now be recorded as a Red incident. This gives the class teacher greater control over the management of home learning and helps to support and encourage students in their subject to complete it without causing a disturbance to their own learning.
- ◆ The threshold for an after-school detention will be increased to six Yellow incidents in a half term.

We will monitor how these changes impact student behaviour next term. There may be further tweaks as we look to a full start-of-year launch in September. Please remind your child that, as ever, after Easter they will have a 'clean slate' in terms of negative incidents, so it is up to them to make the most of it!

It is also worth highlighting a few other general points related to PD in Arbor.

- ◆ We appreciate how differently the word 'incident' may be interpreted compared to the older term of 'comment'. This is the term which Arbor uses and we are unable to change this.
- ◆ Parents/carers will be notified whenever a child receives a Red incident and whenever a child receives a sixth Yellow incident (from the start of next term). Please note that following a sixth Yellow incident, the system will escalate the sixth incident and assign a detention to it. This may look like it has been added twice - this is not the case and is not an error by the member of staff inputting the incident.
- ◆ Understandably, more students accrue a fifth/sixth Yellow incident or third Red incident in one subject towards the end of a term. This means that detentions are always busier immediately following a school holiday. As a result, we have now re-arranged some scheduled detention dates to achieve a better balance in terms of the numbers attending on each day. If you have received notification of a detention, this may mean it is now scheduled on a different day (in the first two weeks of next term) to the date originally notified. The easiest way to confirm when a detention is scheduled to take place is via the Arbor calendar, which shows after-school detentions in orange. Given the two-week Easter holiday, at the start of next term we will send a reminder email to the parents/carers of all students who have a scheduled detention within the first fortnight of the new term.
- ◆ We no longer require parents/carers to sign the Student Planner on a weekly basis. However, students should still bring their planner to school each day for the rest of this academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we seek to ensure that our learning community is one where all students can flourish and achieve in a respectful environment.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes



COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Working Together to Secure Success

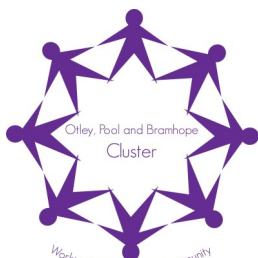
Collaborative Learning Trust news

On 14th March, we held our latest Collaborative Learning Trust twilight training session for school staff - 'Reflecting through a SEND lens'. The event was a huge success, with over 100 staff from across the Trust attending. Feedback was extremely positive, especially regarding the direct impact this important training will have on pupils across all our schools - primary and secondary.

The session explored what it is like to be a pupil with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and the impact of educational approaches and expectations. The training was led by Angela Smith, who is Director of SEND for the Trust as well as founder of YCPD-Strategic SEND Leadership. Angela was joined by a guest speaker – a young person who has recent experience of education as a SEND pupil. Together, they facilitated thoughtful discussion, and staff left with practical next steps to use the very next day in their classrooms.

One quote from a member of staff captures the success of the session: "Very inspiring training. Angela's passion shines through. The guest speaker was fabulous...she gave a great insight into SEND."

Janet Sheriff OBE
CEO, Collaborative Learning Trust



Easter holiday activities

The Otley, Pool and Bramhope Cluster has arranged for InGear Coaching 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](#).

Forthcoming dates

Holidays

Close	Re-open
Thu 28 March 2024	15 Apr 2024
3 May 2024	07 May 2024 (<i>May bank holiday</i>)
24 May 2024	03 Jun 2024

Events

28 Mar 2024	PHGS Bands' Night
28 Mar 2024	Non-uniform Day
18 Apr 2024	NSPCC Online Safety Evening
23 Apr 2024	Senior Concert
30 Apr 2024	Year 10 exams begin
07 May 2024	GCSE/GCE exams begin
13 May 2024	Y9 DTP, Men ACWY Vaccinations
17 May 2024	Year 13 Revision Leave begins
20 May 2024	Year 7 and 8 exams begin
24 May 2024	Year 11 Revision Leave begins



Sustainability news

This week has seen the installation of additional solar panels across the site, maximising the proportion of energy produced from renewable sources.

Our brand-new PE fitness area / teaching space is nearing completion, featuring a 'living roof'. A similar roofing installation will be added to the Science block corridor in coming weeks.

Our Active Travel Ambassadors are continuing to fly the flag for sustainable travel, last week securing an additional £400 to support the roll out of their 'Feet First' campaign after pitching their ideas at the Modeshift Stars ATA Campaign Junction event. Thank you to those parents/carers who have supported their efforts by avoiding picking up/dropping off students near to the entrances to school. This has helped to reduce congestion as well as improve safety.

Members of our Eco-mmittee have also been recognised by the Regional Youth Climate Assembly by securing the 'Youth Voice and Social Action Award' for their work in this area.

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos



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