



Newsletter

October 2025

It only seems like yesterday that we started back after the summer holidays as the fresh faced and very smart Year 7 students paraded through the door to be welcomed in their first assembly. I have been really impressed with how quickly they have settled in to life at Prince Henry's Grammar School, and particularly with their impressive commitment to extra-curricular activities. I love the colour of the new Year 7 ties – if I were a student, I would want the lilac colour! I look forward to watching how our 'lilac ties' progress through school both in and out of the classroom and develop their own sense of belonging. Similarly, I also extend a very warm welcome to all of our new students in other year groups, but particularly those who have joined us in Year 12. We now have one of our biggest cohorts in Sixth Form ever, following hot on the heels of our record breaking and exceptional GCSE and A Level results in the summer. Of course, alongside the students, a very warm welcome must also go to all our new parents/carers who may be reading this newsletter for the first time. We hold an SLT Open Access Evening every term, the details of which are in the final paragraph below.

Alongside new students, fifteen new staff join us at Team PHGS in a variety of new roles. I hope that our new colleagues will find our school to be a thoroughly positive place to work. Making a difference to the lives of young people is such a privilege and I hope they are happy with us, whatever their role. We welcome Mr Johnson as our new Assistant Headteacher in charge of the Sixth Form, Mrs Fox (Area Leader for Film and Media), Miss Bell (Deputy Faculty Leader for English), Miss Creaton (English), Miss Gardiner (Health and Social Care), Mrs Thackray (Biology), Miss Jennings (PE), Mr Zeta-Skeet (EPR), Mr Ejraee (Computing), Mrs Quinlan (Careers), Mrs Stevens (Parent Support Advisor), Miss Sinclair (HR Officer) and Mr Norbury (Sports Lettings Supervisor). In addition, we have three further members of staff starting after half term; Mrs Wood returns as Year Manager for Year 11 after a brief spell at another school, Mrs Stretch joins our catering team and Ms Cairns joins us in an exciting new role as SEND Intervention Manager. I hope you all have a long, rewarding career with us. We also say a couple of farewells – to Miss Yasmin (English), who has been providing maternity cover, and to our Attendance Administrator Mrs Thompson, who sadly leaves us after 19 years of service. We would like to say a massive thank you and wish her well in her retirement.

Having held our Open Evening recently, once again I have to share with you just how impressive our students are. From presenting on stage to helping out in subject areas, they really did take centre stage. Visitors regularly remark on the myriad of opportunities available and we have already seen an abundance of enrichment activities this half term. Rehearsals for our musical production "Grease" are underway and there is still much to look forward to. If your child takes part in our vast enrichment programme thank you for supporting and encouraging them to do so, but if not, please do encourage them further. It reaps so many benefits in terms of development and is so much a part of our culture and ethos in shaping the leaders of our future.

Before signing out, I would urge you to read the many important messages within this newsletter about the small details which will help us all have another successful year. As mentioned above, I look forward to meeting with you this year and would like to remind you about our termly drop ins which I run in order to facilitate open dialogue and communication – it is always nice to see new faces and hear your feedback. Please do come along to our first SLT Open Access Evening which runs from 4.30pm – 7pm on Thursday 20 November. On this evening, no appointments are necessary for individual meetings with me on a casual basis in my office. If you would rather make an appointment with me to discuss something more specific, please contact my PA Jayne Mills.

Have a great half-term holiday, however you may be spending it. The long nights are drawing in!

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

Students in KS3 have settled really well into the new school year, and the take up for the huge range of opportunities and extra-curricular activities has been impressive.

Students in **Year 7** have made a great start to life at Prince Henry's, displaying independence and maturity. As ever, we are grateful for the level of parental engagement in the first half term. A very high number of Year 7 parents/carers engaged with the in-person KS3 Information Event at the end of September (see [here](#) for the information shared at this evening). Year 7 parents/carers also took part in last week's online Parent-Tutor Afternoons. This was a great opportunity to share how staff, students and parents/carers feel the first half term has gone.

Students in **Year 8 and 9** have also been making excellent use of form time to engage in oracy and literacy projects and it has been pleasing to see so many students receiving credits for the number of rewards they have gained.

As ever, please do get in touch with your child's Year Manager should you have any questions or concerns.

Mr S Day
Key Stage 3 Director

Outdoor wear



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. Lockers are available. Please also note that casual 'hoodies' are not allowed anywhere on site at any time. If seen, they are confiscated and parents/ carers are asked to come in and collect them from Reception.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

Key Stage 4 news

We are pleased to report that **Year 10** students have made an encouraging start to their GCSE studies. Further information will be shared in the first Year 10 Progress Report, which parents/carers will receive next half-term.

Thank you to all who attended the recent Year 10 GCSE Information Evening - we hope you found it informative and helpful. For those who were unable to attend, the presentation from the evening is available [here](#). You will also find important GCSE information on this webpage, including details on exam boards and useful revision techniques.

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 was emailed to parents/carers recently and can be found on our website [here](#). Please encourage your child to attend as many revision sessions as possible and to actively engage with the additional intervention strategies we will be implementing throughout the year. For your advance planning, the Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for parents/carers will take place on 13th November at 6.30pm (further details to follow).

After the half-term break, we will be welcoming a new Year 11 Manager to the Key Stage 4 Team. I am delighted to welcome Mrs Wood, a very experienced and highly effective Year Manager, who will be re-joining the Prince Henry's Pastoral Team. We are excited to have her back and know she will make a positive impact in supporting our Year 11 students.

Finally, I would like to thank our outgoing Year 11 Manager, Mrs Crooks, for the fantastic work she has done in recent months. Her dedication and care have made a real difference to students in the year group, and we are extremely grateful for her contribution.

Mr S Knight
Key Stage 4 Director

Inside Stories

Each term, we invite a member of our staff to share their reflections on an aspect of school life through a post on our 'Inside Stories' blog. This term's post has just been published [here](#) and is written by our SENCO Roz Hunter, who explains the purpose of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

SIXTH FORM Open Evening

Year 11 students, parents and carers should have received an invitation to our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Thursday 6th November**. This is a great opportunity to find out more about the A level and BTEC subjects on offer at Prince Henry's and gain an insight into Sixth Form life from our students.

Many Year 11 students have already expressed their interest, which has been great to see. If you have not yet indicated which subjects you would like to visit 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 (19th November). The application form for Sixth Form will be live on our website after Open Evening.

Mr M Johnson
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

Behaviour in the community

During this week's assemblies we have reminded all students of the importance of being a positive member of both the school and the wider Otley community. This follows a recent escalation in complaints from members of the local community relating to interactions with young people in the area. We would be grateful if you could reinforce this message with your child and ensure that they understand how to demonstrate positive, respectful behaviour in the town, particularly when travelling to/from school.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

A reminder that Term Dates for 2026/27 can be found on our school website [here](#).

Sixth Form planning and progression

Many **Year 13** students have made a good start to their university and apprenticeship applications and some have already received university offers. The internal deadline for students to complete UCAS applications is 28th November 2025. This will allow time for applications to be processed before Christmas, giving students the best chance of gaining offers for their chosen courses. Students who have expressed an interest in apprenticeships will be starting a programme of sessions with our Careers Officer Mrs Quinlan next half term, covering all aspects of the application process.

Year 12 students have made an excellent start to their time in Sixth Form at Prince Henry's. They have adjusted well to the additional demands for independent study and, on the whole, the dress code is being adhered to. If students are unsure if an item is appropriate then staff are happy to advise before they purchase.

Year 12 students will begin to explore their own next steps in the 'Future Focus' day on 19th November 2025.

Mr M Johnson
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR

5 MINUTES

late each day

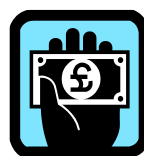
= **3** days off
in total



Punctuality matters

Being on time for school on a daily basis is vital. Research shows that being 5 minutes late to school per day equates to 3 full days lost to learning across the academic year. All students are expected to be on site no later than 8.25am. We are keen to work with parents/carers where there are concerns with punctuality and we are operating a 'late gate' staffed by our Attendance Officer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we could offer further support.

Mr L Wilson
Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing



You can set up an alert on Scopay to tell you when your child's lunch card balance is running low by selecting the 'Alerts' option from the menu.

Positive Discipline update

PD Incidents

Since the start of this term the adaptations made to the PD system appear to be working well, with students more easily able to track their 'incidents' and take appropriate action to avoid the escalation triggers. If the first half term hasn't gone to plan for your child, remember that 'yellow incident' counts reset half termly and 'red incident' counts reset fortnightly. This means that the return in November offers everyone a fresh start. Students are able to monitor the incidents which they have received in the Arbor Student App (this is on all student iPads and is different to the web version). If the App does not work, they should follow the prompts to reset their password. We expect all students to check the Arbor Student App daily.

School detention

We are working to avoid a lag between detentions being assigned and being served. If a student receives two detentions in the same week, in some cases we may look to combine two 30-minute detentions into one of one-hour in length. This will not always be possible, but if this change is enacted you should receive a notification email and will be able to see the extended detention on the Arbor calendar. Thank you for your support with ensuring your child's attendance at detention.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

External exams: additional needs

Every year during the exam season, we receive a number of 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

Travel to school by car

If you must pick up/drop off your child by car, please **do not** drive into our car park. Please remember, too, the message from West Yorkshire Police that students must not be dropped off/picked up near the Newall Carr Road or Farnley Lane exits from school, on the approach road to school from Newall Carr Road or in Prince Henry's Court. It is especially dangerous, and **illegal**, to stop on the zig zag area by the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Farnley Lane entrance.

We appreciate your support in helping us to keep all our students safe.



Sustainability news



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

Thanks to their work on sustainable travel, we have also been named Modeshift STARS Local Authority School of the Year – for the third year running!



As always, 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.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

As advised in the 'Key Dates' leaflet, **school will be closed to all students on Thursday 27th November 2025**

(Training Day re-arranged from January 2025, which was cancelled due to extreme weather)

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 child safe online. You can also view a copy of the [presentation](#) from the evening.

The UK Safer Internet Centre's [website](#) provides a wide range of useful guidance for parents/carers to help to keep their children safe online. Please see below the first of their 'top tips' for parents/carers which will feature in each edition of our Newsletter.

Tip 1: Talk with your child about responsible use of their internet enabled device

- Consider the internet enabled devices that your child has access to: mobile phones, laptops, games consoles, smart speakers and TVs, tablets.
- Discuss what each of these devices are to be used for, what is OK and what is not OK.
- Consider what the time limits and expectations of when and where the device can be used are.
- Consider where the devices should be charged at night, or placed when taking part in family activities.
- Explain to your child that if they see something distressing, they should shut down the device and tell an adult.

Mr O Wharton
Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment and Innovation

Thank you!



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Sarah Jackson Community Wish for their generous donation of £200 towards our student Wellbeing Programme.

At a time when children's mental health is increasingly recognised as a national pandemic, this kind contribution will enable us to purchase additional resources and tools to support our students with even greater care and effectiveness. Every investment in wellbeing is an investment in brighter futures, and we are truly grateful.

Mr L Wilson
Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Forthcoming dates

Term dates

Close

24 Oct 2025
19 Dec 2025

Re-open

03 Nov 2025
05 Jan 2025

Other Dates

04 Nov 2025	Year 12 GCSE re-sit exams start
06 Nov 2025	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Year 7-11)
06 Nov 2025	Sixth Form Open Evening
13 Nov 2025	Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for Parents/Carers
15 Nov 2025	Community Education Day Workshops
19 Nov 2025	PSHE / Citizenship Day 1
20 Nov 2025	Year 13 Progress Evening (<i>in school</i>)
20 Nov 2025	SLT Open Access Evening
27 Nov 2025	Training Day - school closed to students
01 Dec 2025	Year 11 Trial Exams start
03 Dec 2025	Year 12 Progress Evening (<i>online</i>)
16 Dec 2025	Christmas Concert
18 Dec 2025	Annual Celebration Evening
19 Dec 2025	Early close to students (12.25pm)

In line with our school vision and values, we want Prince Henry's to

#Free2Bme
@phgs

be a respectful place where differences are celebrated and where everyone really can be *Free2Bme*. 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, racism, homophobia or other type of prejudice-based behaviour.

If your child is interested in supporting this area of our work, please encourage them to get involved with our Equality & Diversity Group (Thursdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in the Library).

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Home Learning

Thank you for your continued support with Home Learning. A particular 'well done' to our Year 7 students, who have settled in well to these new routines. We have created an area on the [Student Directory](#) where students can find a guide to which days Home Learning will be set in each subject. You may wish to view this with your child.

Home Learning is an invaluable, evidence-based activity which is proven to boost knowledge recall and overall progress. You may be interested in the latest research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which can be found [here](#).

Mr S Jackson
Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education



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 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	Miss Combe	Ext. 1614
			Year 8	Mrs Parker	Ext. 1612
			Year 9	Mrs McQuire	Ext. 1613
Key Stage 4	Mr Knight	Mr Walsh	Year 10	Mrs Furness	Ext. 1617
			Year 11	Mrs Wood	Ext. 1616
Key Stage 5	Mr Faulkner (Y12) Mr Johnson (Y13)	Miss Rosillo	Year 12/13	Mrs Robinson-Junni	Ext. 1610

CURRICULUM SUBJECTS

Art	Mrs A Blakeley	Law / Criminology	Mr M Faulkner
Business Studies / Economics	Mr M Faulkner	Mathematics	Mr A Fishburn
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	Mrs A Blakeley
Geography	Mrs N Edney	Physical Education	Mr D Curtis
Health and Social Care	Mr S Hunt	Politics	Mrs N Edney
History	Mrs N Edney	Psychology / Sociology	Mr M Faulkner
ICT / Computing	Mr S Hunt	Science	Mrs S Richards



Prince Henry's Grammar School

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



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