



Prince Henry's Grammar School

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST



# Newsletter

**December 2025**

As we hurtle towards the shortest day, yet again the festive season is in full swing and the end of term just around the corner. Well done to all our students (and staff!) for everything you have achieved this term – you all deserve a well-earned rest to re-charge your batteries over the Christmas period. A particular well done must go to all of Year 7 students who have successfully completed their first term at 'big school'. What a long way you have come! For you, as parents and carers, we really hope your child has settled in well and is enjoying being a member of our community as much as we are appreciating their attitudes and participation.

Yet again, this term has been packed full of curricular and extra-curricular delights, with trips, visits, concerts, fixtures, competitions and performances aplenty. Thank you and well done to all students who take part in these, and particularly to staff who give up their time so freely and abundantly to give students these opportunities. Our offer really is exceptional and helps give us our special ethos. It is also hugely appreciated when parents and carers take their time to email, or to speak with one of us, to express their gratitude. In a world where, unfortunately, complaints and negatives outweigh the positives, it is heartwarming to remember that we really do make a positive difference to the very large majority.

On Thursday evening this week we will, for the second year running, hold our Celebration Evening at the newly acquired Otley Common venue which used to be the Methodist Church. The evening once again promises to be a memorable celebration of efforts and accolades, with alumnus Katherine Hannah as our guest speaker. We enjoyed showing Katherine around her old school recently where she had some interesting recollections of her school days before her successful career as a sports journalist and presenter for BBC Radio Leeds. We are once again looking forward to an inspirational and reflective evening as we celebrate students' achievement, both past and present. There will also be Celebration Assemblies in school this week so that all students can take part in applauding themselves and their peers – and also so that Sixth formers can be entertained by the annual tradition of the staff pantomime, with staff taking to the stage for once!

So, with 2025 coming to a close, old chapters end and new ones begin. I am sure you will join me in thanking staff who are leaving for all their hard work and care of our students over the years. Emma Treweek, our Finance and iPad Scheme Administrator, leaves us after eleven years of dedicated service. Helen Doyle, our Sixth Form Study Supervisor moves on, as do Sue Green, our Parent Support Advisor, and Bernard O'Connor, our Student Support and Reflection Manager. Thank you to all colleagues for their contributions to PHGS. We will welcome their successors in the New Year, with Tracey Dickinson moving across from the Trust offices to rejoin Finance at Prince Henry's, Nicola Webster joining us in the Sixth Form Quad and Oliver Duffy joining our attendance team. We look forward to you flourishing in your role and enjoying your time with us.

I really hope that, whatever your Christmas entails, it brings you peace, happiness and comfort.

With our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Look after yourselves and see you in 2026 for another action-packed term. In the meantime, please stay safe.

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. It has been great to host the end of term rewards assemblies for Years 7, 8 and 9 this week. More students than ever have had their achievements acknowledged, with credit certificates issued to nearly 70% of students in Years 7 and 8 and a large number of Year 9 students attending a 'Rewards breakfast' in Henry's on Monday. Several students also received awards for making a positive difference as one of their 'Form Heroes'.

Some students in Years 8 and 9 have 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. 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.

Mr S Day  
Key Stage 3 Director

### Key Stage 4 news

**Year 10** students are approaching the end of their first term of GCSE studies and parents/carers have now received the first Key Stage 4 Progress Report. This shows students' Attitude to Learning and indicates that the majority of students have made a very positive start to their GCSE courses. It is pleasing to see how focused and hardworking they have been, demonstrating a strong commitment to their learning and future success.

**Year 11** Progress Evening takes place in school on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, and I hope all parents/carers will be able to attend. This will be an invaluable opportunity to meet with subject teachers to receive feedback on progress and discuss the recent trial exams. Progress Report 2 will be sent home shortly before this with up-to-date predictions.

Once published, GCSE exam timetables, along with study guides, revision tips, revision timetables and subject specific materials, can be found on our website [here](#). This also includes information from last month's Year 11 Parents' Revision Strategy Evening, in case you were unable to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Key Stage 4 students an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Mr S Knight  
Key Stage 4 Director

### Year 7 home learning

As part of our phased approach to home learning, after Christmas the following subjects will also be setting home learning for Year 7 students: Computing, History, Geography and Music (i.e. in addition to English, Maths, Science and MFL). Subject teachers will explain when home learning will be set and this information will also be added to the [Student Directory](#), which includes a guide to which days Home Learning is set in each subject. All tasks will be set on Arbor, but students may be asked to complete the work in books or using other apps.

Mr S Jackson  
Deputy Headteacher: Quality of Education

### Fundraising news

This year, our students have chosen to support the national charity Endometriosis UK and Otley-based charity the Sarah Jackson Community Wish as the beneficiaries of the year's fundraising efforts.



Our school community has already raised over £750 through a second-hand book stall, a bake sale and a five-a-side football tournament, as well as Christmas candy canes and Year 7 Christmas Movie Night. Thank you, too, if you are supporting this week's 'wear a festive item' day (Wednesday). There is still time to make a donation through Scopy if you haven't yet been able to.



Mr C Lillington  
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

## School uniform

We ask for your support with school uniform as we move into the new term:

**Uniform expectations** - these are clearly identified on our website [here](#). We know that the majority of our students wear the uniform as expected. However, there are occasions when students have the correct uniform but attempt to wear it in a way that is below our expectations. One example is with school skirts where the skirt *can* be worn at the correct length (a hand-width above/ below the knee) but is not being worn in this way. Uniform is being monitored and when students hit trigger points, parents/carers are initially advised of our ongoing concerns. Should there be no improvement, we will contact parents/carers again advising of the requirements to address the issue (for example, a student losing the option to wear a skirt or having to report to the Key Stage office throughout the day to demonstrate that the uniform is accurate). If you know your child's uniform may present an issue, please take the opportunity over the Christmas break to ensure that items are replaced appropriately.

**Outdoor wear** - 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 for all students to use. Please remember 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

## Sixth Form applications

Thank you to all our Year 11 students who have already completed their applications for Sixth Form entry in 2026. For anyone who hasn't applied yet, there's still time! Students simply need to complete the application form on our website [here](#). All applicants will be contacted next term for an interview with the Sixth Form team to discuss course combinations and future plans.

Mr M Johnson

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

## Attendance matters: Home visits

As a school, we place attendance high on our list of priorities. For students to flourish both personally and academically, it is vital that they are in school as much as possible. Consistent attendance ensures that learning is uninterrupted and that every child has the best opportunity to succeed.

We understand that absences can occur for a variety of reasons, but maintaining strong communication during these times is essential. **It is normal practice for us to conduct home visits when there is a period of absence.** These visits are not only about checking in - they also allow us to explore whether there is anything we can do to support your child to return to school. We hope this provides reassurance that even when a child is absent, they remain very much on our minds.

By working together, we can help every student stay engaged and avoid falling behind. If you have any concerns about attendance or need support, please do not hesitate to contact us. Working in partnership is key to ensuring that every child thrives.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing



### Exciting times for Sixth Form students

As we approach the end of term, there's a real buzz in the air among our Sixth Form students. The vast majority of those planning to apply to university have now submitted their UCAS applications and offers are already landing in inboxes! A reminder that the final deadline for applications to be received by school is 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026, ensuring we meet UCAS's absolute deadline.

We are thrilled to share that eight of our students have applied to Oxford or Cambridge this year, with many already attending interviews at their prospective colleges – a fantastic achievement that reflects their hard work and ambition.

Alongside university applications, a growing number of students are exploring job opportunities and degree-level apprenticeships. These students are receiving support from the Sixth Form team and Mrs Quinlan, our Careers Officer, who will continue guiding them into the New Year with research and application advice.

### Festive spirit in full swing!

Our Senior Students (Santa's Little Helpers ...) are spreading Christmas cheer across the school. From selling candy canes at break and lunch to raise funds for school charities, to organising a festive film night for Year 7 students, their efforts are making this season extra special. They are also hard at work supporting the production of our traditional Sixth Form Christmas Assembly video – a highlight we all look forward to!

Mr M Johnson

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

### Online safety



This year, in each edition of our half-termly Newsletter, we are again including a 'top tip' for parents/carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre.

#### Tip 2: Use parental controls to manage the risk of internet enabled devices

- ◆ Look at the controls available both on the device and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child, too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation is the most important thing.
- ◆ Parental controls can help you limit potential risks by setting age limits for apps, creating a list of websites that your child is allowed to visit or blocking certain websites. On a shared device, you may be able to set up individual child accounts with specific safety features.
- ◆ For guidance on how to set parental controls on entertainment services and search engines, read the step-by-step instructions published by Internet Matters [here](#).
- ◆ Visit [this page](#) from Childnet for specific advice about different risks.

Finally, this [website](#) provides a wide range of useful guidance for parents/carers to help to keep their children safe online.

Mr O Wharton

Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment and Innovation

### Positive Discipline update

#### Positive feedback

In the past half term, we have asked staff to nominate classes that are showing a particularly positive approach to their learning. It has been a pleasure for members of the Senior Leadership Team to visit these lessons and say 'Well done' to those students.

The vast majority of students are on board with the systems we have in school and appreciate the calm, productive learning environment created. So far this year, many parents/carers and students have received frequent praise emails acknowledging repeated positive performance. Over the Christmas break, some lucky students will receive one or more postcards praising performance in specific areas – look out for those dropping through your letter box amongst the Christmas cards!

#### Reset of RED incidents

Please note that we return on a week B timetable. This means that, in terms of the fortnightly monitoring of RED incidents (with a detention given for every 5 received), we return to the second half of the most recent week A/B fortnight.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

## Careers news

Unifrog is the name of our school careers platform. From January, parents and carers will have access to a dedicated parent Unifrog account where you can gain access to useful careers recourses and webinars. This creates the perfect opportunity for meaningful careers conversations to take place at home with your child. Look out for an email in the new year containing your individual account log in details.

There are also two exciting apprenticeship events in the new year, both of which are taking place on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**:

- Leeds Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair (1.00pm – 7.00pm) at First Direct Arena Leeds. A fantastic opportunity to speak with major employers from a wide range of sectors and find out more about apprenticeship levels. Book your free place [here](#).
- Unifrog's virtual Apprenticeship Fair (4.00pm – 6.00pm) for students in Years 10 to 13. To join a live session and gain expert advice from top employers including the BBC, register [here](#).



Mrs F Quinlan  
Careers Officer

## Thank you!

A huge thank you to Sarah Jackson Community Wish for their incredibly generous donation of £2,000, which has enabled us to install new cubicles in our changing rooms, thereby providing students with greater privacy for changing.

This thoughtful contribution directly supports our ongoing commitment to student wellbeing. Privacy in changing areas is something which students have flagged as important to them, and thanks to this donation, we have managed to address this. We extend our sincere gratitude to Sarah Jackson Community Wish for their kindness.

Mr L Wilson  
Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing

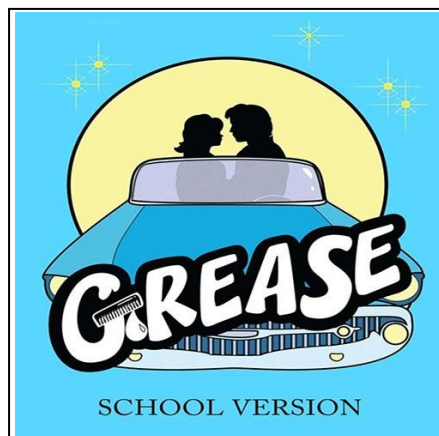
Recent year group assemblies have highlighted how we can all use our 'Power for Good' to tackle bullying and discrimination, drawing on the theme of this year's national Anti-Bullying Week.

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

In particular, students have been reminded of the enormous power which each of us holds to make the lives of others better – or worse – by the language we use, the comments we make and the way we choose to treat other people. Likewise, students have been asked to look out for one another and not 'be a bystander' if they witness unkind behaviour.

Please reinforce with your child the importance of always 'speaking up' if they experience, or are aware of, any form of bullying or prejudice-based behaviour.

Mr C Lillington  
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos



## Save the date!

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 at 7pm**

Tickets on sale Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for this year's musical production.

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

You can get regular updates on sports results, school events and other school news by following us @PrinceHenrysGS and @phgssixthform on X (formerly Twitter), and also @phgssixthform on Instagram.



## Year 9 Options



Students in Year 9 have now started to receive a range of information to help them to make decisions about how they wish to personalise their curriculum from Year 10.

All students will receive a detailed 'Options booklet' this week following the Options launch assembly. This outlines the process, key dates and options available. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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) and as part of Year 9 Progress Evening. They will also be offered 'taster' lessons in some subjects, as well as the chance to speak with our Careers Officer, Mrs Quinlan.

Decisions need to be finalised, and the final options submitted, by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (the last day of next half term).

Mr O Wharton  
Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment and Innovation

## Forthcoming dates

### Holidays

Close

19 Dec 2025

13 Feb 2026

Re-open

5 Jan 2026

23 Feb 2026

### Events

18 Dec 2025

Annual Celebration Evening

19 Dec 2025

Early closure (12.25pm)

08 Jan 2026

Year 9 Options Evening

12 Jan 2026

Year 9 Exams start

22 Jan 2026

Year 11 Progress Evening (*in school*)

29 Jan 2026

PSHE/Citizenship Day 2

03 Feb 2026

School Musical Production -

- 06 Feb 2026

Grease

10 Feb 2026

Year 9 Progress Evening (*online*)

12 Feb 2026

SLT Open Access Evening

12 Feb 2026

Year 12 HE Information Evening

(Early deadline applicants)

13 Feb 2026

Year 9 Options Choices Deadline

## Food bank appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Sixth Form's Food Bank appeal, organised by our ASDAN students.



A huge number of items were donated to Otley Food Bank to help families who are struggling over the Christmas period.

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



Please remember to top up your child's lunch card online or on the Scopay app before the start of the new term. A reminder, too, that you can set up an alert on Scopay to let you know when your child's lunch card balance is running low. Simply go to the main menu and select the 'Alerts' option.



## REMINDER!

Students return to school at the usual time on  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**And... Happy Christmas!**



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