



Newsletter

April 2026

Now that we are at last greeted with lighter days for longer – a welcome reprise as we head towards Easter – there is much to celebrate and be optimistic about. Having said that, our thoughts remain with those across the world who are still experiencing darker times, and particularly those affected by the Middle East crisis. Our thoughts and prayers will remain with those needing peace and resolution over this difficult period.

Turning to lighter thoughts as well as days, as usual we have had a busy term, and students and staff are certainly ready for the Easter holidays. It is most definitely a welcome couple of weeks in which we can all recharge our batteries, take time out with family and friends, and spring clean our minds, bodies and surroundings. Of course, our Year 11 and 13 students will undoubtedly also be busily preparing for their upcoming exams. As parents and carers, your support in structuring an effective timetable for the Easter holidays and beyond in order to maximise their chances of success will be time well spent, and there are lots of videos and top tips on websites to help with this daunting task, alongside strategies presented in school. Whilst preparation is crucial for success, so is the right balance and mind-set, so your help in encouraging some switch off time as well will benefit the long game and hopefully help to avoid burnout. Remember, if your child is struggling in any way, there are a variety of staff in school who can provide support and guidance. We have a range of pastoral specialists from Year Managers and Key Stage Directors, through to support and guidance staff and counsellors. Please reach out if you are not sure, as we can always signpost you to out of school services, even if we don't have appropriate resources in school.

As I always say, one of the best parts of this job is seeing students flourish, both in and out of school, and I remain deeply grateful for the hours and hours which colleagues put into providing the opportunities and experiences for students, many of which are life-changing. Just recently, we have seen phenomenal success with rugby teams winning the Yorkshire Cup Finals in four of their age categories, our Sixth Form Chemists competing at Cambridge University for the national Olympiad and finishing as the top state school, alongside a whole host of other events – collectively, in teams, as well as individually. We are so proud of our students who put themselves out there to gain experience, excel in their chosen discipline or simply give something back. This is what sets Prince Henry's apart from many other schools. It really is a special place with unique opportunities.

We were delighted to have this endorsed recently in being named 'Yorkshire Secondary School of the Year'. As with many other accolades to our name, this is a real team effort and every member of our community should be proud of the part they play in this kind of recognition. Whether that is standing on the sidelines, being in the audience, acting as a taxi service to your children (and often their friends!), volunteering or simply supporting us, we are all so appreciative of your contributions. This really is a community school at the very heart of our community, and long may that continue.

So, with the Easter holidays nearly here, thank you for your support once again this term. I hope you have a lovely break and can enjoy the longer days and, hopefully, better weather.

Best wishes

Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

A very busy half term has seen all year groups pack in a huge amount! **Year 7** students have been doing some excellent fundraising for their chosen school charities, with the usual range of bake sales and 'guess the sweets' challenges being supplemented by an imaginative range of games during break and lunchtimes.

Year 8 students have completed some impressive news reports as part of the BBC Young Reporter challenge. This has included exploring the challenges of finding reliable news sources in the age of disinformation. Meanwhile, **Year 9** students have continued to prepare for Key Stage 4, reviewing their recent exam performance and considering how potential career choices may work alongside their GCSE Options.

Recent year group assemblies have drawn on the school's vision and values, including by learning more about autism as part of Autism Awareness Month and thinking about how to develop their revision skills.

We are always grateful for positive parent/carer engagement and encourage you to contact your child's Year Manager in the first instance should you have any concerns.

Mr S Day
Key Stage 3 Director

Key Stage 4 news

As we enter the final term, it will be a busy time in Key Stage 4 as both Year 10 and 11 students prepare for exams. We will be working hard to support all our students, and we wish them all the very best of luck.

Year 10 Mock Exams begin on Monday 27th April and run until 5th May. The exams will take place in the Sports Hall and follow the same processes and guidelines as the GCSE exams in summer 2027. The purpose of this is to familiarise students with the examinations process and prepare them for the real thing. Please encourage your child to take the exams seriously and revise thoroughly. During assemblies, we have spent time showing students how to revise effectively, and each student has been given a revision timetable that they can use to organise their study. There is also a range of helpful revision strategies and advice on our school [website](#).

This week, parents/carers received the final **Year 11** Progress Report highlighting teachers' GCSE predictions based on current performance. This follows on from last Friday's Predicted Results Ceremony, a useful milestone as students compared their predicted grades to the entry requirements for their next steps. Remember that the KS4 Academic Support section of our [website](#) contains useful information on revision techniques.

Finally, online payment for the Year 11 Prom has now reopened for those students who have paid a deposit. The final balance needs to be paid by Friday 15th May.

Mr S Knight
Key Stage 4 Director

Training Days 2026/2027

Training Days for next year (when school will be closed to all students) have now been confirmed as follows:

- Tues 1st September 2026
- Mon 19th October 2026
- Fri 20th November 2026
- Fri 27th November 2026
- Mon 4th January 2027
- Wed 30th June 2027

This means that, in the Autumn Term, students will return to school on **Wednesday 2nd September 2026**.

A reminder that Term Dates for 2026/2027 can be found on our website [here](#).

Fundraising news and non-uniform day

A reminder that we are holding a non-uniform day **tomorrow (Thursday 2nd April)** for all students in Years 7-13, with proceeds going to our students' chosen charities: Endometriosis UK and the Otley-based Sarah Jackson Community Wish. We are recommending a minimum contribution of £2.00, which we ask you to pay online using Scopay, wherever possible. Alternatively, a cash donation can be handed in during morning registration. For further details and important reminders, please see last week's [letter](#).

 ENDOMETRIOSISUK



Thank you to everyone who supported this week's Easter Egg tombola, organised by our Senior Students. Along with Year 7 form group fundraising activities, this has helped to bring the total raised in recent months to over £2,500. Let's see if we can double that figure tomorrow!

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Punctuality matters

After the Easter break, we will be launching a new punctuality initiative aimed at further supporting students to ensure they have excellent punctuality to school. As part of this approach:

- There will be **increased communication with parents/carers** where concerns about punctuality arise.
- Students may be referred for **form tutor monitoring** if punctuality becomes a recurring issue.
- Where needed, punctuality will also be monitored by the **Attendance Officer** to provide additional support. At this point, it is possible that students will be withdrawn from all non-compulsory activities (such as after-school enrichment and trips) until punctuality improves.

Our aim is to work closely with parents and carers to address any barriers to punctuality and ensure that every student arrives ready for a positive and productive school day. We appreciate your continued support in helping students to develop strong routines that contribute to their success.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing

PUNCTUALITY MATTERS
IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR
5 MINUTES late each day
= **3** days off in total

Prince Henry's Grammar School

The poster features a blue background with a yellow stopwatch on the right. The text is in white and yellow. The school logo is in the bottom left corner.

Reminder: All students should be on site by 8.25am at the latest

Y11 and Y13 exam preparation

Students in Years 11 and 13 have recently received an Exams Information booklet with details of what to expect, along with their personalised timetable.



If your child has not received their copy, 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 helpful [Student Guide](#).

From Tuesday 5th 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 morning at school is Friday 22nd May; their Revision Leave will begin after the leavers' assembly on this date.

Year 13 students will continue to attend lessons until Friday 15th 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 offer extra pre-exam sessions prior to specific exams.

Mr O Wharton

Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment, Innovation

SIXTH FORM

It has been a lively and purposeful half term in Sixth Form, with students in Years 12 and 13 embracing the opportunities and challenges that come with this important stage of their journey. Their involvement with younger students through enrichment activities continues, alongside some impressive sporting achievements.

We were delighted to see such a strong turnout at our **Post-18 Pathways Evening**, where parents/carers explored the wide spectrum of future options, from apprenticeships to university routes. The event sparked many discussions and inspired planning for the road ahead.

Year 12 continue to make strong progress as they prepare for next term. Their attention is now turning to the upcoming mock exams, which will play a key role in shaping their next steps. Their effort and growing confidence are clear to see, and we look forward to supporting them through this important phase.

With exams rapidly approaching, **Year 13** students are working with real focus and maturity. Alongside their revision, they are stepping into exciting next chapters: responding to university offers, selecting accommodation, and completing student finance applications. We are incredibly proud of the resilience and ambition they are showing at this busy time.

Mr M Johnson

Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

School ties

This year, we introduced coloured ties for each year group. The current Year 11 will be the final year group with the old style 'KS4 tie'. This image confirms what is required for each year group from September 2026. This change was introduced to make it easier for staff, local residents and students to more easily identify a student's year group. An additional benefit is that parents/carers only require one style of tie for the full five years. Should replacements be required, JR Sports have current ties in stock now, and will stock the new Year 7 yellow tie from 1st June.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes



Year group ties from September 2026

Wellbeing matters!

At Prince Henry's, student wellbeing is central to helping every young person achieve their best. Our pastoral and wellbeing team offers a graduated range of support - from whole-school activities delivered in form time and assemblies to group work and bespoke one-to-one support. As part of our offer, we can refer to support from Leeds Faith in Schools mentors, SEMH mentors and Student Wellbeing Officers before referring to specialist TAMHS support from the School Therapy team that we access through our Cluster.

→ **Find out more about our PHGS Well-being Hub** [here](#).

We are also working with the MindMate Support Team (MMST) to strengthen early emotional health support, and we are now able to make referrals into this service.

→ **Find out more about the MindMate Support Team** [here](#).

While our staff are highly trained, we are not mental health clinicians. For more serious concerns, families should seek advice from a GP or specialist services such as CAMHS.

Mr L Wilson

Assistant Headteacher: Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Recent year group assemblies have focussed on the increased use of prejudice-based language in society, and the dangers of becoming 'desensitised' to such language.

Students were asked to think about the actual meaning of slurs which are again becoming more common, and to think about how discriminatory language makes people *feel*. Please urge your child to avoid using a word if they do not know its meaning, and to 'speak up' if they witness language of this type.

Last week, a group of our Year 9 students worked with the Anne Frank Trust to become 'ambassadors for equality'. Over the two-day programme, they explored the story of Anne Frank in the context of current day examples of prejudice and intolerance, and prepared materials to share their learning with others.

Finally, we are currently finalising plans for our annual Equality & Diversity Week (6th – 10th July). If you think that you could contribute, or know someone who might (e.g. as a guest speaker), please get in touch.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

#Free2Bme
@phgs

Careers news

March marked National Careers Week where we had external employers in school from the British Army and the NHS, and Higher Education providers from the Northern School of Art. In addition, students had access to the virtual careers fair, careers resources and Unifrog.

'Careers in the curriculum' lessons also ran throughout the week and we had nine prize winners in the Year 7 careers quiz. Congratulations to all on an inspiring week!

Mrs F Quinlan
Careers Officer

Sustainability news



Last week, members of Wildlife Friendly Otley presented our Eco-committee with an extensive 'wildlife kit' including items such as nest boxes, nest cams, a wildlife camera and pond-dipping equipment.

The kit was funded by a grant from the Co-op and will be used to support our ecology work in school.

Members of our Eco-committee also attended the Leeds Climate Schools Eco-Conference 2026 where they took part in a series of workshops, heard from leading experts and contributed to a presentation to our local MP Katie White, who is also the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Climate.

If your child would like to get involved in raising awareness of sustainability issues, do encourage them to come along to our Eco-committee, which meets every Tuesday after school.

Mr C Lillington

Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Online safety



In each edition of our half-termly Newsletter, we are including one of the UK Safer Internet Centre's 'top tips' for parents/carers. Visit their [website](#) for further useful guidance.

Tip 4: Keep talking about internet use with your child

- ◆ Keep talking with your child about how they are using their internet enabled devices and take an interest in the things they use them for. Open conversation lets your child know that you are someone who they can go to with any questions or worries.
- ◆ Reinforce what is acceptable / unacceptable behaviour when they are online and the importance of not sharing personal information with strangers.
- ◆ Remind your child about the risks of communicating online with people that they do not know and encourage them to come to you with any worries.

Mr O Wharton

Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment and Innovation

Forthcoming dates

Holidays

Close

2 April 2026

1 May 2026

22 May 2026

Re-open

20 Apr 2026

05 May 2026 (*May bank holiday*)

01 Jun 2026

Events

02 Apr 2026

PHGS Bands' Night

02 Apr 2026

Non-uniform Day

22 Apr 2026

Y9 Vaccinations (Catch Up session)

24 Apr 2026

Y8 HPV Vaccinations

27 Apr 2026

Year 10 exams begin

28 Apr 2026

Senior Concert

05 May 2026

GCSE/GCE exams begin

15 May 2026

Year 13 Revision Leave begins

18 May 2026

Year 7 and 8 exams begin

19 May 2026

Year 10 Progress Evening (online)

22 May 2026

Year 11 Revision Leave begins

Outdoor spaces

After the Easter break, we will open the field at the front of school for students to use at lunchtimes. We encourage students to treat this as a 'picnic' space and sit with their friends catching up. It is essential that students remember our school vision and the aspect of 'Respect' in using this space as we ask them to ensure that they respect the environment and place any litter in bins. It is not acceptable for a student to leave rubbish on the grass for 'others' to tidy away. Please support us by discussing this with your child prior to the return to school. Thank you for your support.

Mr S Clarkson

Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes



Please remember to top up your child's lunch card online using Scopay before the start of the new term.

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



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