Prince Henry's Grammar School

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Newsletter

October 2026

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year, particularly if you are a new parent / carer with us. I hope that your child has settled in and is enjoying flourishing at Prince Henry's. The new cohort of Year 7 students have really impressed us with how quickly they have settled in to our school, and particularly with their impressive commitment to extra-curricular activities. They look super smart, and, although I professed last year that the lilac colour of the current Year 8 ties was my favourite yet, I have to say the yellow in the new Year 7 ties looks even better against the yellow symmetry of the crest on their blazers. I hope that you found last week's introductory online tutor meetings useful in understanding how your child has settled this half term.

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. Whether you are new to us or not, we want to work collaboratively and in partnership with you throughout your child's time at PHGS. Please do not hesitate in reaching out to us, and also bear in mind that we hold an SLT Open Access Evening every term in order to facilitate open dialogue and feedback, the details of which are in the final paragraph below.

Alongside new students, eleven new members of staff join us at Team PHGS in a variety of positions. I hope that our new colleagues will also flourish in their new roles. We welcome Miss Brindle to English, Mr Adnan-Smith to Social Sciences, Miss King to Science, Mrs Burke to Design and Technology, Miss Ridler to PE, Miss O'Neil as our Sixth Form Study Supervisor, Kate Davidson as our Catering Supervisor, Maria Rendle also to our Catering Team and Ryan Joughlin as IT technician. We also welcome Language Assistants Ben Painter and Ana Bueno. We are grateful to Miss Ashworth who has held the fort in Art for the last half term, but are pleased to welcome back Ms Prince after a period of absence.

Having held our Open Evening recently, once again I have to share with you just how impressively our students come across – this was commented on profusely by visitors. From presenting on stage (Year 7 and Year 13!) to helping out in subject areas, they really are a credit to you, us and themselves. We have already seen an abundance of enrichment activities this half term including trips to Berlin and Poland alongside the many day trips, and this week sees the premiere of the Sixth Form Play 'Common Room', written by our very own Jacky Burton and produced by Tom Weston. 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 personal development and is so much a part of our culture and ethos in shaping the leaders of our future.

Thank you for reading 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 – 7.00pm on Thursday 19 November. No appointments are necessary – it will be 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 as the countdown to Christmas begins!



Sally Bishop
Headteacher

Key Stage 3 news

KS3 students have settled well into the new school year, with impressive take-up for the huge range of extra-curricular activities. It has also been pleasing to see the number of students receiving credits for the rewards they have gathered. The new 'Stand Out Student' awarded in each lesson has been a great motivator, and it has been great to see how many students are aspiring to achieve this recognition.

Students in **Year 7** have made a positive start, displaying independence and maturity. A very high number of parents/carers attended September's KS3 Information Event (see **here** for the information from the evening subsequently sent via email). We also enjoyed meeting parents/carers during last week's online Parent-Tutor Afternoons. Students in **Year 8 and 9** have also been making excellent use of form time to engage in oracy and literacy projects.

This week, all Key Stage 3 students have started to complete their Key Stage 3 Diploma. This new initiative will allow all students to track and review their achievements each half term and will lead to the awarding of a final certificate at the end of KS3.

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

Mr S Day
Key Stage 3 Director

Key Stage 4 news

Year 10 students have made a very encouraging start to their GCSE studies. Parents/carers will receive further information about their progress in the first Year 10 Progress Report next half term.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 10 GCSE Information Evening. We hope this provided useful information and helped you to understand how best to support your child as they begin their GCSE courses. If you were unable to attend, the presentation from the evening is available **here**, alongside other useful information including exam board details and revision guidance.

Year 11 parents and carers will receive the first Progress Report next month, highlighting teachers' GCSE predictions based on current performance. Important information including 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 make full use of the support available by attending as many of these sessions as possible.

For your advance planning, the Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for parents/carers will take place in school on 12th November at 6.30pm. Further details will follow after the half-term break.

Mr S Knight
Key Stage 4 Director

SIXTH FORM Open Evening

Invitations have now been sent to all Year 11 students, parents and carers for our Sixth Form Open Evening on **Thursday 5th November**. This important event will provide the opportunity to explore the full range of A Level and Vocational courses available at Prince Henry's and to gain a clear understanding of what life in our Sixth Form entails.

It has been encouraging to see many Year 11 students already expressing their interest. If your child has not yet indicated which subjects they would like to visit, please ensure the online form included in the invitation is completed.

Year 11 students will also take part in A Level taster lessons during the PSHE Day on 18th November, offering valuable insight into subjects they may wish to pursue. Following the Open Evening, the Sixth Form application form will be made available on our school website.

Mr M Johnson
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

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 & Attitudes

Sixth Form planning and progression

Year 13 UCAS and apprenticeships. Year 13 students have made a strong start to their university and apprenticeship applications, with some already receiving offers. The internal **deadline for UCAS applications** is **30th November 2026**, allowing sufficient time for processing before the Christmas break and ensuring students are well-placed to receive offers from their chosen institutions. Students interested in apprenticeships will begin a programme of sessions with Mrs Quinlan, our Careers Officer, next half term. These sessions will provide comprehensive guidance on all aspects of the apprenticeship application process.

Year 12 Settling in and future planning. Year 12 students have made an excellent start to their studies and are adapting well to the increased expectations of Sixth Form life, particularly around independent learning. The Sixth Form dress code is being followed appropriately, and staff are happy to advise students who are unsure whether an item of clothing is suitable. Looking ahead, Year 12 students will begin exploring their future pathways during the '**Future Focus' day** on 18th November, where they will consider a range of progression routes including university, apprenticeships and employment.

Mr M Johnson
Assistant Headteacher: Post-16 Learning

House competition



Anyone who attended Prince Henry's before the mid-1980s may recall that once upon a time the school hosted an annual 'House Competition', where four houses - Cave, Duncan, Fairfax, Fawkes - competed to win the House Trophy.

This year, to try to further develop a sense of belonging, pride and togetherness, we are relaunching this competition utilising the nine form groups in each year. Points will be awarded from data on behaviour, attendance and other areas - the first one being a creative writing competition. More details will follow in future Newsletters.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

iPad scheme enquiries

From Friday 23rd October, we are changing the arrangements for dealing with iPad scheme enquiries.

For all enquiries regarding the iPad scheme, payments, purchases, iPad releases or any finance-related matters
Contact finance@princehenrys.co.uk

For IT support and all enquiries regarding iPad-related technical issues
Contact iPadSupport@princehenrys.co.uk

Please note that from this date, the mailbox iPads@princehenrys.co.uk will be removed from the school system and will **no longer be monitored**.

Inside Stories

Each term, we focus on an aspect of school life through a post on our **Inside Stories** blog. This term's post has just been published **here** and features an interview with our Safer Schools Officer, PC Jordan Hart.



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

Positive Discipline update

This year we have launched the 'Stand Out Student' Award, given in each lesson. It is pleasing to note that just under 1,500 students have so far received this accolade at least once.

The half term break gives students a chance to rest and reflect on how the first half term has gone. If it 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 any incidents they have received in the Arbor Student App (this is on all student iPads and is different to the web version).

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

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 near the Farnley Lane entrance. We appreciate your support in helping us to keep all our students safe.

External exams: additional needs

Every year during the exam season, we receive a number of requests from students 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 of need, gathered by teachers, must be collated early and 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 in exams and this has not already been established, please contact me to discuss.

Mrs R Hunter
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

Sustainability news



This month has seen a significant milestone in our decarbonisation journey, with the commissioning of new Air Source Heat Pumps to replace the life-expired gas boilers serving our swimming pool, thanks to funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Leeds City Council. This builds on previous sustainability improvement measures, including an extensive solar power scheme, a living roof installation project and a major biodiversity enhancement programme.

Congratulations to members of our student Ecommittee who have secured the Eco Schools Green Flag Award with Distinction for the fourth consecutive year. We were also pleased to have secured the Modeshift STARS Excellent Travel Plan award once again for our work to promote sustainable travel.

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

SCOPAY

As you know, Scopay is the online platform which we use for all payments to school. This includes payments for school meals, trips, revision guides, charity donations, and so on.

Parents/carers can choose to use the Scopay app, the Scopay website, or both. If you are having issues making payments, try clearing caches and cookies, or try the app or website version instead.

If you don't currently have access to Scopay, please email finance@princehenrys.co.uk requesting a link code, and one will be emailed to you.

Finally, a reminder 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 select the 'Alerts' option from the menu.

Online safety



If you missed our recent online safety evening, visit our school website **here** for strategies for parents/carers to employ to help to keep their child safe online. You can also view the **presentation** from the evening. The UK Safer Internet Centre's **website** also provides a wide range of useful guidance for parents/carers. Please see below the first of their 'top tips' which will feature in each edition of our Newsletter.

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

- See the excellent **What I wish…** guide from The Children's Commissioner about managing conversations at home regarding online safety.
- 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.
- Make sure your child is aware that AI generated responses are not created by humans, even though they may often appear to be.
- Consider what the time limits and expectations are of when and where the device can be used.
- Decide where 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.
- Remind your child of the sources of emotional support they can access at home and school, so that they don't feel the need to rely on a technologically generated response.

Mr O Wharton
Assistant Headteacher: Exams, Assessment & Innovation

Forthcoming dates

Term dates

Close	*Re-open to students*
23 Oct 2026	02 Nov 2026
18 Dec 2026	05 Jan 2027 *(Mon 4 Jan is a Training Day)*

Other Dates

03 Nov 2026	Year 12 GCSE re-sit exams start
05 Nov 2026	Sixth Form Open Evening
12 Nov 2026	Year 11 Revision Strategy Evening for Parents/Carers
18 Nov 2026	PSHE / Citizenship Day 1
19 Nov 2026	Year 13 Progress Evening *(in school)*
19 Nov 2026	SLT Open Access Evening
20 Nov 2026	Training Day - school closed to students
21 Nov 2026	Community Education Day Workshops
23 Nov 2026	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Year 7-11)
26 Nov 2026	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Year 7-11)
27 Nov 2026	Training Day - school closed to students
30 Nov 2026	Year 11 Trial Exams start
02 Dec 2026	Year 12 Progress Evening *(online)*
15 Dec 2026	Christmas Concert
17 Dec 2026	Annual celebration evening
18 Dec 2026	Early close to students (12.25pm)

#Free2Bme @phgs

In line with our school vision and values, we want Prince Henry's to 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 Club (Thursdays 3.00pm-4.00pm in the Library).

Mr C Lillington
Assistant Headteacher: Community and Ethos

Celebration Evening

The school holds its annual Celebration Evening each December. At this event, we aim to have a 'guest speaker' to present the awards and make a short speech to inspire our current students. Where possible, we like our guest speaker to be an ex-student with links to the school and a story to tell. Such former students then often go on to be featured on the walls around school as one of our 'Prince Henry's People'.

Do you have a link to our school? Do you have a story of your personal success (for example in sport, business, media, culture, education, etc)? Past examples can be seen on our website **here**. If you think you can help, please email info@princehenrys.co.uk with a brief synopsis of your story (and ideally how Prince Henry's helped you on this journey), and we may be in touch to invite you to be the guest of honour at a future Celebration Evening event.

Mr S Clarkson
Deputy Headteacher: Behaviour and Attitudes

Recent changes to free school meals eligibility

We are pleased that, over the summer, the government has introduced the *'**expanded** free school meals'* programme for all families in receipt of Universal Credit, giving more students access to a free daily meal.

For clarity, subsidies for school trips and other activities are only available to students in receipt of *'**targeted** free school meals'* (i.e. where the annual household earned income is £7,400 or less). Unfortunately, we are unable to provide subsidies for students who receive free school meals under the new ***expanded*** programme (i.e. with an annual household earned income of more than £7,400). This is because we do not receive any additional funding for these students beyond the cost of a daily meal.



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, please ask for our SENCO, Mrs R Hunter, or email her via send@princehenrys.co.uk.

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		
Key Stage 3	Mr Day	Mr Weston	Year 7	Mrs McQuire	Ext. 1613
			Year 8	Miss Combe	Ext. 1614
			Year 9	Mrs Parker	Ext. 1612
Key Stage 4	Mr Knight	Mr Shann	Year 10	Mrs Wood	Ext. 1616
			Year 11	Mrs Furness	Ext. 1617
Key Stage 5	Mr Faulkner (Y12) Mr Johnson (Y13)	Miss Rosillo	Year 12/13	Mrs Robinson-Junni	Ext. 1610

CURRICULUM SUBJECTS (Faculty Leader)

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 / Film 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