

Priory News



"Sometimes the road less travelled is less travelled for a reason."

Jerry Seinfeld (1955-present) - Comedian

RAISING THE PARTICIPATION AGE (RPA)

Older students and their parents may have heard about RPA as it was first proposed by the previous government. It has since remained a somewhat uncertain plan, without clear directions on funding and who will be held responsible for ensuring it happens.

However, what it actually means is that all students across the country who are eligible to leave school at the end of this academic year, and all future Year 11 students, will have to remain in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they reach the age of 17. Then, all those Year 11 students due to leave from the Summer of 2015 onwards will have to remain in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they reach 18.

This development is not about forcing young people to stay on at school after 16 but to help them remain in some form of education or training to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and qualifications to prepare them for suitable employment. So they can remain at school or attend college or choose a work-based learning programme, such as an apprenticeship. We will, of course, continue to offer students impartial advice on what might be the next best step for them – virtually all of our students enter university, employment or further education.

We will obviously keep you informed of any issues relating to RPA that might be relevant for your son or daughter. Please contact Mr Marilton at school, our Careers specialist, if you have any questions or concerns on this matter or please refer to: www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org

SCHOOL CLOSURE THROUGH SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

It seems the dusting of snowfall on Wednesday caught most of us southerners by surprise but we were most impressed that virtually all of our students got to school eventually and we were able to run a normal timetable for everyone by 9.45am, once all colleagues had arrived. Well done to everyone for overcoming the traffic rather than the snow!

Please note that our website provides guidance on what we do in the case of severe weather and possible school closure. If we intend to close we place a prominent notice on our website or you can contact the Hertsdirect notice board on www.hertsdirect.org or listen to announcements on BBC Three Counties and Heart FM radio stations. If there is no closure there will be no announcement made on any of these contacts - No Comment means No Closure. Please let us know if you have ideas on how we might make the procedure work best for you.



PRIORY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (PSA) CHRISTMAS FAIR

This was a huge success last Saturday, making a clear profit of £1,500, which will go towards the purchase of a second school minibus. The many varied stalls were of excellent quality and a picture to see. The students' stalls were also excellently organised and presented and great fun; they showed a high level of entrepreneurial talent! The Café sold out of food due to the high demand and our Year 9 band, "The Switch" entertained us admirably with their own or



others' compositions. A lovely afternoon. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Wendy Brennan and her trusty team of parents, to Lynne Evans and Lynne Luckman who co-ordinated the student stalls and to everyone who made contributions for prizes and who turned up to spend their hard-earned cash.

Headteacher's Commendations

(When a Headteacher's Commendation (HTC) is awarded a letter of congratulations is sent home and a badge of excellence, with a certificate, are presented in assembly to those students who, at whatever level, show exceptional achievement in an activity, in or outside of school. We also announce their success in our weekly Priory News.)

Year 7

Florence Tyrntania & Daniel Reed for their exceptional achievement in the quality of their contribution to the Headteacher recruitment process recently.

Year 8

Meg Stephenson & Nathaniel Hammacott for their exceptional achievement in the quality of their contribution to the Headteacher recruitment process recently.

Year 9

Annie Thomas & Nikolas Hroncek for their exceptional achievement in the quality of their contribution to the Headteacher recruitment process recently.

Year 10

Ethan Vincent & Jack Lawther for their exceptional achievement for calmly & efficiently using their First Aid skills to assist an elderly person awaiting an ambulance.

Issy Davis & Shona Webb for their exceptional achievement in the quality of their contribution to the Headteacher recruitment process recently.

Year 13

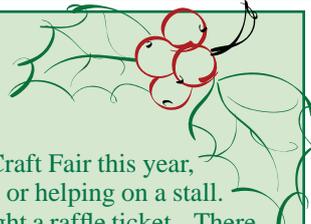
Jemima Sawyer & Harry Ruffell for their exceptional achievement in the quality of their contribution to the Headteacher recruitment recently.

Peter Loach



Got a question about the VLE? Not sure how to log on and check to see your child's progress? Email vlehelp@priory.herts.sch.uk and your answer will get sent to you!!
Keep an eye out on the newsletter for Top Tips and new features which will be coming!

PSA Christmas Craft Fair



A big thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Craft Fair this year, either by sending in a raffle or tombola prize, baking a cake, or helping on a stall. Also thank you to everyone who came along to event or bought a raffle ticket. There was a wonderful and varied display of crafts on offer, and the cafe was buzzing with interesting and innovative student stalls. Even though there were many other events going on locally, amazingly we had better attendance than ever before, which helped to produce a record profit of £1,500! This is way beyond expectations, and means that the PSA is now in a position to provided the 50% pledged to the school to purchase a new minibus.

We would also like to thank Showcard Print for printing the posters and flyers for the Fair.

Wendy Brennan, Chair of the PSA

Dates for your Diary 2012

Tuesday 11th December Yr 11 Trial Exams End
Wednesday 12th December Yr 9 Parents' Evening
Thursday 13th December Post 16 Christmas Formal Dinner
Monday 17th December Christmas Concert 7pm
Wednesday 19th December Christmas Lunch Cafe
Thursday 20th December Presentation Evening 7pm
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 24th December - Friday 4th January 2013
RETURN TO SCHOOL Monday 7th January

A Level Biology Field Trip to Norfolk

A group of 25 Year 12 and 13 students recently went to Norfolk to undertake some practical field work for their coursework. They embarked upon a range of different field work techniques from sampling the richness of species on sand dunes at Winterton Beach, to Rock pool studies at West Runton. The students all worked very hard and successfully completed their coursework. On the last day the students attempted the 'Leap of Faith' where they climbed a 35ft pole and jumped off on to a trapeze! They were much braver than I was and most leapt without giving it a second thought!

Miss S Jones



Maths Department Einstein Academy

CORPORAL IN THE ARMY

Sticking with our restaurant theme, a man sat down in a restaurant and started to read the menu out loud, but to himself.

"Steak & chips, £7; steak, egg & chips, £8.50; salad, £4.." etc. The waiter went up to the man and said "You must be a corporal in the army!". He was correct but how did he make the connection?

Write your name, form & answer on a piece of paper & put it in the entry box in the LRC.

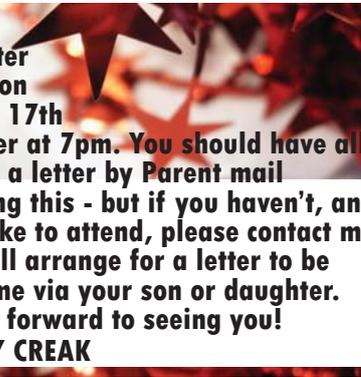
Last weeks solution:

Cup of coffee.

There were no marks or chips in the cup or saucer however the man had already put sugar in the coffee before he sent it back!



'It is the Winter Concert on Monday 17th December at 7pm. You should have all received a letter by Parent mail regarding this - but if you haven't, and would like to attend, please contact me and I will arrange for a letter to be sent home via your son or daughter. We look forward to seeing you! LINDSAY CREAK



Many of you will have just seen Breaking Dawn, the latest film from the Twilight saga of books by Stephanie Meyer.

If you are bereft because Edward and Bella have left your lives don't worry the LRC has just received a brand new series of vampire stories The Morganville Vampires by Rachel Caine which will fill the gap!! There are six books in the series so that should keep you occupied!

Mrs Stovin and Mrs Plum



Year 7 Residential Trip Summer 2013

This year the school will be running a Year 7 trip to Cuffley Camp late in the summer term. It will be open to all current Year 7 students and we would like to encourage as many students to go as possible. The information will be provided to parents/carers early in January which will include the cost, support available and how to pay using the ParentPay on-line system that will be available from January.

Kind Regards

Mr Pope Head of Year 7



THE PRIORY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

TICKETS STILL ONLY £2.90 WEDNESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2012



TICKETS GO ON SALE FROM MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2012. Available from the Catering Manager Lesley Parker in the café
Come and join in the fun! We have Christmas music, tables set with Christmas table cloths, napkins, crackers, drinks, mince pies and sweets.

Roast turkey, stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, two vegetables, gravy and a choice of dessert.