

TERM TALK

WINTER TERM 2014

Dear All

I am acutely aware that this will be my last Christmas entry in Term Talk as Headteacher of this wonderful school. Recalling all of our endeavours and achievements over this Autumn term is, therefore, all the more significant for me.

It was a pleasure to be with colleagues last Friday evening for a seasonal celebration and with our 6th Formers last Thursday evening for their festive fun – a Christmas quiz with fish & chips! I am proud to report that a group of creative Year 9 students took part last Saturday in a schools' robotics' competition, reaching the semi-finals and gaining an award for process management.

Your weekly edition of Priory News will have kept you informed of all the many valuable and pleasurable activities we all engage in together over this last term, including: the PSA's Christmas Fair; national Maths challenge; Book Week; Year 11 practice interviews; Year 8 futures thinking with The Real Game, numerous sporting events, Black History Month, the opening of our new teaching block and expanded 6th Form; not to forget the many trips organised, like the A level Biology field study to Norfolk, the Art weekend in London, Year 8's visit to Parliament and our Year 7 & 8 girls' attendance at a women's football match between Arsenal and Barcelona. Finally, when you read this we will have held our Christmas concert, which is always a joy, and our Presentation Evening, when it is a perennial pleasure to publicly acknowledge our students' achievements. Matthew Summerfield, The Priory's first Head Boy, will have been our guest speaker. All exciting stuff, as always. I am sure students and parents are immensely grateful to all of our colleagues who offer so much of their free time to make many of these events possible.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Stacey Jones in Science, who is leaving to teach in Indonesia and to Jess Marley, in Maths, who will live for a while in Australia. Pat Browne will leave our Music department for promotion to Head of Department in Exeter. We are saying goodbye to Janet Redpath, a catering colleague, who has worked with us so reliably for eighteen years. Pat Gates, a cleaner, is also retiring after fourteen years. Ben Stokes will replace Ms Jones, Paul Cureton has replaced Graham Ball and Elizabeth Gressen has replaced Ms Browne. Janet Chandler will continue to cover for Ms Marley in Maths. Donna Spanyol will start as Assistant Head of English in January. I am also very pleased to announce that Cara Matthews has replaced Jackie Proctor as Head of Science. We wish all of our departing colleagues happiness and success.

HAVE A LOVELY, RESTFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR.



The Christmas concert was full of outstanding performances which showcased The Priory School's dance, music and theatre. The night featured many acts, the orchestra played throughout the night adding to the already magical atmosphere.



It was highlighted that this was the first for many years that the orchestra were blessed with the addition of skilled cellists.

Singing groups such as our Junior, Senior, Consortium and Chamber choirs as well as Solo performances by Jessica, Sebastian and LeJaun also made the night that much more special.



LeJaun's solo performance was a featured song from the upcoming musical, Les Miserables which is being performed on the 13th and 14th of March. Lead by the Sheehan family, both the beginners and advanced dance troop added diversity to the evening rounding a wonderful evening of music and dance.



Kingswood Biology Trip By Megan Rataj Year 12

Day 1

We arrived at about 12 o'clock in the afternoon after a three hour coach journey and then went for a walk to the beach.

In the evening we did an exam outside, looking at trees and attempting to identify them, using their Latin names from their leaves and twigs using a key and a question sheet. I found this quite challenging as I had never done it before and it was hard to find the leaves that matched up to the trees. We also had to draw and label a holly leaf and answer questions on how they were adapted to transport water.

Day 2

On the second day we travelled to Winterton to visit the sand dunes and measure the species diversity at different distances from the strandline. We learnt that the first organisms to colonise an area are the pioneer species, and when the area is stable it is called a climax community. We also learnt the terms for different types of succession; Lithosere (succession from rock), hydrosere (succession from water), halosere (succession from salt) and psammosere (succession from sand). In addition to this we learnt about how sand dunes are formed.

Day 3

On the third day we carried out an experiment to find out how the diversity differs between two fields, one that is mown regularly and one that is mown annually. Our results showed that the species diversity is higher in the field that is regularly mown than in the field that is only mown annually.

We had an introduction lesson on rocky shore ecology, where we learnt that different species live in different areas of the shore, depending on their aggressiveness, predator survival, tolerance to wave action and tolerance to desiccation.

It was a very enjoyable experience. I feel I have learnt lots about Biology and I am pleased that I have had a chance to experience biology in the real world.



Learning Walk



On the 22nd November everyone who studies A level Fine Art, Photography and Textiles arrived at Hitchin station to travel on the first leg of their 2 day out of school

hours learning experience in London. The first stop was Tate Britain where they spent 2 hours immersed in British Fine Art from 1500 to the present. We then moved through London's Underground to The Saatchi Gallery in the Kings Road to look at "Gaiety is the most outstanding feature of the Soviet Union". This exhibition fuelled the students with ideas for all



disciplines with its challenging politically fuelled art involving a number of media.

The Evening was spent at The Royal Festival Hall and The National Theatre and the immediate vicinity where the students immersed themselves in the South Bank experience.

After a lovely sleep in Thames side Youth Hostel we bowled up on the steps of Tate Modern at 10am Friday 3rd November. The art available to the students was as always life changing and the students embarked on 2 more hours of study.

Since we had arrived in the capital, we had also sent splinter groups to Getty Images and The Photographers Gallery whilst undertaking visual investigations around Camden and other areas.

The research was both theoretical and practical.

Next The Courtauld Institute with its fine late 19th century collection, Cezanne, Van Gogh, Modigliani, Seurat, Degas, Soutine and Gauguin to name a few. Stunning,



breath-taking and awe inspiring!

Finally we nipped into The National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery. The students now completed their last 2 hours of the 14 hour gallery study.

We walked a lot and we learned a lot. No wonder the examiner who visited us last year described this trip as "An incredibly vital and enriching experience"

T. Evans,
S.Fishlock



Priory Sports Talk

What has happened this term.....

Visit from Anthony Carke
Year 7 leads out Arsenal Ladies
Basketball Success
District Cross Country

LOTS OF RAIN!!!!



Anthony Clark visits as part of Sky Sports Living for Sport

GCSE PE students experienced the speed and skill of an ex-England international this term. Anthony Clarke is the school's mentor through the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' Scheme. He came in to give a talk to our students and give a demonstration to help our GCSE PE students with their badminton skills. He will be coming in after Christmas to work with our Year 11 BTEC group to help plan and run some tournaments for the year 7s. He has gained over 100 caps for England, winning seven Commonwealth medals, two World Championship medals and representing Great Britain at two Olympic Games.

Are you Gifted & Talented?

We are looking for our Gifted and talented Sport people to come forward to help us coach the extra curricular clubs. We already have year 10 students running the Girls' rugby club and Year 10 Girls helping coach the year 7 netball team

What experience do you have? Could you run a badminton club or a judo club? Come and see us and let us know!

Team Results Sept—Dec 2012

Netball							
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10	
High-field		St Francis		St Francis		St Francis	
Fearnhill		JHN	6-5 (L)	JHN		JHN	6-0 (L)
St Francis	cancelled	Nobel	3-6 (L)	Highfield		Highfield	
St Chris	cancelled	Marriotts	23-0 (W)	Barnwell		Barnwell	6-5 (W)
HGS	cancelled	PHC	cancelled	Barclay		St Chris	15 - 3(L)
KTS	0-4 (L)	HGS	3-12 (L)	HGS	23-1 (L)	HGS	4-7 (L)
PHC	1-7 (L)			PHC		PHC	

Football - Boys							
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10	
High-field	10-0 (W)	Marriotts	2-4 (L)	JHN	1-2 (L)	Marriotts	4-0 (W)
Greenway	2-11 (L)	TAS	6-5 (W)	KTS	2-6 (L)	St Chris	9-0 (W)
High-field	10-0 (W)	Nobel				St Chris	9-0 (W)
KTS		JHN				Fearnhill	
Sandringham	2-3 (L)					TAS	5-2 (W)

Football - Girls					
U12	U13		U14		U16
	Hartswood	1-6 (L)			
	Marlborough				
	Npower cup				
	Kings Langley	cancelled			

Basketball- Boys							
Year 7		Year 8		Year 9		Year 10	
Fearnhill		Fearnhill		Nobel	48-38 (W)		
St Chris		Nobel	28-9 (W)	KTS	41-16 (W)		
		JHN	28-20 (W)	Fearnhill			
		Roysia					

District Cross Country

Top results
Zoe Hague
4th (Senior)
Phoebe Woolcott
8th (Year 10)
Alex Gale
10th (Year 7)
Esme Gianfranco
11th (Year 8)
Meg Stevenson
13th (Year 8)



Louisa Rodgers met her idol Rebecca Allington and Cerhys Davies Jones was coached by Beth Tweddle this term!

Table Tennis Triumph

4 students went to the North Herts Table Tennis Tournament. They competed against HBS, Brandels JHN and KTS. They played extremely well and came 2nd to HBS. Their effort, determination and skill were commented on by more than one school. Excellent work Morgan Simpson, Mark Nelson, Jamie Pal-Bourne & Sanjith Acharya

Girls Football team help out Arsenal Ladies

Not only did year 7 student lead out Arsenal Ladies as their mascot, a number of the girls were able to be ball girls for the game against Barcelona. They had a brilliant time and big thanks goes to Mrs Churchman who organised it all.



Achievements

Adam Jones
Made the GB
Tae Kwondo
training squad

Maisie Warner
Level 10 in Ice
skating

As the Chair of Voice of Hitchin Youth, our Head Boy, Harry Ruffell, attended the Hitchin Area Committee meeting, where he spoke about young people being worried about the streetlights turning off from midnight to 6.00 am. Following this meeting Harry was also quoted on the front page of the Comet and was asked to appear on Three Counties Radio where he was interviewed on the Iain Lee Show. Harry has applied to do Economics at University and we are very proud of his continuing commitment to the local community.



Recently we have been studying satellites and their orbits in Physics. We were given an exciting tour of Astrium in Stevenage, which gave us the opportunity to see real satellites and learn about how they are manufactured from design to completion. We also had the chance to develop our own satellites for egg payloads, and then see how they would survive in a launch simulation; they didn't. All the teams ended up with their egg payload destroyed. From this once in a lifetime experience we have a better understanding of physics in industry and putting theory into practice.

By Year 13 Physics

It's that time of year again where we will all be getting rid of the old to make room for the new, shiny gifts you will receive on Christmas day. Therefore, can you think of the Drama Department please? We use costumes and props for every lesson we teach, as well as for our GCSE and A-Level exams, so your old bed sheet could come in handy to us! Anything from an old shirt to a blanket could be useful to us. So spare a thought for us this Christmas. Drama Department

****PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MUSIC LESSONS WILL BE STARTING BACK W/C 7TH JANUARY. TIMETABLES ARE ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT AND YOUR SON/DAUGHTER SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED ONE FOR THEM TO STICK INTO THEIR DIARIES. ** LINDSAY CREAK - HEAD OF MUSIC**

On 16th January we will be holding an E-safety information evening for parents to support parents to ensure their child is safe online. The evening will start at 7.00pm in the hall.

During this term we built a Robot to compete in the VEX Robotics Competition 2012, sponsored by MBDA. Mr Pawar, our science teacher, encouraged us to take part in the competition. We had two mentors from MBDA, called Ed and Karl, who guided us in through the construction phase. Five students from year 9 were involved in the competition. They were Caitlin Lucas, who was the team leader,

We learnt from the event, to change the tyres, improve our scope design and resolve the issues regarding levers. We investigated the gear ratios to improve lifting of the sacks. This led to an improvement in the design of ASIMOV. Then came the competition day on Saturday 15th December 2012. Our chosen team name was Priory Avengers. We were extremely nervous, mainly because we saw how good the competitors were, with their huge robots. Sir comforted us by saying that we wouldn't be facing them. But we did face them. We gave presentation on our folder we produced during the building of ASIMOV. We thought our chances of winning was minimum. After the first match, our hopes got up, since we were winning matches. During the qualifying stages, there came a point, where we were actually in the lead. We were ecstatic with excitement. At the end of the qualifying stages we came second. The final stage involved making an Alliance with another team. We teamed up with Hitchin Girls School, which were called R.E.D. team. We did extremely well to get to the semi-final stages and were knocked out, but we still got a trophy for having the best 'log book'.



Mia Sheppard, Tom Dunnigan, Ryan Godfrey and Jack Evans. We were all in charge of different aspects of the robot design. During the project we learnt new skills such as engineering, programming and team work.

We went to the trial round at MBDA to test our first design for the robot. At this point robot had a name, which was ASIMOV.

Charity Fundraising to date is a massive £3,700. Well done to everyone. The Christmas Craft Fair also raised £1,500. Well done!



YEAR 8 THE REAL GAME

On Friday, 16th November, all Year 8 students took part in The Real Game in the Hall led by Head of Careers, Mr Marlton.

Students had the opportunity to plan out their dream of what kind of house they would like to own, the car they wanted to drive and the lifestyle they wished to lead in the future. They were then given details of their individual jobs which made them look at their salary paid and adjust their lives to fit their budget taking into account their income.

To make it a realistic experience, a few students even went through the redundancy process at a point when they had planned out their lifestyle and then had to make drastic reductions.

Students thoroughly enjoyed their day which provided a fun and learning experience



Leader Board		
Team Name	Win Points	Schedule Points
Teams Control Frocks	14	166
Priory Avengers	12	100
Sterling Knights	10	146
R.E.D	10	110
Team Highfield	8	75
The Black Ravens	8	69
CSB	6	164
C Cubed	6	113
Barclay's 8's	6	75
Raspberry 3.14159	4	128

