Friday 15th May 2015

Next week is week 2

Priory News

Headteacher's Commendation

100 Club Winners

Congratulations to:

- Sarah Lennon
- Andrea Gardner
- Elaine Holman
- Gillian Claxton
- Karen Humphreys
- Michael Vincent-Lake
- Angela Terrey
- Tracey Priestley
- Sara Willmott
- Emma Puskas
- Marion Proctor
- Jo Clinch

Mary Sprinks
PSA Treasurer

Hooray for Hollywood!

2015 is a big year for fans of King John; we are celebrating 800 years since the Magna Carta built the foundations for modern democracy. However, King John is a highly controversial figure, and to this end Year 7 have been investigating how history has judged him. A popular representation of the King is in Disney's Robin Hood film and 7GG took this as their starting point for their investigation. The students wrote their views on the film character and Mr Stranks sent their ideas to the Disney Chief Executive, Bob Iger, in LA. Disney was so impressed by the work of the students, they sent back a bag of goodies; including badges and original merchandise from the 1973 film!

A spokeswomen from Disney in L.A said: 'We so appreciated that you have taken the time to share your students' letters about the 21st Disney Animation feature, "Robin Hood", which was first released November 8th 1973. It was inspiring to read their thoughts and conclusions about the reign of King John'.

Mr R Stranks

Quiz -

Last week's question:

Name a mammal that lays eggs.

Well done to this week's winner, **Jerome Patterson 7LC.** Please collect your prize from Mrs Nearney

———————————————————————

Drop your answer for the question below into reception by **5th June** for your chance to win a prize:

How many wives did Henry VIII have?

The Priory School twitter account is active and running. Please sign up to follow us and receive information, photos and links to events happening in and out of school, exam results, campus developments and other news snippets. You will still receive regular communications via post and ParentMail and of course more is available through the website. Find us on twitter: @TPS_Hitchin

Numeracy Corner

Work out the value of the following:

a) 4 × 5 - 3 × 2

b) (2 + 3) × (5 - 1)

c) 2 + 6 ÷ 2

d) 8 - (6 - 1)

e) 3 × (4 + 2)

Miss L Jesson

PSA Quiz Night

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Quiz Night last Saturday. A fantastic sum of **£595** was raised!

Thanks once again to our quiz setters; Sue and Paul Matejtschuk.

The Priory School PSA

ParentMail School – Home communications

We now send most school-parent communications through ParentMail. Please contact the school reception on 01462 622300 for more information on how to register.

Dates for your Diary 2015

Saturday 16th May

Bronze DofE Expedition (returning Sunday 17th May)

Wednesday 20th May

Y10 Work Experience Parents' Evening 7pm in the Hall

Thursday 21st May

Y10 Sociology Trip to British Schools Museum

Friday 22nd May

Y13 Study Leave Starts

HALF TERM BEGINS

Monday 1st June

Y8 P&E trip (x band)

Wednesday 3rd June

Y8 P&E trip (y band)

Thursday 4th June

Cuffley Camp Information Evening, 7pm in the Hall

Saturday 6th June

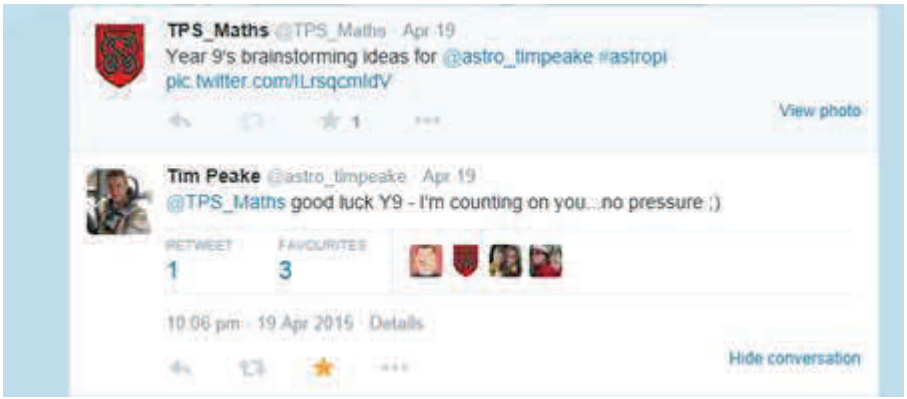
Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Year 9 Students Code for the ISS!

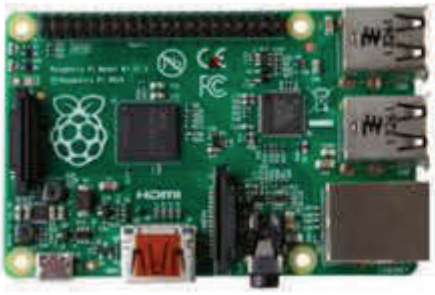
"This year, British astronaut Tim Peake will be the first British ESA astronaut to visit the International Space Station. As part of his mission, he is trying to inspire children and get them involved in space!

A team of leading UK Space companies have joined forces with British ESA Astronaut Tim Peake to offer students the chance to devise and code their own app or experiment to run on a Raspberry Pi, which will be taken to the International Space Station as part of Tim's mission. All you have to do is take an idea (it could be an experiment, an app, or even a fun game) and turn it into reality by developing code capable of running on the Astro Pi board.

Last month some of our Year 9 students came up with some great ideas and Tim himself Tweeted us to wish us luck in the competition!



During this half term, two of our students, Daisy Doyle and Megan Reed, have won a Raspberry Pi as part of this competition for their fantastic idea!



If you are interested in getting involved in this competition, it is not too late (deadline is 29th June)! You don't need to know anything about coding, we will teach you all you need to know with the help of Air Bus Defence and Space, who are going to come into school to help us. Take a look online at the Astro Pi website and think of some great ideas, then come to see Miss Greig in the maths department for some more information."

Miss G Grieg

Do you have a fixed or a growth mindset?

Nearly twenty years ago, as a callow, young science teacher, I was often in the classroom of a colleague who was fond of displaying inspirational and informative slogans on the walls. One that particularly attracted my attention was:

IF YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN OR THINK THAT YOU CAN'T, YOU ARE PROBABLY RIGHT.

While this idea cannot be used to defy logic (see the hordes of deluded hopefuls on the X-Factor who think they can become pop legends if only they believe it strongly enough) it is now clear that relationships between "ability" and academic success is not a straightforward one.

Over the past few decades a number of researchers, including most notably Professor Carol Dweck of Stanford University, have produced a large body of evidence to challenge the idea that individuals are born with a fixed level of ability which determines their levels of success in all of life's pursuits.

Dweck and her colleagues have come to the realisation that it is not just, or even primarily, our abilities and talent that determine our success, but whether we approach challenges and problems with either a "fixed" or a "growth" mindset. People with a fixed mindset tend to view their abilities as set in stone. They view every situation as an event which confirms their already settled picture of themselves in the classroom, at work or in relationships. On the other hand, those with a growth mindset see the abilities that they have been given as the starting point for development. There is a belief that your basic abilities can be cultivated through effort.

Even a cursory look at the biographies of successful people shows that there are very few who had a seamless and problem-free rise to the top based only on innate ability. Indeed, those few who have have often found themselves unable to cope when the inevitable setbacks and disappointments have come calling. The case of the footballer Paul Gascoigne may be salutary in this respect.

In contrast, Michael Jordan is considered to be the greatest basketball player who ever lived. Those who saw him play at first hand had the impression of an individual who was born to play at the highest level. His story is not like that. Jordan was rejected by the major college basketball teams that he had set his mind on from an early age; he was dropped from his university team as a student. He was not considered a good prospect. However, his greatest asset was that he had a growth mindset and saw negative feedback in a positive way: He refused to accept that he had reached the limit of his abilities and worked tirelessly on his weaknesses. Even at the height of his fame and success his dogged practice remained legendary.

So, it would appear that ability is not fixed and can be improved by practice. The first step in improvement is in believing that things can improve, then following up with hard work.

If you are interested in finding out more about fixed and growth mindsets, a good place to start is Carol Dweck's book, "Midset- The New Psychology of Success" published by Ballantine Books.

Dr A Reid

Year 6 Maths Day

On Thursday 30th April, thirty Year 6 students from Oughton Primary School came to The Priory School for a full day of maths activities. The day was focused on problem solving puzzles to help the soon to be Secondary School students prepare for their SATs exams.

One activity got students to think about the different language that is used in worded maths problems. They were extremely successful at coming up with a wide variety of words that mean '+, - , x and ÷'. Below is a picture of some of the students sharing their words on the classroom whiteboard.

However, the most successful activity of the day had to be the newspaper structure! The Year 6 students were put into groups of 4 and given a few minutes of discussion time to plan how to make the tallest, free standing tower that they could. The catch was that in the fifteen minutes they were given to actually build their structure, they were not allowed to speak! This proved very challenging, but it was a fun exercise for all and we saw some great towers at the end of it!

Overall, the students did a great job of all of the problems that were thrown their way! Good luck in your SATs Y6!

Mrs Parsons, Miss Greig and Mrs Brennan

Attendance

Form	Attendance to 11 May 2015	Merits to date
7AA	97.46%	1425
7HB	94.48%	993
7GG	96.33%	1502
7LC	96.40%	671
7MC	95.45%	740
7NP	95.53%	875
8AM	95.79%	1063
8LA	94.86%	568
8MF	94.70%	522
8NJ	95.91%	358
8SO	94.20%	743
8TV	94.08%	272
9CF	96.76%	524
9DM	95.08%	609
9LP	95.19%	582

Form	Attendance to 11 May 2015	Merits to date
9MH	95.96%	282
9RS	96.08%	277
9SB	95.40%	343
10BS	96.21%	201
10CH	96.78%	384
10EG	95.73%	180
10RC	94.63%	166
10RO	94.30%	378
10TC	96.25%	165
11DJ	97.13%	146
11DP	94.73%	179
11NW	96.11%	60
11RL	95.54%	114
11SF	96.96%	68
11VM	94.72%	50

The school's attendance target is 96%.

Hello! I'm Zainab and I'm in Year 12 here at The Priory School.

This summer, I'm doing a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in order to raise money for a local charity called EACGPA that works in East Africa. This includes in the countries of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. The mission statement of the association is to raise aspirations, improve retention in education and support transition into learning and training. It strives to raise money in order to train careers advisors and careers teachers. Education is really important, but if you're not helped towards finding out what to learn and what qualifications you need to get in order to be able to do what you want to do later on, the process can be rather daunting. This includes finding out what area you might want to go into because most teenagers everywhere need advice and guidance and this can be provided through trained careers advisors and teachers.

My target is to raise £2950. The cause is a worthy one in aid of promoting education as well as further education for students who may not have considered it before. This will also help to increase the amount of children who go on to have sustainable lives and futures which isn't always possible in developing countries. I hope that you'll be able to help me in this regard.
The link to my donation page is: https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/eacgpa

Thank you so much for your time and I hope that my climb and whatever amount of money I'm able to generate will go be able to help more children get brighter futures.

Zainab Sheriff, 12JH

Careers—Raising Aspirations

Year 8 Raising Aspirations Workshop

On Friday 15th May, all Year 8 students will take part in a workshop led by Mouri Hall and Kate Allan, to introduce them to the concept of a career and related questions and issues. We always look forward to working with students in this more informal teaching environment – lively discussion is the name of the game!

Year 9 Trip to the University of Hertfordshire

On Monday 11th May, the Raising Aspirations team took a group of Year 9 students on a trip to the University of Hertfordshire. Students were treated to a day of talks, workshops and a tour of the campus, all in a bid to introduce them to university life. For their own task, students were put into small teams and given an A3 sheet of paper, a cardboard box and some art resources. From this they had to design a poster and associated promotional tool with the theme of showing why going to university might be a good idea. Every group produced a colourful poster and imaginative promotional tool – everything from a money box full of opportunities to a student room in miniature. Well done to all the students who took part!

Mrs K Allan

North Herts Book Award

A group of students from Years 7 to 10 enjoyed a book discussion morning at Nobel School on Wednesday 29th April. They discussed a shortlist of recently published books for young people and voted for "Who framed Klaris Cliff?" by Nikki Sheehan as winner of the Younger Readers award, and "Say her name" by James Dawson as winner of the Older Readers award. Author Dave Cousins gave a talk about his life as an author and read from his books.

Staff Reading Challenge

Below are a few pictures from the round up of the 2015 Staff Reading Challenge:

HITCHIN HARES
RELAY RACE
SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2015
10.30am START
KING GEORGE PLAYING FIELD
OLD HALE WAY, HITCHIN
HERTS, SG5 1XL
CREATE YOUR TEAM NOW!
MENS, WOMENS OR MIXED!
KIDS FUN RUN
1KM LAPS / 12KM RACE DISTANCE
£24 A TEAM (KIDS FUN RUN FREE)
ATTRACTIONS FOR ALL THE FAMILY
ENTER ONLINE AT:
www.hitchinrunningclub.co.uk
HITCHIN HARES
THE BURYHILL CLINIC
ESTABLISHED 1956
teens:)unite

THE LARGEST FREE FESTIVAL IN NORTH HERTS

WALSWORTH
FESTIVAL

Fun for all the family!

- Arena Events
- Live Music
- Food & Drink stalls
- Car Parking only £1
- Charity Stalls
- Licenced Bar

***plus* Classic & Interesting Vehicles Display**

For more information call 07545 087783

www.walsworthfestival.co.uk

Find us on Facebook: **Walsworth Festival**

Find us on Twitter: **@WalsworthFest**

Teens Pilates

It's Time To Invest in the Future You..

Join our Teens Pilates Class

Fridays 5pm – 6pm

Build a strong core to counteract those hours spent hunched over school desks and games consoles.

Walk taller, have body confidence and **meet other teens** in our fun Pilates class especially for 12 to 16 year olds.

A great complement to dance classes or other sporting activities or for Duke of Edinburgh award.

To book call 01462 338 002 or book online at

www.thepilatespod.co.uk

107 Bancroft, Hitchin, SG5 1NB