

Priory News



Charity Week

NSPCC



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

We have just finished our third and final charity week of the year where we were raising money for NSPCC. During the week we had a lot of fun

activities taking place, such as a penalty shoot-out (starring Mr Edwards!), a lolly sale, cake sales galore, a *Hunger Games* themed lunchtime challenge, and of course a non-uniform day! Students are still carrying out their own fundraising activities such as a selfie challenge and Year 10 are busy preparing for the Snow White panto, following the success of their Cinderella panto during the last charity week. Once all of the money has been collected and counted, we will have our final fundraising figure for the year – we are hoping to beat the £10,000 raised last year! Finally, a big thank you to all the staff and students for their commitment to raising money for all of the great causes that we have supported this year!

Mrs K Southall

Attendance

Form	Attendance to 15 June 2015	Merits to date	Form	Attendance to 15 June 2015	Merits to date
7AA	97.54%	1554	9CF	96.56%	582
7HB	94.76%	1234	9DM	95.11%	684
7GG	96.45%	1785	9LP	95.39%	671
7LC	96.48%	771	9MH	96.06%	345
7MC	95.19%	853	9RS	95.96%	625
7NP	95.63%	909	9SB	95.43%	510
8AM	95.81%	1230	10BS	96.19%	237
8LA	94.76%	750	10CH	96.99%	418
8MF	94.39%	604	10EG	95.80%	262
8NJ	95.87%	499	10RC	94.68%	186
8SO	94.06%	818	10RO	94.48%	432
8TV	94.17%	352	10TC	96.14%	203

The school's attendance target is 96%.

Quiz -

Last week's question: **In what city can Nelson's Column be found?**

Answer: London

Well done if you got last week's answer correct.

Drop your answer for the question below into reception by **26th June** for your chance to win a prize:

Which liner sank on her maiden voyage in 1912?

Teenage Cancer Trust

Isabel Lawther, form 11DP, is fund raising on behalf of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The day after the Year 11 Prom, Isabel will be having her hair cut and will donate it to the Little Princess Trust, who provide real hair wigs for children who have lost their hair to cancer treatments.

Isabel has decided to get sponsorship for doing this and is donating the proceeds to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Full details can be found at Isabel's Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/isabel-lawther>
(or search "Isabel Lawther just giving")

Sports Leaders

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders attended the Infant Schools' NHSSP Legacy Event, with some being team leaders and others leading different sporting activities. All students did a fantastic job and represented the school extremely well. There was a lot of positive feedback from members of staff on the day, well done all!

Mrs S Emler



Dates for your Diary 2015

Saturday 20th June

3 Peaks Challenge
(returning Sunday 21st June)

Tuesday 23rd June

Technology Exhibition 4.30-6pm

Wednesday 24th June

District Sports

Thursday 25th June

Y11 Prom

Friday 26th June

Y12 Activities Day
Sports Relief Afternoon

Saturday 27th June

Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition
until 2nd July

Monday 29th June

Summer concert 7pm in the Hall

Tuesday 30th June

Y7 Cuffley Information Evening
7-8pm in the Hall

Wednesday 1st July

KS3 Drama Celebration in the
hall at 3.30pm

End of the Exam Season

The end of another exam season heralds the imminent end of the school year - thoughts start moving towards the summer holidays, but more importantly, the fresh term starting in September. This first section of the year is something I always find exciting, bringing, as it does, new challenges and students to get to know- especially aided with a full tank of energy! One of the privileges of working at The Priory School is that with a new year also brings the opportunity of how we can always strive to be better – teach better lessons, run better form times, encourage students to aim for better results...this ambition to get the best out of ourselves and the young people we work with is core to what the school stands for. A quote I like to use frequently comes from Dylan Williams, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment at the Institute of Education. He says: “Every teacher needs to improve, not because they are not good enough, but because they can get better”. Following on from this teachers at The Priory have an expectation that they can continually improve, focus on the most effective methods for student learning and support the opportunity for risk taking and innovation. We hope that students feel this and that this commitment is transmitted into the classroom.

Dr. Reid wrote a few weeks ago on the idea of growth mindset and the power of the word yet. Language is a very powerful driver to being better and this is something we, as a community, can bring to our children’s lives – both in school and at home. Below on the left are some examples of conversations you may have had with your children – I know I have. On the right are some ideas to turn the conversation around to aim for a better outcome.

FIXED MINDSET LANGUAGE USED BY STUDENTS	HOW WE COULD TACKLE THIS
This topic is too hard – I keep making mistakes.	I expect you to make some mistakes – it is the kind of mistakes you make that tell you how to improve.
I can’t do this.	I know you haven’t grasped the subject YET. You need to work at it more and listen to the feedback given by the teacher....have a look at the comments.
I’m not brainy enough to do this – I tried really hard and I still don’t get it.	Yes this is tough but if you work at it you will get better at it – try breaking it down into smaller steps.
I did rubbish in that test.	OK so you didn’t do as well as you wanted to – but let’s look at it as an opportunity to learn – how did you prepare for it?? – How could you prepare differently next time?
I’m no good at Maths/Art/Languages etc.	You might be struggling but you are making progress. I can see that you have improved at.....Just keep working hard.
I’m no good at revising – I can never remember things.	Don’t say that – we can all learn things and our brain gets better the more we try. Have a go at a different strategy...try something new.
I got a B – I’m pleased enough with that.	All that stands between that B and you getting an A are the mistakes you made and some knowledge you haven’t learned yet. Learn from those mistakes and put more effort into your learning for next time.

A recent comedy show on the inner workings of the BBC made a joke about a new job role called the Director of Better and much hilarity ensued about what this actually meant. In education each member of the community is their own personal Director of Better with an inner monologue of ambition and challenge – to quote the TV show: ‘We do it well, but we could do it better than well’. Perhaps I should get that printed on a t-shirt!

Mr N Wright

Careers—Raising Aspirations

Help Us to Win £18,000 for the School!

As you may have read on ParentMail, Raising Aspirations has been shortlisted for the RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund. We now need your help to win! Please go to the Raising Aspirations Blog or the front page of the school website for the link to the voting page, then scroll down and select The Priory School. Voting closes at 9am on Monday 22nd June. Thank you to everyone who has voted so far and to the numerous individuals and organisations around Hitchin and beyond who have promoted our cause, we are extremely grateful.



RA Blog Up and Running!

Our new Raising Aspirations Blog is up and running and we are adding articles several times a week. Please encourage your child to keep up to date at: www.tps-raising-aspirations.com

Investor in Careers Award

We are pleased to announce that the Raising Aspirations department has been awarded an Investor in Careers Award Level 3 by Youth Connexions Hertfordshire. We join hundreds of other primary and secondary schools, FE colleges and training providers across the country who hold this award. You can find out more at: <http://www.investorincareers.org.uk>.

Year 10 Work Experience

Following a ParentMail this week, you will be aware that we are moving towards the end of planning for the Year 10 Work Experience Week, (13th to 17th July). You can now log on and view the details of your child's placement, use the Journey Planner and access the Parental Agreement Form, which needs to be returned to Kate Allan by Friday 26th June at the latest.

Year 12 Work Experience

We have had numerous problems with the Link2+ website, as many of you will be aware. We can only apologise for this; despite our best efforts, we have no control over this system and are working with Youth Connexions to rectify the problems. If your child has not been able to select their placement, please contact Kate Allan urgently on 01462 622300 ext. 238.

Year 9 Taster Trip to Cambridge

This week Mouri Hall and Kate Allan took a small group of Year 9 students to the University of Cambridge to experience a taster day. Students enjoyed talks, lunch and a punting trip! We thank our friends at the university's Outreach Department for looking after us on this special day out.

Willmott Dixon Partnership Programme

We are pleased to have placed twelve Year 10 students for a week of work experience at the Willmott Dixon Headquarters in July. They will spend time in different departments and take part in talks and workshops. This week will mark the first of many future placements as part of the Willmott Dixon Adopt a School scheme.

Willmott Dixon Business Apprenticeship

One of the largest house builders in the country, Willmott Dixon have four business apprenticeships to offer students finishing Year 11 this summer. If you are interested, please contact Kate Allan for further information: kate.allan@priory.herts.sch.uk.

Mrs K Allan

PRIMARY SCHOOL WEEK 2015

The Library's annual Primary School Week takes place between Monday 29th June and Friday 3rd July 2015.

Once again we are delighted that we have been able to secure the services of a great set of speakers for our visiting Year 5s.

Monday 29th June sees Tom Moorhouse, writer of *The River Singers*, and the eagerly long awaited sequel 'The Rising', run an author session for Whitehill, St Andrew's and Oughton schools.



On Tuesday 30th June, Codicote and Cockernhoe schools will have a hands on session with Zoolab's rainforest animals and then

have fun with a practical session in the Science Labs.



St Ippolyts School are lucky enough to be sharing a session with Dan Freedman, our Patron of Reading and author of the 'Jamie Johnson' books and sports journalist on Wednesday 1st July.



Thursday 2nd July sees the return of the very popular Dance and Music Workshop, with The Priory School Dance led by Joe Sheehan, who has just successfully auditioned to dance with the English Youth Ballet in *Sleeping Beauty!*, and respected theatre school singing teacher Laura Gillions.



Finally, on Friday 3rd July, we are running our first ever pottery workshop with Claire Gormill from The Priory School Art Department. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the facilities of The Priory School's very creative Art Department. Claire will help students to design and make their own pottery gargoyle mask, which will be fired in the kiln and given to the students at a later date.



Mrs Stovin and Mrs Plum



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LESS THAN HALF PRICE**

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CLIFTON COLTS FC ARE LOOKING FOR NEW PLAYERS TO JOIN OUR EXISTING SIDE READY FOR NEXT SEASON AT UNDER 14'S (CURRENT YEAR 8 BOYS)

WE ARE A FAMILY ORIENTATED CLUB WHO LOOK TO BRING OUT THE BEST IN ALL OUR PLAYERS, ENHANCING THEIR ABILITY THROUGH CONFIDENCE AND ENJOYMENT

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED , WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT A TRAINING SESSION THROUGHOUT MAY – FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL DARRON SHANLEY, COACH ON 07557 352189

Hitchin Fun Club After School/Holiday Club

Play Assistant - Vacancy

- NVQ Level II/III in Playwork/Childcare.
- Certificates in First Aid, Safeguarding Children and Food Hygiene desirable but training can be given.
- Experience of working with children an advantage.

Rate of Pay: Above minimum rate
Hours: 3pm-5.30pm (minimum) during term time and variable hours between 8am-6pm during school holidays as required.
Willing to be flexible with working hours to cover periods of absences.

Access to own vehicle (with appropriate insurance and a clean Driving Licence held).

Closing date: Friday 10 July 2015
Start date: As soon as possible

For further details please contact Chrissie or Ann on 01462 450925 (afternoons) or email hitchinfunclub@hitchinfunclub.co.uk

Deputy Play Leader - Vacancy

- NVQ Level III in Playwork/Childcare or equivalent.
- Certificates in First Aid, Safeguarding Children and Food Hygiene desirable but training can be given.
- At least two years experience of working with children.
- Previous employment in a supervisory role for children and staff including Induction programmes and training of staff.

Rate of Pay: To be discussed
Hours: 2pm-6pm (minimum) during term time and variable hours between 8am-6pm during school holidays as required.
Willing to be flexible with working hours to cover periods of absences.

Access to own vehicle (with appropriate insurance and a clean Driving Licence held).

Closing date: Friday 10 July 2015
Start date: As soon as possible

For further details please contact Chrissie on 01462 450925 (afternoons) or email hitchinfunclub@hitchinfunclub.co.uk