

# Priory News



Dear Parents ,

I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the start of a new academic year.

## School Expansion

This year the school has taken in 7 forms of entry in Year 7 as part of a local arrangement with the County Council. It is envisaged that we will take an additional form for the next two years due to the increased number of students coming through from the primary schools. Over the next few months we will know what additional facilities the local authority are proposing to develop on the Priory School site to accommodate our future student expansion.

## Exam Results

The school has had great success with our Post 16 results. There was some notable success at A level with Simon Waitland (4A\* grades), Callum Chivers, (3 A\* grades), Emma Lenton, Kathryn Leigh and Coral Gordan, who gained 2 A\* and an A grade. We continue our trend of Priory students enrolling at Cambridge with Callum Chivers reading Maths and Emma Lenton reading Linguistics.



Our GCSE results were extremely good with 69% achieving 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. We are currently awaiting a number of remarks which may push our total to 70% + Top performers include Ella Stillwell (six A\*s and six As), Luke Comer (three A\*s and seven As), Georgia Head (five A\*s and five As), Cerys Day-Williams (five A\*s, four As and a B) and William Lenton (four A\*s and six As). The gauntlet has been laid down for our current examinations groups to surpass these results.

## Facilities

During the summer holidays our site team have been extremely busy coordinating a number of contractors who have been up-grading our school learning environment. The changing rooms in the sports hall have been up-graded at a cost of £60000 and our new state of the art climbing wall is now in place. An additional room has been created in the Design & Technology block and the café has been slightly re-modelled due to the increase in student numbers.

## Uniform

Our updated uniform has been well received by students and Year 10 look incredibly smart in their new school blazers. Many students and parents have commented on the improved quality of the jumpers both at KS3 and KS4.

## Parents evenings & information events

Please can I encourage you all to engage in events that the school puts on to support your child's education. All upcoming events are communicated to parents and can also be found on the school web-site.

## Picking up and dropping off

As the school expands there is increased pressure on space to park in the mornings and afternoons. Please can parents not drive up to the front of the school and when parking outside be aware of the needs of our neighbours. Thank you for your continued support of the school

*Geraint Edwards*

# New Faces at TPS....



¡Hola! My name is Mr Jara and I joined the Technology Department at the Priory School in September as a Product Design Specialist. I am originally from Santiago, Chile so I like to include some fun Spanish words in my lessons! I particularly enjoy running after school clubs and Graphics projects, so watch this space for new opportunities!

I have recently moved to the area so I am improving my landscaping and home decor skills. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my daughter building Lego projects and creating our own adventures. I am very much looking forward to working with you and producing some amazing and innovative products.

**Hasta pronto - Mr Jara**



Hello, my name is Mrs Bolton and I am the new Academic Transition Coordinator and English teacher at The Priory School. I am originally from Newcastle (but I don't sound like Ant and Dec!). I didn't really know what to do with myself when I left university, so I entered the financial sector for a period. It was whilst working for a voluntary scheme that I realised I wanted to

teach. Once a week I would visit a local secondary school and work with underachieving students on their reading skills. It gave me such a sense of satisfaction, seeing these students improving their reading skills and self-confidence, and developing a love of reading, that I decided finance was no longer for me and went to the University of Leeds to complete my PGCE.

After working in a Leeds school for 10 years, my family and I took the plunge to move down to the sunny south, which we love, and I have already worked in Hertfordshire schools before The Priory. I am a keen runner and am currently training for my 3<sup>rd</sup> half marathon, The Great North Run, in September, and I hope to inspire some of the other staff to run as well! It goes without saying that I love reading anything and everything, as well as having a passion for film, and singing in a local community choir. I am delighted to be taking up a position in The Priory and I am really looking forward to working as part of the team of fabulous staff and students at the school.

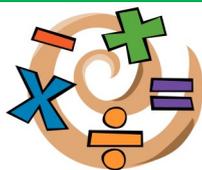
**Mrs Bolton**



Hello! I'm Miss Shields, the new Geography teacher here at The Priory. I grew up locally in Stevenage and went to the John Henry Newman School, where I discovered my love of all things geographical. I completed my degree in Human and Physical Geography at the University of Reading and then spent a year living in Canterbury completing my teacher training.

Outside of my daily life as a Geography teacher I enjoy cooking, travelling, reading and swimming. I have spent the last few summers travelling the USA going to lots of different cities and national parks. The place I'd most like to visit in the future is New Zealand. I am really looking forward to joining The Priory school and working with all the students and staff.

**Miss Shields**



My name is Sarah Jones and, with over twenty years' experience in Primary, Middle and Secondary schools, I am looking forward to being part of the Mathematics department here at The Priory School. My most recent role as a Lead Numeracy Practitioner in a local primary school will enable me to work closely with KS3 to ensure the new curriculum changes are implemented effectively in the coming years.



I live locally and enjoy playing netball and swimming to compensate for the all of the chocolate that I have a weakness for.

**Sarah Jones**

Hello, my name is Mr Taylor and I have joined The Priory School as a new teacher of Design and Technology. Originally from Merseyside; I grew up in the small working town of Prescot, near Liverpool, where I studied for my O-Levels (now known as GCSE qualifications) before leaving school to follow a four year mechanical engineering apprenticeship as well as continuing my learning at college. After my apprenticeship I worked on the 'shop floor' operating an array of machinery making component parts for Aeroplanes, helicopters and the Air force; both British and USA.



After seven years, my job no longer existed due to world events, leading me into a complete change of career and the reason for me applying for a place at University to study a Bachelor of Education degree in Design and Technology. After University I began my teaching career taking up my first post in Stevenage and then working in Harlington Upper School, Bedfordshire. In my younger years I played many sports, notably football and Cricket, with cricket becoming a sport I thoroughly enjoyed and one that took up a great deal of my leisure time. As the years have progressed, I now like to play golf; purely for the walk and the feeling of being one with the countryside! Away from sport I really enjoy spending time in the Lake District, putting on my walking boots and watching nature at its best; peace and quiet. Before joining The Priory I had heard a significant number of positive things about the school and I am very pleased to be joining a school that is in its infancy of continued success.

**Mr Taylor**

# Do you qualify for Free School Meals or other financial support?

If you meet one of the following criteria, please apply for free school meals for your child/ren using the following web link: <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/canhhelp/>

What can you apply for if you are receiving the following benefit(s)?	Free school meals	Free SaverCard	Free TrainCard	Help with music fees	Help with cycle training
Income Support of Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Income-related Employment Support Allowance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)
Child Tax Credit, with a taxable income of no more than £16,190 and not in receipt of Working	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)
Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (100%)	Yes (50%)
Child Tax Credit, payable at a rate higher than	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)	Yes (50%)
Working Tax Credit, Housing Benefit or Council	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (50%)	Yes (50%)
Working Tax Credit during the four-week 'run-on' period	Yes	No	No	No	No

We can also support you with the costs of school trips and school uniform. If you have any questions regarding this please contact **The Finance Office on 01462622300 ext. 212.**

# Community Wardrobe

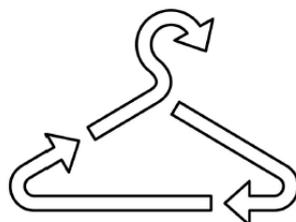
Good quality 'pre-loved' clothes for families needing support



Teenage clothing



Maternity wear



Hitchin Volunteer Army, Hitchin Partnership & Hitchin & Rural Children's Centres

For more information please contact [hitchin\\_vol\\_army@hotmail.com](mailto:hitchin_vol_army@hotmail.com) or Oughton Children's Centre on 01462 436927



Shoes

Uniform



Baby clothes



Vouchers available from:  
**Family Outreach Workers (Children's Centres)**  
**North Herts Homes**  
**Hitchin Partnership Family Support Workers**  
**Health Visitors**

**Sure Start Children's Centres**  
Hertfordshire

**Friday 30th October at Purwell Community Room**  
10.00-11.30am



# The Priory Café....

We are very proud of the high standard of healthy catering which we provide for our students and for which we have been awarded 'Healthy Schools' status.

In The Priory Café, we offer a range of options to encourage healthy eating. The 'Meal Deal' is very popular with our students (at a fixed price of £2.00) as they get the choice of the hot meal, a salad or a sandwich with any sweet or pot of fruit plus a drink from a special range. We also have a snack bar with sandwiches, rolls, drinks and salads available daily—all individually priced.

WEEK 1				
 <b>Monday</b> Italian Day	 <b>Tuesday</b> Chinese Day	 <b>Wednesday</b> American Day	 <b>Thursday</b> Mexican Day	 <b>Friday</b> English Day
Lasagne Cheese & Tomato Pizza Jacket Wedges	Chinese Chicken Stir-fry Stir-fry Veggies Noodles	Southern Chicken Creamy Vegetable Kiev Chips	Chicken Quesadilla Quorn Chilli with Rice Jacket Wedges	Chicken Steak Crispy Crumb Veggie Burger Chips
Fresh Carrots Ratatouille Baked Beans	Prawn Crackers	Corn on the Cob Spaghetti Hoops Baked Beans	Fresh Carrots Sweetcorn Courgettes	Spaghetti Hoops Baked Beans
WEEK 2				
Pasta Bolognese Margarita Pizza Jacket Wedges	Sweet & Sour Chicken Sweet & Sour Vegetables Rice	Nice 'n' Spicy Chicken in a Bun Vegetables & Cheese Country Pattie in a Bun Chips	BBQ Pork Ribs Vegetarian Fajitas Jacket Wedges	Chicken Steak Crispy Crumb Veggie Burger Chips
Fresh Carrots Ratatouille Baked Beans	Prawn Crackers	Corn on the Cob Spaghetti Hoops Baked Beans	Fresh Carrots Sweetcorn Courgettes	Spaghetti Hoops Baked Beans
WEEKS 1 AND 2				
Also each day... (Friday limited)	Salad Bar	Jacked Potatoes	Soup of the Day	
Grab & Go Items	Chicken Flat Bread	Bacon Rolls	Pasta Pots	

## Attendance

Form	Attendance to 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Form	Attendance to 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Form	Attendance to 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
7NW	100.00%	9AM	98.33%	11TC	96.00%
7NS	99.75%	9MF	94.76%	11BS	96.08%
7JT	99.52%	9NJ	95.16%	11RO	93.96%
7AR	100.00%	9CN	95.00%	11RC	96.86%
7SF	97.86%	9SO	96.54%	11CH	98.63%
7CT	98.44%	9TV	97.96%	11EG	97.35%
7CJ	99.55%	10RP	98.36%	FP	98.63%
8LC	97.93%	10MH	96.31%	LE	94.86%
8AA	95.62%	10RS	97.86%	LJ	98.41%
8VM	92.61%	10DM	100.00%	RF	99.14%
8HB	97.54%	10LP	97.70%	JH	94.78%
8GG	99.08%	10SB	95.24%	AX	91.43%
8MC	96.17%			VS	91.21%

The school's attendance target is 96%.

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award... Tales from Dubrovnik

On the last day of the year, as most of the students and staff were heading home for a well-deserved rest, 20 students and four members of staff were frantically packing their bags and rushing to get back to school. 24 sleepless hours later we touched down at Dubrovnik airport for a two week World Challenge expedition. We were all instantly hit by the heat and after setting up camp at Zaton Bay, just outside of Dubrovnik, we were quickly forced into the sea to cool down. After a sticky night, with most of us choosing to sleep outside of their tents under the stars, Group One with Miss Mulholland and Myself packed up and were driven across two international borders to Durmitor National park.

We spent the next four days trekking through some of Europe's most stunning scenery, dipping into lakes (when they weren't infested with Leeches) to cool down and climbing high to visit a cave that was permanently iced, despite the 30 degree heat outside and a mountain hut set high for climbers and skiers. We were occasionally joined on the treks by a pack of the local dogs, who could not resist the chance for an extra walk!

On day three Group Two arrived with Miss Fishlock and Mr Foster, full of tales of the sea kayaking and paddle boarding they'd been doing back in Zaton bay. After two nights, we packed up and moved off to begin our rafting adventure down the Tara River. For this we spent three days in inflatable rafts, on the turquoise water of the Tara, moving through the world's second deepest river canyon, at times the walls were higher than the summit of Ben Nevis! Every night we moved camp, living off of only the food we could pack in the boats. Everyone arrived across the Bosnian border wet and exhausted from three days of navigating the rapids, ready to tuck into a traditional Bosnian meal of Beef and Potatoes. After we'd showered and warmed up from the glacial waters of the Tara, we travelled back to Zaton Bay for the last leg of our journey. We spent the next day wandering around the medieval city of Dubrovnik, winding through its narrow streets and around its walls. Many souvenirs were bought before we sat down to another meal in the centre of the city.



For the next three days we were kayaking from our campsite, exploring the nooks and crannies of Croatia's beautiful Dalmatian coast, paddling in and out of caves and beaches. At last after two exhausting, but rewarding weeks, the two teams met up again to pack up and begin the journey home. After another long journey we landed back at Gatwick, already planning the next World Challenge expedition. Here's to India 2017!

## PE WINTER SPORTS CLUBS

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch time	Y7&8 Basketball Volleyball	Girls Badminton Archery	9&10 Basketball Gymnastics	Girls Basketball Table Tennis GCSE Revision	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Football
After school	Girls Football	All Years Netball Advanced Dancers (3.45 – 5.00pm)	Rugby Wheelchair Basketball Beginners/ Intermediate Dancers (3.45 – 5.00)	Badminton Boys Football Running Club BTEC catch up Fencing (Year 9 & up)	

## NEW! Hockey Club

Mondays 3.30 – 4.30

First practice

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Training by Hitchin Blueharts coaches



# CHESS CLUB



**WANT TO LEARN TO PLAY?  
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

**KS3/4 EVERY THURSDAY LUNCHTIME 12.45PM - 1.25PM  
WITH MR SHEIKH IN A2**

## **THE ALPHA PROGRAMME** FOR 35-64 YEAR OLD MEN FOOTBALL MAD!

**FOR A FREE TRIAL  
PLEASE CALL 03300 101 532**



**F.A. QUALIFIED COACHING      FITNESS BASED TRAINING  
SMALL-SIDED MATCHES      PHYSIOTHERAPY      TAILORED  
NUTRITION      IMPROVED FITNESS      SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT  
LOSS & MAINTENANCE      SUSTAINED HEALTH BENEFITS  
RESEARCH BASED      TRACK PROGRESS ONLINE      FRIENDLY &  
WELCOMING      VARIED PLAYING ABILITIES & FITNESS LEVELS**

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**info@thealphaprogramme.uk**

**www.thealphaprogramme.uk**

## PSA 100 Club

The PSA 100 Club is a monthly prize draw. Your subscription of just £2 per month provides valuable funds for the PSA for the benefits of the school and the students and offers you an opportunity to win a cash prize. The following are recent winners of the PSA 100 Club:



Caroline Leach	Mary Sprinks
Claire Bristow	Katie Woodhouse
Roy Warren	Karen Humphreys
Claire Hammacott	Catherine Parsons

The August jackpot winner: **Jane Looker**.

It is not too late to join the PSA 100 Club for this school year. Please see the application form attached to this newsletter or use the electronic form on the Priory School website.

### PSA Committee

The Annual General Meeting took place on Monday night and it was great to welcome some new faces. At the meeting the following posts were filled:

Chair	Gill Claxton
Secretary	Fran Boast
Publicity/PSA newsletter	Sue Walby
Staff rep	Geraint Edwards

However, we really need some further support with the management of our finances and are looking to recruit a PSA 100 Club Coordinator and a Treasurer. If you can offer any of your time to assist us in these roles, please contact us at [psa@priory.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@priory.herts.sch.uk).

### Fundraising goals for School Year 2015-16

The PSA really relies on your support in raising funds to assist the school in the enrichment of the learning and other experience of the students. We aim to raise funds for the benefit of the whole school and are currently looking at our fundraising goals for this school year. We would welcome your suggestions as part of this process. If you have any ideas, please send them to us at [psa@priory.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psa@priory.herts.sch.uk) by Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

### Dates for your diary

Our Festive Market will be taking place on **Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November** between 12.00 noon and 3.00pm. There will be a variety of gift and craft stalls, student stalls, raffle, cakes and other refreshments.

*Gill Claxton, PSA Chair*

### - Quiz -

**2015 is the 600th anniversary of which famous battle?**

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

## Dates for your Diary 2015

### Sunday, 20th September

12—3.00pm Prefects' Picnic

### Monday, 21st & Tuesday 22nd September

Year 11 Mock Business  
Interviews

### Wednesday, 23rd September

Year 12 Information Evening,  
7.00—8.00pm

### Friday, 25th September

Year 7, History Day in the Hall

### Monday, 28th September

Year 7, Raising Aspiration Week  
and Careers Lesson 1

### Tuesday, 29th September

Raising Aspirations Evening,  
7.00—8.30pm

### Tuesday, 29th September

Year 12 Initial appraisals  
sent home

### Thursday, 1st October

7.00pm Key Marginal  
Support Evening

**APPLICATION TO JOIN THE 'PSA 100 CLUB'**

Please accept my application for membership of the Priory School Association 100 Club

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Full Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....Telephone.....

E-mail.....

I have completed the Standing Order Mandate below\*

OR

I enclose a cheque for £24 (*cheques payable to Priory School Association, please*)\*

*\*Please tick your chosen option, as appropriate.*

.....

**STANDING ORDER MANDATE**

To: The Manager:

.....Bank

Bank Address:.....

Account Name.....

Account Number.....

Bank Sort Code.....

Please pay the sum of £24 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 (and thereafter annually on 1<sup>st</sup> October until further notice).

OR

Please pay the sum of £6 on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, (and thereafter quarterly on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> October and so on until further notice).

Payee Signed.....

The Priory School Association Print Name.....

HSBC Bank

Sort Code: 40-24-20

Account No: 01746650

Quoting reference: TON/



COME AND HAVE FUN AND SUPPORT THE  
BIGGEST BLOOD CANCER CHARITY,  
BLOODWISE, BY PARTICIPATING IN A 2  
HOUR ZUMBATHON.  
TAKE PART IN AS LITTLE OR AS MUCH AS  
YOU LIKE AND TREAT YOURSELF TO A  
CAKE AT THE CAKESALE AFTERWARDS!

SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>  
OCTOBER 2015  
2PM-4PM

VENUE: THE PRIORY  
SCHOOL, BEDFORD  
ROAD, HITCHIN

PLUS MINI RAFFLE WITH SOME GREAT  
PRIZES TO BE WON!

TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT:  
[www.justgiving.com/zumbathon-24](http://www.justgiving.com/zumbathon-24)

# Bloodwise

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS LEUKAEMIA  
AND LYMPHOMA RESEARCH)

£10 PER TICKET

**Calling all students, parents and teachers  
who want to make a difference for the refugees in  
Calais, Kos and Syria!**

**4<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
9am – 1pm  
The Priory School**

**Inspired by the actions of others and in an attempt to help people  
living in the awful conditions of the Calais and other refugee  
camps, The Priory School and Farley's Hair Salon  
are going to be collecting humanitarian aid.**

Attached is a list of things most needed by the refugees in Calais.  
If you have donations which are not listed, do bring them: they can be taken to the refugee  
camps in Kos and other places.

Please, have a look at home or maybe add a few tins of food to your next shop.  
If you were thinking of replacing your camping gear or waterproofs next year, please let us  
have your old equipment.

If you can't donate anything, just turn up on the day to help serve coffee and tea, sort out the  
donations and load the vans.

Or if you have a van, maybe you can help deliver the donations to a depot!

**Your help and generosity will be greatly appreciated!**

Students, please see Ms Bochnak-Sales if you would like to volunteer your help!  
Parents and teachers, we hope to see you there on the day!

**PEACE**

**Please sort your donations into the following categories:**

1. Toiletries
2. Children's clothes and shoes
3. Women's clothes and shoes
4. Men's clothes and shoes
5. Food
6. Small toys
7. Books (children's/non-fiction/language)
8. Camping equipment
9. Electrical items (mobile phones, torches, batteries)