

# Priory News

Dear Parents / Carers

## Behaviour during lunchtime

The Priory School students are privileged to have a large amount of space to enjoy during lunchtime. The vast majority of the time students from across the age groups play and engage well with each other; this is a pleasure to see.

On occasions there are flashpoints between students but these are isolated incidents that are dealt with swiftly by duty staff. However, there was an incident earlier this week at lunchtime between Year 9 boys that escalated into a serious breach of school discipline. What was a fight between two boys developed into one of the boys being knocked to the ground and then assaulted by a group of other students. The attacked student had to be taken away in an ambulance where he was monitored in hospital and then released home. The young man who was attacked has shown incredible resilience and after a day off school has now come back in.

Those Year 9 students who perpetrated the attack have been dealt with and excluded for 5 days. Such behaviour will not be tolerated and this will be re-enforced during their reintegration meetings next week.

What is saddening is that all those students who were involved in the attack are of good character; young men, who apply themselves to their learning, attend school regularly and in some cases have been nominated for school awards. However, their 'pack like' behaviour could have well resulted in serious injury or death which they would have had to carry with them for the rest of their lives. There is an underlying culture amongst some students to flock to flashpoints and to egg others on or in the worst case, participate. I would encourage all parents to discuss with their child the importance of staying away from such flashpoints and not adding fuel to the fire. The responsible course of action is for students to find a member of staff to intervene.

We have over 1100 students on site and have exceptionally high expectations regarding student behaviour. Over the last half term we have moved on a small number of students who have had a detrimental impact on the school's learning environment. I wish to make it clear that when there is a serious breach of the school Behaviour for Learning Policy, a student will be sanctioned accordingly.

Geraint Edwards

## NO MORE CASH



From 1st September 2017 the school will no longer be able to accept cash payments for anything other than topping up your child's dinner money card. This includes all school trips, music lessons and items purchased from the school. You will be able to make payments either by cheque or by our online payment system. If you require a login for this, please contact the Finance department on 01462 622300 ext 212. Mr T. Foster

## Dates for your Diary 2017

### Monday 19th June

Year 12 Study Leave begins

### Tuesday 20th June

Primary Athletics - All day

### Wednesday 21st June

District Athletics at Ridlins  
2.30pm - 6.30pm

### Thursday 22nd June

Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Hunstanton

### Friday 23rd June

Post 16 Prom at Knebworth Barns

### Monday 26th June

Year 8 Trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor

### Wednesday 28th June

District Athletics

Celebration Evening at The Town Hall, Hitchin  
7pm

### Thursday 29th June

Year 11 Prom

### Friday 30th June

Music trip to Australia

# Teaching and Learning

## Staffing update

We said goodbye to Mr Millns (3<sup>rd</sup> in Science) before half term and Ms Bochnak-Sales (Head of Year 7) last Friday. Both members of staff will be greatly missed by students and colleagues and we wish them the best in their new roles. Mr Millns has moved back into industry to take up a Project Management role and Ms Bochnak -Sales has moved to Highfield School to become 2<sup>nd</sup> in English. Mr Pope will be taking up the role as Head of Year 7 until the end of term. Since Easter the school has been very busy making a number of external and internal appointments which will be communicated in full to you at the end of June. As you are aware recruiting quality staff is a challenge in the current educational climate but we are extremely pleased with the quality of new colleagues we have appointed. Two 'returning' colleagues who many of you will recognise are Mrs Matthews (ex-Head of Science) and Mr Cussen (ex-Head of History).

Geraint Edwards

## Reminder about The Priory School protocols regarding detentions

If your child receives a detention, you as parents will receive a notification via Parentmail. Please discuss the detention with your child and remind them the day before and on the day of the detention. A small number of students miss detentions too frequently which creates a lot of work in school following this up. Students receive notifications on the day of the detention through their Form Tutors, lists in the cafe and their class registers. Students who miss 3 detentions will be internally excluded. Thank you for your support.

Mr L. Foster, Assistant Head - Behaviour and Learning

## TV Scientist Visits The Priory School



We were very pleased and privileged to welcome to our school, Dr Emily Grossman. A well-known Scientist; Geneticist, Microbiologist and Science Communicator amongst other things. She is currently one of the resident scientists on the TV Programme: Duck Quacks Don't

## Echo!

She came to speak to a group of our Year 9 and 10 girls about her own journey from her school days to where she finds herself now and what it has meant to her to be a female Scientist. Afterwards she went on to demonstrate to us some fascinating experiments and explain some equally intriguing scientific facts.

A most inspiring and stimulating morning.

Mrs Brennan and Mrs Emler



# Teaching and Learning

## Student Leadership Committee

The Student Leadership Committee have just had their final meeting for this academic year! Georgia Head and Ben Hankin, our Head Girl and Head Boy have presented the annual report to SLT and the Governing body. This feedback will be presented to all staff and students next week in order to keep them updated with the progress being made by SLC. They have had a superb year with many changes being introduced as a result of their suggestions and ideas. Some of their changes are outlined below:

Café food has been updated

Bag racks have been installed

Toilets are going to be updated in the Summer

Planners have been updated and altered

2 gender neutral toilets have been introduced (SLT corridor, 6<sup>th</sup> form block)

Report cards have been changed in conjunction with SLC

SLC played a key role in the discussion of the school vision with the Governing body

E-praise has been introduced to staff due to negative feedback about My Stickers last year

Genes for Jeans day has been introduced as an additional charity day – suggested by SLC

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of SLC for their hard work, dedication and mature manner which they have demonstrated all year. I am looking forward to working with you all again in September!

I would like to give a special thanks to our senior representatives John East (Key Stage 3 Senior Rep), Kerry Higginbotham (Key Stage 4 Senior Rep) Georgia Head (Head Girl), Molly Hughes (Deputy Head Girl), Ben Hankin (Head Boy) and Jamie Dear (Deputy Head Boy). They have been exceptional student representatives and have demonstrated outstanding leadership this year. We are looking forward to welcoming the new SLC in September!

Mrs K. Southall, Assistant Headteacher

## A-Level Geography Field Trip – Slapton Ley

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017, A-level Geography students visited Slapton Ley and took part in activities to help them come up with ideas for their coursework which they have to complete as part of the AQA A-Level Geography syllabus. On day one, they went into the local village of Slapton and looked at the changing land use of a rural place from 1977 to the present day. On day two, they completed a 5 mile walk from Start Bay to Torcross where they learned about the history of the local area and completed a beach profile of the barrier beach in Slapton Sands. On the third and final day, students went to the nearby local farms and local woodland to carry out soil and infiltration tests. They then went to the local river and tested the velocity, width and depth of the river.



After each day in the field, students completed evening sessions in a classroom where the data was combined and analysed using statistical tests such as Spearman's Rank and Chi squared as well as ideas of how to structure their coursework.

Mrs M. Hall, Head of Geography

# Teaching and Learning

## Charity Week - Week Commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017



Our final Charity Week of the academic year will be taking place shortly. The final charity is our chosen International charity - "ABC's and Rice". This charity is based near Siem Riep in Cambodia along with Full Belly Farm. They support over 160 families with food and education in the following ways: breakfast clubs, six classrooms, lunch time clubs, rice rations for local families, sponsorship for school uniform and equipment, as well as a supply of fresh fruit and vegetables from the local farm. Last year Mrs Hamer visited the school and farm. When Mrs Hamer told the Student Leadership Committee (SLC)

the story of what she had seen and all of the amazing work that they do, the SLC decided they wanted this to be our chosen International charity. We are looking forward to raising as much money as we can for this superb charity! Please get involved!

Mrs K. Southall , Assistant Headteacher



## Careers & Guidance Information



### ITV apprenticeship opportunities

If your child is in Year 11 or 13 and is interested in media, take a look at this website for apprenticeships available with the ITV:

[http://www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/entry-careers/apprenticeship-programme/?dm\\_i=2HQQ,134XV,35A5YM,39Z4A,1](http://www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/entry-careers/apprenticeship-programme/?dm_i=2HQQ,134XV,35A5YM,39Z4A,1)

# Healthy Young Minds in Herts

A brand new website recently been launched designed to help parents, carers and schools in supporting young people with a range of issues such as mental health, relationships, eating disorders and many more. The website has been created by CAMHS professionals in order to ensure that the information and advice given, is that from clinical specialists. Have a look at the website, I am sure you will find some useful information or resources <http://www.healthyyoungmindsinherts.org.uk/>

There are lots of great websites and resources available to support wellbeing and mental health in young people. Have a look at the following links and numbers.

[www.healthforteens.co.uk](http://www.healthforteens.co.uk)

[www.kooth.co.uk](http://www.kooth.co.uk)

NHS free text advice line 07480 635050

CAMHS crisis line 01923 633400

[www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

### Sessions in Thriving



'Thrive' is a four session FREE course designed to help us thrive in spite of common challenges to our wellbeing. Sharing insight from research and medicine, local psychologist and author Dr Kate Middleton will be running four evenings across May and June exploring how to address the challenges of sleep, stress, anxiety and self-confidence. Expect a relaxed, informal atmosphere with wine and nibbles provided.

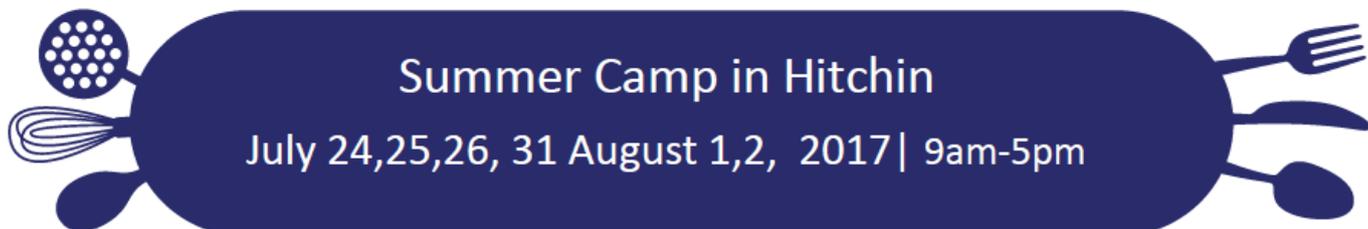
THRIVE is at Hitchin Christian Centre (next to Waitrose) 7-9pm - for more information and to book your free place, see [www.hcc.org.uk/thrive](http://www.hcc.org.uk/thrive)

Mrs K. Southall, Assistant Headteacher



# COOKERY Camps

Holiday cookery camp for boys & girls aged 8-16  
featuring unique food adventures each day!



**Summer Camp in Hitchin**  
July 24,25,26, 31 August 1,2, 2017 | 9am-5pm



**Summer Camp in Letchworth**  
July 27 & 28 August 3 & 4, 2017 | 9am-5pm

Kitchen skills • Science experiments • Ingredient talks  
Seasonal decoration • Visitors & trips • Planting & growing  
Food art • Flavour mixing • Star bakes • Lots of tasting!

**Please DON'T pack a lunch (or tea) – all meals included!**

## Summer activities

Food Focus - Great British Berry Olympics  
Seasonal & local produce & crafts  
Tackle It- Science of food processes  
Star Make & Bake each day  
PLUS a loot bag for each cook!



£40  
per cook  
per day

Get in touch to book your child's place:  
[www.cookeryeatery.co.uk](http://www.cookeryeatery.co.uk)  
[info@cookeryeatery.co.uk](mailto:info@cookeryeatery.co.uk)  
07795 627 492



**ROC**  
conversation

## HITCHIN

What will make a difference in  
your community?

TUESDAY, 20TH  
JUNE  
7PM - 9PM

REGISTER:  
[www.roc.uk.com/hitchin](http://www.roc.uk.com/hitchin)

OR CALL:  
Phil Gleave  
National Development Manager  
0161 393 4511



## HITCHIN TOWN HALL

BRAND STREET, HITCHIN,  
SG5 1HX

Come to meet with others  
from your local community  
including police and fire  
services, the local council and  
churches to discuss ways of  
working together for the good  
of the community.



Supported by:



**ROC Conversation** brings key community contributors together to turn dreams into reality. Many agencies from across Hitchin will be coming together to celebrate the good work which is being done, as well as exploring new ideas.

The programme will include time for round table discussions and feedback.

These evenings have proven to be an incubator for ideas to be expressed and projects to be born. What ideas might you bring to the table?

*Some quotes following recent Conversations ..*

*"I was so delighted at the enthusiasm shown by P and A from Citizens in Policing, they are buzzing with ideas that will involve Cadets and Special Constables and ROC café's etc"*

*"Great night, ROC have got this type of event off to a T."*

*"Just a quick email to say I thought it was a great event last night - very positive. Someone from work mentioned how 'uplifting' it was. Well done!"*



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Family Cycling Classes

## A fun activity for the whole family!

We're running some basic cycling classes for families to help you all brush up on your bike safety! This class is done away from the road, where you'll be practicing signaling, maneuvering and much more by our qualified instructors.

This is the perfect class to ensure you're all cycling safely on those long bike rides!  
£5 per family per class.

**LETCHWORTH**  
Sat 22 July  
10-12pm  
Jackmans  
Creamery Court,  
SG6 2NN

**BALDOCK**  
Sat 29 July  
2-4pm  
Avenue Park  
West Avenue,  
SG5 4AY

**BASSINGBOURN**  
Sat 17 June  
2-4pm  
Bassingbourn  
Primary School,  
SG8 5NP

**BALDOCK**  
Sat 24 June  
2-4pm  
Avenue Park,  
West Avenue,  
SG5 4AY

**BASSINGBOURN**  
Sat 15 July  
2-4pm  
Bassingbourn  
Primary School,  
SG8 5NP

**HITCHIN**  
Sat 22 July  
1-3pm  
St. Michaels  
Community Centre  
SG4 0QY

**Get Active**  
NORTH HERTS

Booking is essential, contact Sam Halbert on [active@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:active@north-herts.gov.uk) or 01462 474838 for more information or booking details.



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



# Family Bike Rides

## A fun activity for the whole family!

Been on a class or got the whole family confidently cycling, why not join us for a family bike ride? Each month our qualified instructors will be guiding families along a lovely scenic route. Each ride costs £5 per family.

**LETCWORTH**  
Sun 25 June  
10-12pm  
Jackmans  
Creamery Court,  
SG6 2NN

**BALDOCK**  
Sat 1 July  
2-4pm  
Avenue Park  
West Avenue,  
SG5 4AY

**HITCHIN**  
Sun 6 August  
1-3pm  
St. Michaels  
Community Centre  
SG4 0QY

**BASSINGBOURN**  
Sun 30 July  
10-12pm  
Bassingbourn  
Primary School,  
SG8 5NP

Get **A**ctive  
NORTH HERTS

Booking is essential, contact Sam Halbert on [active@north-herts.gov.uk](mailto:active@north-herts.gov.uk) or 01462 474838 for more information or booking details.