

Priory News



LOCAL MP BIM AFOLAMI VISITS THE PRIORY SCHOOL

On Friday 10th November students from all year groups were invited to a Q&A session with Hitchin & Harpenden MP Bim Afolami.

Questions covered topics such as tuition fees, Brexit, Theresa May and Boris Johnson, voting methods, and funding in Education. The MP gave some answers to all the questions and we are hoping he will come back to take part in a debate about some of the issues that were raised.

The MP said on his Facebook page, "I really enjoyed my visit to The Priory last week, where I took part in a Q&A with students. I was very impressed – there were some challenging questions from some very well-informed young people!"

Mrs Emler, Raising Aspirations

ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

Four of our Year 10s — Lily King, Charlie Jackson, Amy Stewart and Sam Grady — took part in the Rotary Technology Tournament on Thursday 16th November and were awarded 1st place for the intermediate challenge!

Well done team!

The task was to design and make a product to propel a table tennis ball into the air, with the product that propelled a ball the highest being the winner.

Miss Loo, Design Technology Department



Dates for Your Diary

**Monday 20th November to
Wednesday 6th December**

Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations

Monday 27th November

Occasional Day

School closed to students.

**Monday 4th to Friday 15th
December**

Year 9 Post 14 Pathways
Interviews

Wednesday 6th December

Christmas Concert
Tickets Sold Out



Monday 11th December

Pantomime (see p. 11)

Thursday 14th December

Year 8 Christmas Disco (see p. 10)

Friday 15th December

Christmas Jumper Day

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch will be held on Friday 15th December. Tickets are now on sale from the finance office or the café till at the fantastic price of £3. We will provide a three-course meal: soup; turkey, lamb or vegetable option; plus three choices of sweet. All wrapped up in bundles of seasonal joy!!



Teaching and Learning

DEBATING TEAM WINS COMPETITION AT HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On Thursday 9th November we took our school's Debating Club to the Houses of Parliament for the Schools' Debating Competition, organised by our local MP Bim Afolami.

Prior to the competition our team – Ethan Macrae (11CH) and Harry Huckle (11NJ) – were told that they would be opposing the motion 'This House would introduce an opt-out system for organ donation.'

After a very early start we arrived at Westminster and settled into our grand conference room. Our debate was first up and the boys spoke confidently, eloquently and passionately about organ donation. The other team from St George's were very good and we had to wait until all three debates were over to find out the results.



After debates on abolishing the monarchy and grammar schools, the results were revealed... we had won our debate! The team were kindly given books as a small prize and we then had some photos taken with Mr Afolami. To make our day even better his PA had organised a full tour of the Houses of Parliament for free with a tour guide, which everyone really enjoyed.

Huge congratulations to Ethan and Harry – you did The Priory School very proud! Also, thank you to the rest of the Debating Club for their help in the lead-up to the competition and for their support on the day.

We are now preparing for the Rotary Youth Speaks competition in the new year – so keep the evening of Monday 22nd January free!

Miss Anderson-Bonner, English & Media Studies Department



STUDENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the last few weeks students in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 have been voting on their senior representatives for the Student Leadership Committee.

We are excited and very pleased to announce that we now have two superb senior representatives. Lillian Hubbard Sawyer in Year 11 is our Key Stage 4 representative and Laney Laws-Randall in Year 9 is our Key Stage 3 representative.

Lillian and Laney will be attending their first meeting with Mr Edwards on Tuesday 28th November in order to feedback on the Student Leadership Committee comments so far this term – we look forward to welcoming you both to the first meeting!.

Congratulations to both of these students – we can't wait to work with you!

Mrs Southall, Assistant Headteacher



Teaching and Learning

YEAR 7 UGLY ANIMALS DAY

The new Ugly Animals Mascot for Year 7 is... **THE MONKFISH!!**

Year 7s were treated to an amazing talk from Simon Watt, the founder of the Ugly Animal Preservation Society. They learnt all about the different ugly animals that are found around the world and their interesting defensive mechanisms and eating habits .

After the talk the students were set the challenge to find an ugly animal of their own. They then had to produce a presentation about it, and the winning presentations from each form group went on to present again in front of the whole form. There was everything from the naked mole rat to the goblin shark; the star nosed mole to the sea pig!

The winners were Nat Edwards and Samuel Norman (7MH) who did a fantastic presentation on the very ugly monkfish!



Results:

1st: 7MH Nat Edwards & Samuel Norman - Monkfish

2nd: 7JW Zahra Belakehal & Layla Wilks-Gibbs - Goblin Shark

3rd: 7KA Cameron Fraser & Ryan Woodcock - Naked Mole Rat

4th: 7RP Katie Hamilton & Noa Wattinne-Cole - Asian Sheephead

5th: 7SF Sam Smith, Oscar Oliver, Joe Blackford - Red-Lipped Batfish

Joint 6th: 7RS Crystal Birch, Remi Green, Olivia-Asha Duncan - Wolf Fish; 7RF Jazzy Rai & Nancy Woolner-Jones - Griffins Leaf Nosed Bat



BOOK-FOLDING WORKSHOP

Emma Dodd (9AR) ran a book-folding workshop this month for staff and students. She learnt this skill last year as a way to raise money for the £1 challenge and is now using it to raise money for her World Challenge Exhibition.

She taught her 'pupils' the basics of folding and started them off with a basic heart design. They all left the session excited to complete the project at home. The workshop was enjoyed by all that attended and Emma is considering starting a regular book-folding club.



If you would like to purchase a book that Emma has made they cost £5 (small) and £10 (large). Please send an email to Mrs Emler if you are interested.

Do you have a talent that you could teach to others? Please let Mrs Emler (sally.emler@priory.herts.sch.uk) know and you could run your own session too!

Teaching and Learning

Year 7 get crafty with castles!

Over the last few weeks Y7 have been exploring the Norman Conquest. One of the key changes this brought to England was the building of castles to keep the invaders safe from the disgruntled Saxons. To help grow their understanding the year group were tasked with designing a castle of their own and some of the results have been truly wonderful and worthy of William the Conqueror himself! A few of the most spectacular are below....



Olivia Gower 7MH



Lola Bethell, Lara Tobin & Francesca Preston 7MH



Kai Marash & Freddie Root and their computer designed castle! 7RF



Abbie Looker 7MH – castle cake...this was later sold & raised lots of money for Children in Need!

Lois McSorley 7MH – castle cake – good enough to qualify as a show stopper on Great British Bake Off!



Jack Foyle 7RF



Lewis Huddleston 7RF

An Icelandic Adventure

In the early hours of Thursday 2 November, 38 students and 4 staff set off on a coach to London Gatwick to begin our Icelandic adventure, and what an adventure it was!

Our first stop was one of Iceland's most famous attractions – the Blue lagoon. Here we swam in warm waters and all had a face mask! We visited waterfalls, geysers, geothermal pools, beautiful beaches and glaciers, all in the space of a few days. A highlight for everyone was the black beach at Reynisfjara, where the waves were spectacular and the scenery of the cliffs was extraordinary.

Despite a hefty delay and some missing luggage, the students were excellent throughout and a true credit to the school, and I want to thank them for making the trip so wonderful!

Miss Shields, Geography Department



Teaching and Learning

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE BARD

On Wednesday 1st November a group of Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students travelled to the West End to see a National Youth Theatre production of 'Othello' at the Ambassadors Theatre.

Othello is a key A-Level text, and getting to see this production was a really valuable experience. Set in a modern pool room, this contemporary twist on the traditional setting helped to remind us that the story is still incredibly relevant in modern times.



With a focus very much on modern physical theatre methods, for 2½ hours we were immersed in the action of Shakespeare's tale of jealousy and revenge and were able to appreciate some of the staging and directorial choices of this modern interpretation.

A great afternoon at the theatre, which will hopefully help our students explore this text from a different angle.

Miss Dolling, English Department

YEAR 11 OAKLANDS COLLEGE VISIT

A group of Year 11s were invited to the Welwyn Campus of Oaklands College on Wednesday 15th November.

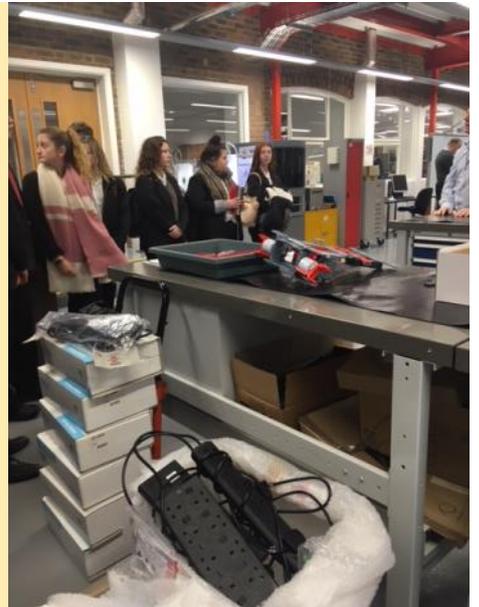
They had a tour of the different subject areas and were able to talk to lecturers and current students about the courses on offer.

We have previously been to the St Albans' Campus where students have been able to have taster sessions in areas such as animal care and construction.

The college is holding a number of evening taster sessions in the next couple of weeks and you are currently able to apply for courses for next year.

If you are interested in the college, more information can be found at www.oaklands.ac.uk.

Mrs Emler, Raising Aspirations



CAREERS

We are always looking for parents interested in talking to students about their careers.

If you can help, please email Miss Sangster:

emma.sangster@priory.herts.sch.uk



Teaching and Learning

CATCHPHRASE ITV

On Tuesday 7th November The Priory School Music Tech students, consisting of some Year 11 GCSE students and some A-Level students, embarked on a trip down to the ITV studios in London.

The students went to see a filming of the show Catchphrase. Myself and the rest of the students took an interest into the show and got ourselves engaged in the show looking at the amazing world of show business and how the reality of the show worked.

It was a really great experience and we hope to do more of these in the future.



Max Thomas, Year 11 Student

RARE PRODUCTIONS' 'WIZARD OF OZ'



On Thursday 9th November, the Music Department took 75 students across all years to The Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage to watch Rare Productions' 'The Wizard of Oz'.

Six Priory School students featured in this production: Kerry Higginbotham starred as Dorothy, Fin Bevan as Lion, Emily Holt as Glinda the good witch, Sophie and Max Carroll as lead supporting cast and Pippa Jackson as a lead dancer. They took on their roles well and were fabulous in their live performances.

The show was full of puffs of smoke, lots of scene and costumes changes, a green witch and a very cute little dog!

With just 10 weeks for the cast to rehearse, we were all very impressed by the high standard of the performance. and we look forward to the next one!!!

'It was an incredible experience performing in this production. We enjoyed it very much and hope the audience enjoyed it too. I thoroughly enjoyed playing Glinda and performing in front of my music department family.'

Emily Holt

'It was a very enjoyable, family-friendly production, filled with humour and brilliant acting from all the cast.'

Henry Croft

Sophie Carroll Year 12 Student and Laney Laws-Randall
Year 9 Student

SCUBA 2018

Years 9 to 12 have been told in assemblies about the scuba-diving trip to Lanzarote next October half term. Letters with full details are available in the SLT corridor.



If your child would like to go, they should return the form to school by Tuesday 28th November.

Mr Foster, Assistant Headteacher

CLEANER VACANCY

The Priory School are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic and reliable cleaner to join our team.

- Monday to Friday 3.30pm till 6pm (12.5 hours per week)
- Term time plus one week
- Hourly rate of pay £7.52

If you are interested in the post please contact Nicola Blake, Personnel Manager (nicola.blake@priory.herts.sch.uk; 01462 622300 ext 202).

WINTER COATS

There are several coats in Lost Property (outside the Pastoral office).

Some look like they're brand new!



Teaching and Learning

SENIOR MATHS TEAM CHALLENGE

Four of our students represented the school at a Senior Maths Team Challenge regional heat on Monday 13th November at St Albans High School for Girls. Two from Year 13 — Odysseas Kalatzis and Meg Stephenson — and two from Year 12 — Daisy Doyle and Harry McCarthy.

The afternoon consisted of three challenging rounds of Mathematical questions (no calculators allowed). Below are the sort of questions (taken from the 2016/7 challenge) that the students had to answer. The second comes from the shuttle round in which four questions have to be answered in eight minutes in a relay format — the second and subsequent questions rely on the correct answer from the previous question.

Answers to these two puzzles can be found on page 9 of this newsletter.

Dr Kisby, KS5 Maths Teacher

Question 1

Find the value of:

$$1! \times 1 + 2! \times 2 + 3! \times 3 + 4! \times 4 + 5! \times 5$$

Note: $n! = n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \dots \times 2 \times 1$.

Question 2

U , K , M and T are positive integers with

$$1 < U < K < M < T < 10$$

such that

$$U^M = K \times T.$$

Pass on the value of $U + K + M + T$.



Teaching and Learning

LITERACY QUIZ

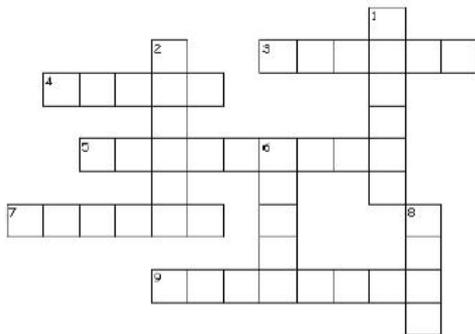
The Literacy Leaders are now compiling a quiz page for each edition of the school newsletter. The one below has been created by Beth Sexton and Freya Wilson in 7KA.

Ms Farman, English Department

Harry Potter Quiz Page

by Beth and Freya 7KA

Harry Potter Words Cross Word



- Across
- 3. A liquid with healing, magical, or poisonous properties.
 - 4. A female that can perform magic
 - 5. Someone who teaches you
 - 7. A non-magic human
 - 9. A large metal pot made for holding potions
- Down
- 1. A male that can perform magic
 - 2. A place for education
 - 6. A magical charm
 - 8. A stick that has the power of magic

Harry Potter Dingbats



Yes or No?

Is Professor Lupin in Harry Potter And he Chamber Of Secrets?

Yes Or No

Is the Philosophers Stone Purple?

Yes Or No

Does Harry Potter share the same wand identity as Lord Voldemort's?

Yes Or No

Answers to Maths Quiz on previous page:

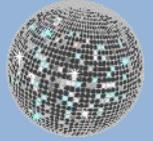
Question 1: 719

Question 2: 19

Teaching and Learning

YEAR 8 CHRISTMAS DISCO

The Year 8 Christmas Disco letter (attached to this newsletter) has been sent out to parents. Please return reply slips by Thursday 7th December, Thank you.



Rabia Farooq, Teaching Assistant



YRS CHRISTMAS DISCO



Thursday 14th December 7-9pm
Don't forget your reply slips and £3.



- **Lots of fun games and music.**
 - **Refreshments & tuckshop**
 - **Fancy dress (optional with prizes)**
- Christmas / super hero themed.**
- **And lots lots moreeeee**



Sports Results

NETBALL

THE PRIORY SCHOOL V PRINCESS HELENA COLLEGE

Well done to all of the students that played in the netball matches at The Priory School on Tuesday 21st November against Princess Helena College. The students played really well. The matches ended with the following results:

Year 7: Princess Helena College 9-3 The Priory School

Year 8: The Priory School 8-2 Princess Helena College

Year 9: Princess Helena College 8-3 The Priory School



Miss Foy, PE Department

YEAR 7 GAME VS HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

We played a netball game last Thursday. Sadly we did lose (by quite a lot!) with a score 0-17, but we still had a very enjoyable time and tried our best. We would like to thank Josie and Miss Foy for umpiring the game and Mrs Emler for training us so well!

We would like to thank Lola (on the purple squad) for doing an excellent range of passes which led the ball to down to our attacking end.

The Girls School had a very good netball team. Their attacking and defending were excellent.

Thank you for reading this report on our netball game. We hope we get a better result next match!

Freya Wilson, Alice Rowlands and Beth Sexton , Year 7 Students

Charity News

FUNDRAISING FOR GET KIDS GOING!

Mrs Armitage is running the London Marathon in April for a charity called *Get Kids Going!*



Get Kids Going! is a national charity that provides sports grants and sports wheelchairs for disabled children and young people so they can play and participate in sports at all levels, such as rugby, tennis, skiing and lots more. A sports wheelchair costs about £4,000.

Not only does *Get Kids Going!* provide these children and young people with equipment, it also helps with sports therapists, sports training, physiotherapy and travel to sporting events. The President of *Get Kids Going!* is Lord Sebastian Coe OBE and the Vice President is David Weir MBE.

The staff and 6th form panto on Monday 11th December (see poster below) will be in aid of this charity and as part of this there will be a raffle during the interval. If you have anything at home that could form part of a raffle or a hamper your donation would be very much appreciated - please drop it to Mrs Armitage in her office.

Also, if you would like to sponsor Mrs Armitage, her charity page can be found at:
<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/ZoeArmitage>

The Priory School Presents

Little Red Riding Hood



It's a bit like a panto but not quite!

It will be funny but not where we intend it to be!

**Performed (as well as can be expected)
by staff & 6th form students**

Monday 11th December 2017

Show starts at 7.00 PM

Adults £4.50 Concessions £3.50

ALL PROFITS GO TO 'GET THINGS GOING'

Helping children with disabilities get involved with sport

The poster features a central illustration of Little Red Riding Hood in a red hooded cloak standing on a path. To her right is a large, black, stylized wolf with a wide, toothy grin. The background is a simple, dark landscape with a white arched doorway on the left. The text is arranged in a clear, bold layout with different colors for emphasis.

Foodbank Collection

- **TOILET ROLLS**
- **LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE**
- **LONG LIFE UHT MILK**
- **SPONGE PUDDINGS**
- **DRIED MILK**
- **NOODLES**
- **TINNED VEGETABLES**
- **SUGAR 500G. BAGS**
- **INSTANT DRIED POTATO**
- **SIZE 6 NAPPIES**
- **STRONG CARRIER BAGS**

- TINNED FRUIT
- CEREALS
- MEAT/FISH TINNED
- RICE PUDDING (TINNED)
- TEA BAGS/COFFEE
- PASTA SAUCE
- RICE/PASTA
- TOMATOES(TINNED)
- SOUP
- BAKED BEANS
- JAM/MARMALADE

The local foodbank are in need of supplies in order to support local families through winter, especially the Christmas period. Please can you donate any of the following items. The foodbank are in urgent need of those in bold!

When donating an item(s) please ensure:

- 1. That it is not damaged**
- 2. That it is not used, open or half empty**
- 3. That it is in date**

Any items you can donate, please bring them to the front office or pass them to your form tutor or Mrs Southall

All items must be in by **Friday 15th December** ready for the Xmas collection

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Well done to everyone who donated items or a shoebox during our Christmas Shoebox Appeal. In total across Hitchin, just under 1000 shoeboxes were donated! It was great to once again be part of this worthy cause.

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal.



Mrs Southall, Assistant Headteacher

STAFF CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Thank you to all staff and students who were involved in last Friday's charity football match.

It was a close match, with it ending in a one-all draw, which led to penalties. After 5 penalties each, it was still even and eventually the winning goal was scored by Mr Palmer, meaning Mr Omar's team were victorious.

Rowan and Cameron from 8LB organised the whole event and raised £87.50. The event was organised as part of the boys' £1 challenge where they started off with £1 and had to raise as much money as possible.

Mrs Emler, PE Department & Raising Aspirations



Local Events



CHRISTMAS FOOTBALL FUN 20th & 21st December

9.30am-3.30pm
5-14 year old boys & girls
£20 per child, per day
Early bird: £15 if payment
received by 13th Dec.



* FA Qualified & DBS Checked HTFC Coaches * Prizes & Certificates * Fun & Games * Mini Tournaments * HTFC Match Tickets * First Team Appearances * Penalty Shoot Outs *

To book, please download a form from our website and return with your payment to us at the address below.



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED BRITAIN'S
BEST LEGO BUILDER?

LEGO MASTERS



Do you love to build awesome creations? We are looking for brick obsessed pairs of all ages to register interest in a second series of 'LEGO MASTERS' on Channel 4 to find Britain's most talented amateur builders.

Please email build@tuesdayschild.tv to register your interest. If you are under 18 please ask a parent or guardian to email on your behalf. Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Applicants must be 9+.

TUESDAY'S CHILD