

# Priory News

Educating Students for Success in Life

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year. Once again we are pleased with the excellent results that our students achieved in their exams. The increased rigour of both the Post 16 and GCSE exams has raised the bar for schools. With excellent support from our parent body, and the professionalism and dedication of The Priory School staff, our students have once again excelled in their exams.

Our Year 13 students achieved a wonderful set of results, with some notable successes:

Natasha Antony: A\* A\* A\*  
 Philippa Christey-Reid: A\* A A  
 Joanna Church: Distinction\* A A  
 Odysseas Kalatzis: A\* A\* A\* B  
 Emma Murray: A\* A\* A\*  
 Oliver Collins: A\* A\* A\*  
 Meg Stephenson: A\* A\* A\* A\*

Not to be outdone, our Year 11 students who faced the first year of the new GCSEs surpassed our expectations. Results day saw a BBC Look East production team film our students opening their envelopes and celebrating.

There were some fantastic results this year:

Issac Gianfrancesco: Nine grade 9s, one grade 8 and one A\*  
 Torin Burrows: Five grade 9s, four grade 8s, one A\* and one A  
 Veer Thandi: Four grade 9s, five grade 8s, one grade 7 and one A  
 Grace Ramsey: Two grade 9s, six grade 8s, one grade 7, one A\* and one distinction  
 Henry Croft: Two grade 9s, six grade 8s, one grade 7, one A\*, three As and one distinction

During the summer holidays, we had two groups going out on a World Challenge trip to Morocco. The students and staff had a fantastic time and this year we have another two groups going out, one to Morocco and the other to Mongolia. In October half term we have our first ever scuba diving trip to Lanzarote. I would like to encourage students in Y9 to enrol onto the Duke of Edinburgh programme, which offers a range of fantastic opportunities.

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## Dates for Your Diary

### Monday 24th September

- Year 7 CAT tests begin
- Year 12 'Learn to Live' event

### Tuesday 25th September

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Parents' Information Evening at 6pm in the Main Hall

### Wednesday 26th September

Parents' Battlefields Trip meeting at 6.30pm in the Main Hall

### Thursday 27th September

Year 7 'Welcome to The Priory School' meeting and Prefect Tea 5-8pm

### Friday 28th September

- Jeans for Genes Day
- MacMillan Big Coffee Morning

### Monday 1st October

RA Week 'Building the Best You!'

### Wednesday 3rd October

Year 7 CAT tests end

### Thursday 4th October

Open Evening 5.30-9pm; school closes at 12.40pm

### Friday 5th October

Inset day - school closed

## SPORTS FIXTURES

Please see page 10 for a list of sports fixtures for the first half of the Autumn term.

# Teaching and Learning

Cont'd...

The Priory School is fully staffed and ready to provide our students with the best possible learning experiences. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome three new teachers: Mrs Brown (Art), Mr Jutla (Maths) and Mr Lambert (Maths). With the current questions being asked about school funding we were unsure whether we could afford to replace our Librarians who retired last year. Not only have we been able to employ an excellent Librarian - Mrs Spencer - we have also remodelled our Library.

Our outstanding in-house site and IT team have worked incredibly hard over the summer holidays on improving the school learning environment. We have two new mobile classrooms and one new computer room and have upgraded three other rooms. Many parts of the school have been re-painted including the junior girls' toilets. With limited resources, we always strive to provide the best facilities for our students. The vast majority of the student body respects the school environment, but there are a minority who fall below our expectations. These students divert valuable resources to repair the damage caused.

There are many exciting events happening over the year and much will be communicated via Twitter and InTouch and on our website. One event that will be a highlight of the year will be the school show 'Sister Act', which will be taking place in March 2019.

Geraint Edwards, Headteacher

## YEAR 7 FIRST DAY

On Wednesday 5th September we welcomed our new Year 7 students! During the day they took part in various fun activities and learned about their new school environment. It is a very big and challenging step coming to secondary school, but every single student has taken it in their stride and applied themselves exceptionally well.

A massive congratulations to all of the students, you have been a credit to the school! We hope you are looking forward to starting your successful journey at The Priory School.

Mr Omar, Head of Year 7





## SENIOR STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM 2018/2019



Head Boy – Alex Gale  
Head Girl – Josie Woolston  
Deputy Head Boy – Ronan Riggs  
Deputy Head Girl – Emily Holt

### Senior Prefects

Emily Nellis – KS3 SLC  
Kerry Higginbotham – KS4 SLC  
Sian Lawrence – Teaching and Learning  
Emma Fisher – Reader Leader  
Megan Reed – Wellbeing  
Logan Lebon – Diversity & Equality  
Sophie Carroll – Music  
Dan Reed – Sports  
Flo Tyrntania – Charity

### Year 13 Prefects

Amy Warren  
Storm McClements  
Rhiannon Pateman

### Year 12 Prefects

Lillian Hubbard Sawyer  
Ros Stephenson  
Sarah Fleetwood  
Tamsyn Brokensha  
Veer Thandi  
Erin Schultz  
Grace Ramsey  
Henry Croft  
Florence Head  
Jessica Waller  
Evie Pyper  
Zac Cash  
Euan Gilfillan  
Eleanor Tonge  
Tamzin Antony  
Max Thomas  
Charlie Preston  
Torin Burrows  
Ruby Boast  
Jessica Harding  
Maya Gayle  
Ameena Moulton Emanuel  
Paris Dunston  
Harry Huckle  
Simran Minhas  
Nathan Draper  
Maliqa Malik  
Kushbi Shah  
George Looker  
Maria Lenton

# Teaching and Learning

## TPS LIBRARY TRANSFORMED

Over the summer the Library underwent a transformation and a new Library and study space was created.

The room is bright and airy and there is a lot of space to browse the shelves for reading material and non-fiction books. There is a reference section – we receive 'First News', a newspaper aimed at younger readers, and other magazines. Plus the Library has a wide range of contemporary YA fiction and classic children's fiction, as well as interesting fact books to dip into and to support homework.

I am a qualified librarian and I have worked in the past in academic and research libraries. Year 7 and Year 8 students will meet me during their Library lessons, but I am here at other times to help students find the right reading book or the right information. I am here until 4.30pm each day for after-school study, and break and lunch time for students who want to read, do homework or play chess or a board game.

All TPS students are enrolled in the Library. Students in Years 7 to 9 can borrow up to three books for a fortnight. Students in Year 10 can borrow up to four books and Year 11 students can borrow up to five books for a two-week period.

Mrs Spencer, Librarian



## TPS TWITTER ACCOUNTS YOU CAN FOLLOW

Art: @TPS\_Art

Business Studies: @TPS\_Business

Computing: @TPS\_Computing

DofE: @TPS\_DofE

Design Technology: @TPS\_DesignTech

Drama: @TPS\_DramaDept

English: @TPS\_English

Geography: @geography\_TP

History: @TPS\_History

LRC: @TPS\_LRC

Maths: @TPS\_Maths

Media Studies: @TPS\_Media

MFL: @TPS\_MFL

Music: @TPS\_MusicDept

PE: @TPS\_PE

Psychology & Sociology: @TPS\_PsyandSoc

Raising Aspirations: @TPS\_Aspirations

Science: @TPS\_Science

Key Stage 4: @TPS\_KS4 @Ks4Tps

Mrs Southall wellbeing: @Southall\_Mrs

@TPS\_ClassOf18

@TPS\_ClassOf17

@TPS\_ClassOf16

@TPS\_ClassOf15

@TPS\_ClassOf14

@TPS\_ClassOf13



# Teaching and Learning

## JEANS FOR GENES DAY - FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER

Friday 28th September is Jeans for Genes day when students pay £1 and wear one item of denim - jeans, a shirt, a denim dress!

Whatever students choose, they need to make sure the rest of their uniform is correct. If they wish to wear jeans, they can also wear trainers or footwear of their choice.

We look forward to seeing all the students' favourite denim choices!

Mrs Southall, Assistant Headteacher



## HITCHIN SCHOOLS PARTNERING WITH ZEO CHURCH TO SUPPORT PARENTS - WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER

We are excited to announce a new series of inspiring evenings in partnership with Zeo Church (previously known as Hitchin Christian Centre). The series of evenings is called 'Navigate' where parents are invited to explore some of the key issues facing young people today. The evenings are suitable for parents, carers, teachers and even older students/children.

The first of the six sessions is being held at The Priory School on Wednesday 10th October at 7.30pm and there will be an optional follow-up session on Sunday 14th October at 7pm at Zeo Centre.

This first session is entitled **Handling challenging emotions – exploring anxiety, guilt and anger**. The session will be delivered by Matt Summerfield and Dr Kate Middleton who many of you have heard speak previously at our 'Teen Brain' event last October.

The format of the evening will be roughly as follows:

7-7.30pm – Open Doors

7.30-8.15pm – Session 1

8.15-8.30pm – Refreshments

8.30-9.15pm – Session 2

9.15-9.30pm – Q&A and wrap up

Should you wish to attend this event, please just come along. Everyone is welcome. There is no need to book or confirm your attendance for the evening.

If you would like further information pertaining to this event or future events please contact me via email [katie.southall@priory.herts.sch.uk](mailto:katie.southall@priory.herts.sch.uk) or see [www.zeochurch.com/navigate](http://www.zeochurch.com/navigate) – we look forward to welcoming you to The Priory School on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October!

Mrs Southall, Assistant Headteacher



# Teaching and Learning

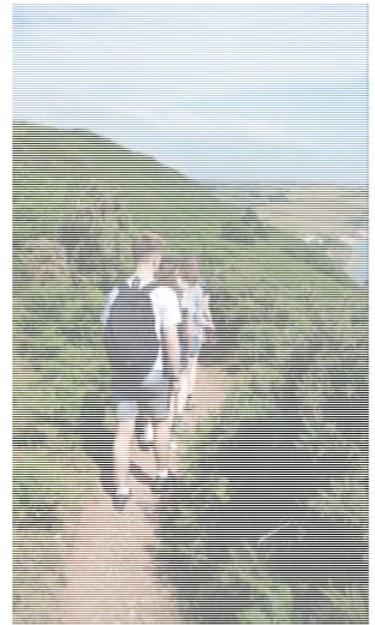
## A-LEVEL FIELD TRIP TO SLAPTON LEY, DEVON

On Tuesday 9th July, the Geography Department and Year 12 geography students embarked on their A-Level visit to Slapton Ley in Devon. The purpose of the trip is to engage the students in geographical fieldwork enquiry for their non-examined assessment (NEA) as part of their A-Level course.

Albeit a compulsory requirement of the course, the students had to undertake up to four days of geographical fieldwork that incorporated a mixture of physical and human geography.

The first day was predominantly spent travelling to the destination as Mrs Hall navigated some extremely narrow, rural roads with the driving skills that would make Lewis Hamilton look like your average driver!

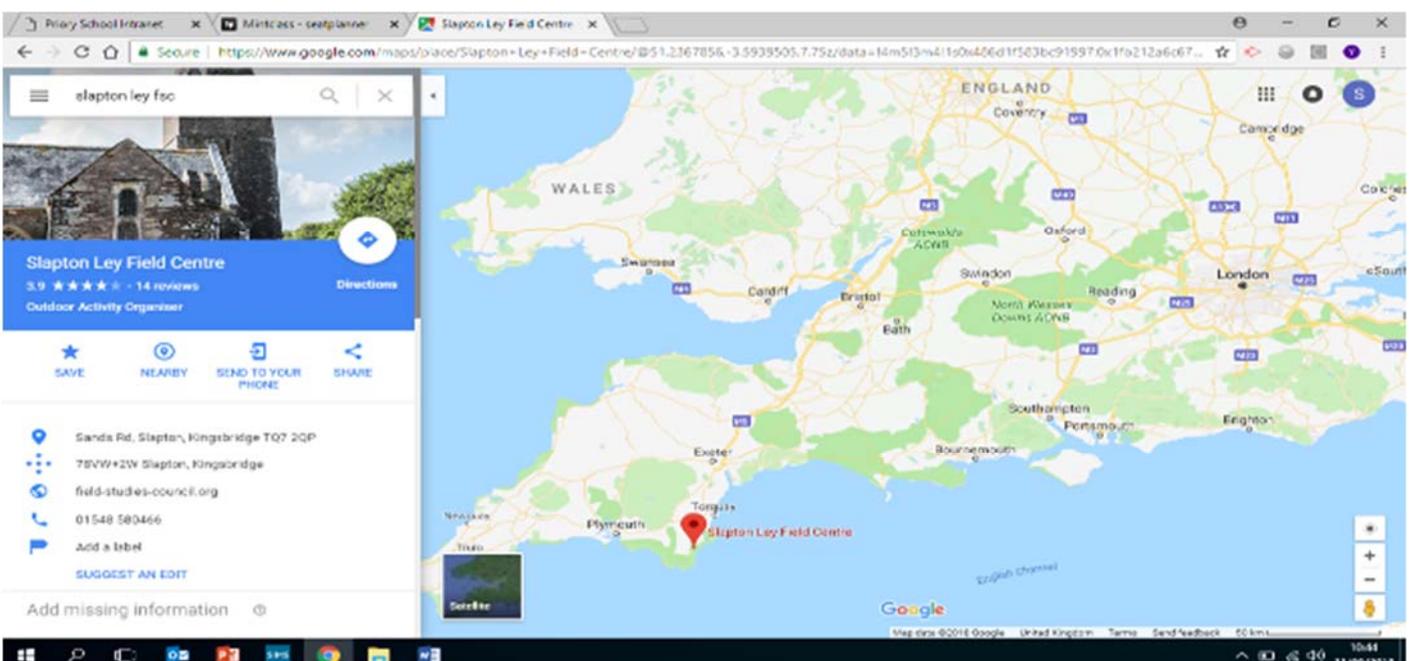
On arrival we were introduced to the study centre and accommodation followed by dinner and an evening session in the classroom planning the geographical fieldwork for the forthcoming days. Students learnt about the local area, the places they would be visiting and some of the fieldwork techniques they would be practising.



The second day was spent doing a 2.5km coastal walk from Start Point to Beesands predominantly observing the coastal processes, landforms and features (see photo). At various points, students trialled some of the fieldwork techniques on coastal erosion and management and compared different sections of the coastline. They collected data to analyse later in the classroom that evening.

The third day was spent doing a human geography day in the picturesque town of Totnes. Students were investigating clone town theory and looking at the impacts of this on the local area by conducting various surveys of the town. Again, data that was analysed that evening in the classroom.

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# Teaching and Learning

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The final day was spent in the immediate local area looking at some of the more rural aspects of the location. Students collected data that was comparable with Totnes to assess the similarities and differences in their characteristics.

Overall this was an incredibly successful trip. The students were fully engaged across all four days and collected some meaningful and purposeful data in the process. The aims of the trip are multifaceted. Students have to independently investigate a topic of their choice for their NEA and the trip allows them to be exposed to various topics, fieldwork techniques, equipment and hopefully ideas for their own projects.

They are also taught some of the vital skills needed to be successful in the course that transcend both the physical and human topics that will also help them in their exams. This includes the handling of both qualitative and quantitative data, how to analyse this data effectively using a variety of different methods, how to present data using numerous presentation methods as well as how to conclude and evaluate their findings; all skills which are welcomed by prospective employers and universities in the future.

## YEAR 9 TRIP TO NICE, FRANCE

From Monday 16th July to Friday 20th July, a group of current Year 9 students visited Nice in France in order to learn about French history and culture, as well as be given an opportunity to practise speaking the language.

It was a very educational trip, with many enjoyable activities. After arriving in Nice on Monday, our first trip was to a market in Cannes. This gave us the opportunity to instantly utilise our French in an environment where it was essential. Later in the day we went to a perfumery (Fragonard) where we learnt about the process of producing a fragrance, as well as the difference between old and new techniques. On Wednesday we made the journey to Fréjus where we visited an archaeological museum; this held a model of what the city once looked like. We also had a chance to explore the other artefacts, such as mosaics and statues, whilst also attempting to translate their descriptions in order to learn more about them. The next day, Thursday, was our busiest day due to the fact that we visited three towns whilst completing multiple challenges. One of these was a video account of our trip to Éze (this was done completely in French), although some of us also decided to add other aspects of the day, such as Saint-Paul de Vence and Menton. On the final day, we visited the former holiday home of the grandson of Napoléon's favourite general (Maréchal Massena) – we were given a tour around the house, as well as the chance to view some artefacts and objects which once belonged there. We also visited other places and also did other activities throughout the week. Overall it was a great trip, and we learnt and experienced things that will help us as we progress further with the language.

Jessica Astill and Freddie Finch



# Teaching and Learning

## MOROCCO WORLD CHALLENGE

Just before the summer holidays, 16 Year 9s (Team 1) and 16 Year 10s and 11s (Team 2) travelled to Morocco for two weeks for their World Challenge expedition. It was an amazing trip and an experience the students will never forget. The two teams built the foundations for a gymnasium for a local school or toilet block for a local community, made friends and played games with local people, ate Tajine and other local foods, swam in the sea, climbed Toubkal (4100m!), and went shopping in the souks.

The two weeks were jam packed full of 'first-times', making new school friends and creating lifelong memories, but our best highlight was seeing the students change to be independent young people and learn more about themselves. All the students impressed us so much over the two weeks. They worked incredibly hard, dealt with some really tough times and supported each other right up until the end. We are incredibly proud of what they achieved and how they represented the school.

Both teams took a lot of photos and videos on the trip, and a student from each team has taken the time to produce a video to share their adventure:

Team 1: <https://youtu.be/ErnWL2QuTUw>

Team 2: <https://youtu.be/pgllWLhoF9E>

Mr Hankin, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Gormill, Miss Stokes and Mr Foster

*World Challenge allowed me to go out of my comfort zone and to do things that I had never dreamt of doing. Whilst in Morocco, I decided to go out into the town square at night, with a member of staff and other challengers. Although the square was stunning, with beautiful lights and so many different things happening, it was very daunting. It was never something I would have thought of doing but I gave it a try and it was one of the best experiences of my life. Reaching the summit of Toubkal was also the most challenging task I have ever completed.*

*Everyone, for the whole expedition, worked as a team whether that was climbing Toubkal and keeping the morale high or working at the project in the heat. It made World Challenge even more enjoyable. I also made friends that I wouldn't have ever spoken to at school and some of them surprised me in the way that they acted at certain times. They were selfless and caring which I wouldn't have guessed by the way that they acted at school! Whilst at the project we also made friends with a boy called Mohammed. We lived in his house whilst we were there, and we are going to fly him to the UK so that he can see what life is like for us, as he showed us what life was like for him.*

*James, Year 10*



## EXTRA CURRICULAR PE CLUBS

Here are details of the extra-curricular PE clubs for the Autumn term 2018:

Extra-Curricular PE Clubs		
	LUNCH	AFTER SCHOOL
<b>MONDAY</b>	Girls Badminton Sports Hall  Just Dance Gym	Girls Football Sports Hall  Hockey Year 7 & 8 MUGA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Year 7 & 8 Basketball Sports Hall  Year 11 Basketball Gym	Netball MUGA  Climbing Sports Hall
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Year 9 & 10 Basketball Sports Hall  Table Tennis Gym	Badminton Sports Hall  Wheelchair Basketball Partnership Gym  Rugby Field
<b>THURSDAY</b>	GCSE Revision PE Classroom  Trampoline (Club & GCSE Trampolinists Only) JM	Boys Football
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6th Form (TBC)	



## REMINDERS

At The Priory School we strive to ensure that your child has the most positive experience of Physical Education. This involves experiencing a range of different activities in a safe learning environment. To ensure this is the case please could I ask for your cooperation in ensuring or reminding your child of the following:

- Students are required to wear sports trainers for Physical Education lessons. Converse, Vans, plimsolls or hi top trainers are not suitable. All trainers must be tied up securely.
- Students must remove all watches for lessons. Students are not allowed to wear any other jewellery at The Priory School including earrings. Earrings cannot be covered with tape to make them 'safe'.
- Students are recommended to have shin pads for football and hockey lessons.
- Gum shields are recommended in rugby lessons. They are required for rugby fixtures. Students can purchase these from the PE department for £2.00
- Students may wear tracksuit bottoms in the colder, winter months. These must be plain black.
- Students may wear school base layer tops or leggings in colder weather. These can be purchased from Beat School Uniforms.

If there are any queries or concerns you have regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Foy, Head of PE Department

# SPORTS FIXTURES

## FIXTURES: FIRST HALF OF AUTUMN TERM 2018

### **Monday 24th September**

Senior netball at Hitchin Girls' School

### **Tuesday 25th September**

Year 9 football match vs John Henry Newman School

### **Thursday 27th September**

Senior football vs Knights Templar School

U13 girls' football at Monkswalk

### **Friday 28th September**

Rugby leaders training at The Priory School

### **Tuesday 2nd October**

Senior basketball vs John Henry Newman (A)

Year 7 football vs Greneway (H)

### **Wednesday 3rd October**

Senior netball 3.30-5.30pm at Hitchin Girls' School

Year 8 football vs Fearnhill

### **Monday 8th October**

Cross country relays at Princess Helena College

### **Tuesday 9th October**

U14 girls' football at Hertswood

Year 8 football vs John Henry Newman (A)

### **Wednesday 10th October**

Years 7 & 8 B team netball at The Priory School

### **Thursday 11th October**

Tag rugby leaders event (all day)

### **Monday 15th October**

U13 girls' football vs John Henry Newman (H)

### **Tuesday 16th October**

Year 9 rugby at Welwyn Rugby Football Club

Senior football vs Marriotts (H)

### **Thursday 18th October**

U13 girls' football at Monkswalk

### **Monday 22nd October**

Senior netball at Barnwell

Year 9 basketball vs John Henry Newman (A)

### **Tuesday 23rd October**

Boys' badminton at Fearnhill

Year 7 football vs Fearnhill (H)

Year 8 football vs St. Chris (H) - friendly

U13 girls' football vs Barnwell (A)

### **Wednesday 24th October**

Year 10 basketball vs John Henry Newman (H)

### **Thursday 25th October**

Year 7 netball at The Priory School

Year 10/11 football vs St. Chris (A) - friendly

Boys' table tennis at Hitchin Boys' School



# Extra-Curricular Activities

## Prory School Clubs Programme – Autumn Term

Day	Sports Clubs		Creative & Expressive Clubs		
	Lunch	Afterschool	Lunch	Afterschool	
Monday	Girls Badminton Sports Hall	Girls Football Sports Hall  Hockey Year 7 & 8	Drums Club (Year 7, 8 & 9) – 12:45pm in Drums Studio		
Tuesday	Year 7 & 8 Basketball Sports Hall  Year 11 Basketball Gym	Netball MUGA  Climbing Sports Hall			
Wednesday	Year 9 & 10 Basketball Sports Hall  Just Dance Club Gym	Badminton Sports Hall  Wheelchair Basketball Partnership Gym  Rugby Field	Creative Writing Club (Y7, 8 & 9) – 85  Books & Bakes – All		
Thursday	GCSE Revision PE Classroom  Trampoline (Club Trampoline Only) JM	Boys Football	Board Games Club – All  LGBTQ+ Drop In – All2		
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Football		Debating Club – All	Cooking & Gardening Club (Yr 7, 8 & 9) – 34	
		Extended Learning Clubs		Technology Clubs	
	Lunch	Afterschool	Lunch	Afterschool	
Monday		Homework Club – Library or B6			
Tuesday	Science Club – Year 7 – 52  Robot Rumble – Year 9 – 55	Homework Club – Library or B6	RSJ Creative Computing Club – 66		
Wednesday	Dungeons Club – 37  Environmental Science Club (Y8) – 52 - Week 2 Only	Homework Club – Library or B6	Girls Coding Club – 66		
Thursday		Homework Club – Library or B6			Coding & Raspberry Pi Club – 88
Friday		Homework Club – Library or B6			



The Priory School, Hitchin  
Autumn 2018 | Wednesdays 4 - 5.30pm  
11 sessions - £165 per cook  
SEP 19, 26 | OCT 03, 10, 17, 24 | NOV 07, 14, 21, 28 | DEC 05  
Payment (per half term): £30 by 21 Sept | £75 by 02 Nov

Enter from:  
**School Main Office**

Club is held in the Food Science Dept,  
D&T Kitchen

Club mobile is **07795 627 492**

Contact us to book:  
info@cookeyeatery.co.uk  
**07795 627 492**

### Packing List:

- ✓ Named water bottle
- ✓ All-weather outer wear
- ✓ Prescribed meds if required
- ✓ CookeryEatery food box
- ✗ Electronics, precious or valuable items
- ✗ Ingredients, food, drinks, snacks or meals
- ✗ Cooking equipment, apron etc

<p><b>Emma is Africa Bound!</b></p> <p>Big news - Emma will be embarking upon a journey to Ghana, West Africa this Autumn to support the phenomenal work of local charity, Ikemaketa. We're keen to share the experience and the food cooking opportunities with your children and bring back a picture of like from the world's newest largest ocean port.</p> <p>Yes, check out! Keep your eyes peeled for ways in which you can get involved in our African journey.</p>	<p><b>Boxing up good food</b></p> <p>Our Macketyon, Lark and wolf boxes were a hit and the children are loving that they can often food they made with you. Please remember to pack the clean box in their bag ready for their date snackie. If you are new to us then the boxes are 55 payable online.</p>	<p><b>Half term holiday camps</b></p> <p>October half term holiday camps are now available to book online, in Hitchin or Luton. Please email info@cookeyeatery.co.uk if you need more information or book online at <a href="http://www.cookeyeatery.co.uk">www.cookeyeatery.co.uk</a></p>
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[cookeyeatery.co.uk](http://cookeyeatery.co.uk)





# **PIRTON PUMPKIN CLUB PUMPKIN SHOW 2018**

**Saturday, 13th October  
Pirton Village Hall**

**10 am—12 noon Village Hall open for entries  
(Each class entry is 50p for Pumpkin Club members and all  
children's classes and £1 for non-members)**

**3 pm Doors open for  
public viewing**

**Entry £1 for adults, children 50p**

**4 pm Main weigh-in of pumpkins and  
prize presentations**

**Crowning of the King or Queen Pumpkin!**

**Exhibits, tea & cakes, bbq and  
art activities for children**

**See Pirton website or email  
pirton-pumpkin-club@hotmail.com  
for entry classes**

