

Priory News

Educating Students for Success in Life

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Where has this term gone? The last 15 weeks seem to have flown by in a whirlwind of teaching, assemblies, sports fixtures, trips and celebrations.

The Open Evening in early October had the highest number of visitors the school has seen, and the initial allocations for September 2019 show that we are oversubscribed on first-choice applications. Maybe the Local Authority will speed up their second-phase secondary expansion in Hitchin due to the increasing demand for places at The Priory School.

The current Year 7 have settled in well and according to Mr Omar are the best year group the school has ever seen. This has caused some consternation in the pastoral ranks, with other Heads of Year claiming the same accolade for their year group. It seems that Miss Gresser is by far the most vocal on this point claiming that Year 8, having had an outstanding Year 7, are now 'reaching for the stars' this academic year. The fact is that the vast majority of our students are wonderful young people who are polite, compassionate and keen to achieve. Daily I see students displaying responsibility, respect and resilience, which makes me feel very proud to have the opportunity to be their Headteacher.

Year 11 have just finished their PPE exams and I urge them to reflect on the outcomes, rest over the festive period and come back with a renewed passion for learning. They only have 15 weeks before their GCSE exams start, but this is plenty of time to be fully prepared.

Unfortunately for Year 13, their internal exams start the first week back, so studying over the Christmas break is a must as is finding time to relax with the family. Come January 2019, Year 9 will be embarking on their Post 14 Learning Pathway programme for September 2019. What pathway each particular student is allocated will be greatly influenced by how well they work in lessons and what potential they show.

The Priory School reflects the community we serve, and over the Christmas holidays I hope that our students have a safe, joyful and happy festive season. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Geraint Edwards
Headteacher

Dates for Your Diary

Friday 21st December

End of term at 12.40pm



Monday 7th January

- Start of term
- Year 13 study leave begins

8th to 16th January

Year 13 internal examinations begin

Thursday 10th January

- Year 11 Post 16 Subject Market
- DofE Award session 3.30-5pm

Friday 11th January

Rock School practical exams, Main School Hall

Monday 14th January

- Year 9 DTP & Meningitis ACWY Vaccines
- First round of Rotary Youth Speaks,

Tuesday 15th January

Year 11 GCSE Success Day - Action Jackson

Thursday 17th January

DofE Award session 3.30-5pm

Friday 18th January

- Year 11 Progress and Improvement Targets sent home
- Rock School practical examinations

SPORTS FIXTURES

Please see page 6 for a list of sports fixtures.

Teaching and Learning

THE SCHOOL MEMORIAL GARDEN

Over the last six months the School Memorial Garden has undergone a facelift.

The driving force behind this important project has been Mrs Zakary, whose drive and enthusiasm has seen a whole host of helpers give up their time to work on upgrading the garden. Her students have been the backbone of the workforce and they have been a huge credit to the school.

As part of the school's commitment to remembering the end of World War 1, a rose bush donated by Tilehouse Rotary was planted in the garden. Mrs Zakary and myself had a discussion about the various sculptures of soldiers that had been designed for Remembrance Day and whether we could source one for our memorial garden.

Within 24 hours Mrs Zakary was able to source a soldier figure, which has been kindly donated by Mark Ellis. Mark is the Sales & Marketing Director of Metal Craft Industries UK Ltd and I would like to thank him for his generosity.

The 'soldier', along with the memorial rose, will act as a daily reminder of those who fought and served in our armed forces.

Geraint Edwards
Headteacher



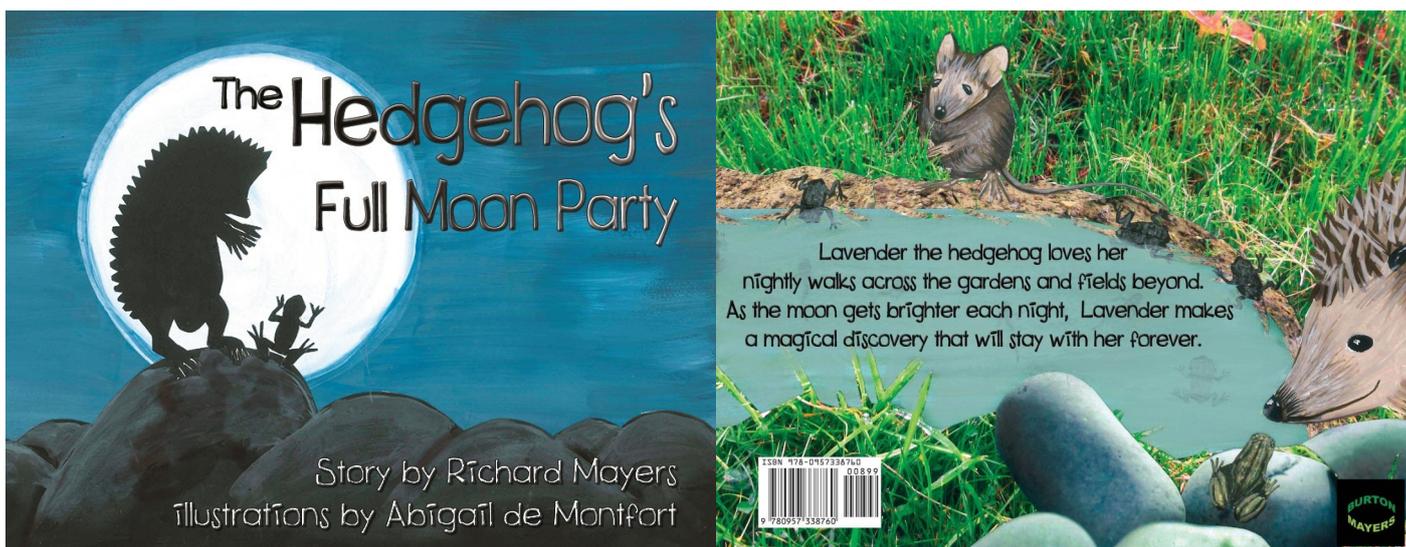
MR MAYERS PUBLISHES HIS FIRST PICTURE BOOK

Mr Mayers, the Lead Practitioner of the TPS English & Media Department, has just published his first picture book. It is called 'The Hedgehog's Full Moon Party'.

Below is a link to his book on the Amazon website. If you know someone who likes hedgehogs or would enjoy the book (aimed at children aged 3 to 7+), then please forward this link on.

<https://tinyurl.com/yab8um5b>

Mr Mayers would be more than happy to sign copies of the book.



Teaching and Learning

JUNIOR CHOIR SINGS AT SAINSBURY'S IN AID OF NORTH HERTS SANCTUARY

On Sunday 9th December the Junior Choir sang in Sainsbury's in aid of North Herts Sanctuary. They sang some Christmas carols, as well as some hit Christmas songs, and also did an impromptu performance of 'Never Enough' from *The Greatest Showman* and 'Touch the Sky' from *Brave*.

The choir sang beautifully and managed to raise £600 for the charity. Well done Junior Choir!

Ellie Tonge 12NW



TPS CHOIRS PERFORM AT HITCHIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Saturday 15th December, The Priory School Junior and Senior Choirs were given the amazing opportunity to sing with the Hitchin Chamber Orchestra.

There were two concerts, one after another. We sang Christmas carols such as 'O Little Town of Bethlehem', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Oh Come, All Ye Faithful' and 'Once in Royal David's City'. Well done to Sophie Carroll who performed a solo for the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Also, well done to The Priory School's Chamber Choir who sang the following spectacularly:

- 'Perfect' by Ed Sheeran
- The Road Home
- Nativity Carol

The whole choir also sang 'Shake the Bottle' and 'The Holly and the Ivy'!

It was a fantastic experience for all who attended and many thanks to all of you that came to watch and support those who took part.

Beth Sexton 8KA



Teaching and Learning

TPS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Thursday 14th December our Music Department hosted the annual Christmas Concert to showcase all of the amazing musical talents within the school.

The evening was truly incredible, with the Christmas tree, great hosting (by Francesca and Freddie) and all the different musical groups: choirs, orchestra, percussion and dancing.

The evening could not have been so fantastic without the input and support of our music teachers.

Freya Wilson 8KA



Teaching and Learning



Teaching and Learning

EXAM CERTIFICATES

Exam certificates for GCSEs and GCEs will be available to collect from the Exams Office from Monday 7th January 2019. We also have old certificates dating back to 2013. Students can collect their certificates or send an authorisation letter/email to the Exams Office so that someone else can collect them.

The Exams Team

SPORTS FIXTURES & RESULTS

Year 10 Basketball Results

The Priory School vs Fearnhill School: 24 – 14 (TPS win)

The Priory School vs Marriotts School: 26 – 20 (TPS win)

Fixtures

Thursday 10th January 2019

Year 7 Basketball vs Barnwell School & Marriotts School (H)

Tuesday 15th January 2019

Year 7 Basketball vs St. Chris (A)

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Year 9 Basketball vs Hitchin Boys' School & John Henry Newman (H)

U13 Girls Football vs Thomas Alleyne Academy (H)

Thursday 17th January 2019

Year 10 Netball at John Henry Newman

Year 8 Basketball vs Barnwell (A)

Sunday 20th January 2019

Zonal Trampoline Competition at Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield

PE Department

TPS WINS THE DAY'S CAPTION OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the Year 12 students of class LE who came up with the caption that won The Day's 'Caption of the Year' 2019. *The Day* is an online news service used by schools around the world.: <http://theday.co.uk/>.

**Congratulations to
The Priory School —
winners of caption
of the year!**

Submit your best ideas online or by
email to
competitions@theday.co.uk and
see your work published!

CAPTION COMPETITION

Last week's winner



"Its raining, its pouring, Theresa May is yawning."

Chace Community School



Raising Aspirations

PARENTS' APPRENTICESHIP PACK

An apprenticeship pack for parents / carers can now be downloaded from The Priory School website:

<http://www.priory.herts.sch.uk/departments/raising-aspirations/>

BRIGHTER START HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP AT DELOITTES

Here is a link to an apprenticeship opportunity at Deloitte's:

<https://www2.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/careers/articles/brightstart-business-apprenticeship-scheme.html>

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES AT ROLLS ROYCE

Following is a link to information about the post A-Level opportunities at Rolls Royce:

<https://careers.rolls-royce.com/united-kingdom/students-and-graduates/apprenticeships-and-school-leavers/a-levels>

MACDONALD'S MANAGEMENT DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Below is a link to an apprenticeship opportunity at Macdonald's:

<https://people.mcdonalds.co.uk/early-career-opportunities/management-degree-apprenticeship-programme/programme/>



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ROYAL AIR FORCE AIR CADETS
the next generation

JOIN US...

RAF Air Cadets recruiting now!
If you love aircraft, action and adventure, then the Air Cadets is for you.

The Air Cadets is a UK-wide cadet force sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As a cadet, you'll get the chance to do things that others only dream about such as adventurous training, camps, drill and real flight experience.

So if you're aged 12* - 17 and you're looking for a challenge call 0345 600 6601 or log on to www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

*You must be in Year 8 (England & Wales), S2 (Scotland) or Year 9 (Northern Ireland).

If aged 20 or over
INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

Become an adult instructor with the RAF Cadets. Training is provided. Have fun, make life long friends and even achieve valuable qualifications.

Help cadets develop leadership and team working skills.

We have a wide range of civilian and uniformed roles available.

You could even find yourself out on the hills, adventure training, canoeing and visiting airfields.

Call: 0345 600 6601
or visit www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

0808 800 2222
www.familylives.org.uk



Thursday 12.45 – 14.45pm

10, 17, 24, 31 January; 7, 14 February

Getting on with your Teen / PreTeen

Hitchin Youth Trust, 111 Walsworth Road
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9SP

Come and gain a new perspective on parenting your children by:

- Understanding your children's behaviour
- Helping your children manage their feelings
- Negotiating your way through conflict
- "Why does my child do that?" From risky behaviour online, to the attraction of gangs - understanding the challenges of parenting in the 21st century

Contact Louise on 01368 966087 for more information or to book a place.
Professionals - please send completed referral forms direct via HertFX to support@familylives.org.uk and do not send personal data using an unencrypted email system. If you do not have a HertFX account, contact CSS@hertfordshire.gov.uk for assistance.

This course is provided with funding from HCC Children's Services



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Teen Bereavement Group Programme February 2019



PLACES NOW AVAILABLE!

Referrals are now being accepted for the 2019 Spring Teen Bereavement Group

Who is it for?

11–16 year olds living in North Herts or Stevenage who have bereaved of a significant relationship at anytime in their childhood

Details

The therapeutic group programme takes place weekly over 6 consecutive weeks for between 90 mins and 2 hours.

Find out more

Referrals from parents and carers are welcomed

CONTACT

E: info@stand-by-me.org.uk Mob: 07469 255139



Registered Charity No: 2161325



YOUTH MINDFULNESS

Weekly on Sunday at 3.30pm at the Zeo Centre (SG5 1HF).

Book your Youth Mindfulness place and join us for 10 sessions starting in January - Sunday afternoons from 15:30 - 17:00 at the Zeo Centre.

Across the 10 sessions, you will cover topics on how to train the mind, looking at attention, willpower, gratitude, resilience, how to be kind to self and others, how to be a role model and learn how to observe the mind, faith, prayer, and meditation.

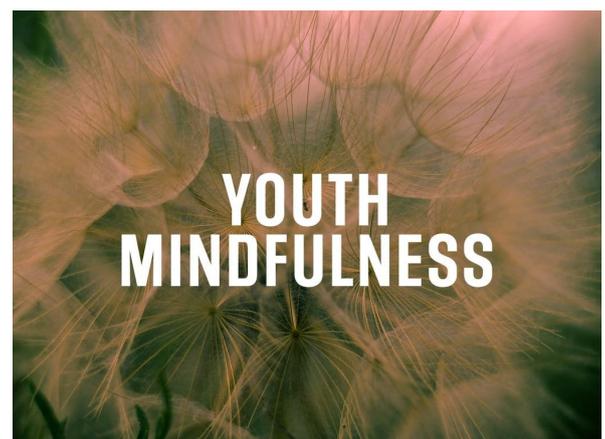
Karen Cronin and Alexandra Marini aim to teach young people the benefits of mindfulness, how it can help regulate emotions and enhance happiness.

Karen is a specialist learning mentor, anxiety management and mindfulness coach, specific in helping youths understand anxiety and assisting them in overcoming barriers to learning. Alex is the Youth & Young Adults Pastor at Zeo Church.

BOTH are passionate about equipping young people with the skills to form resilience for their future and for their emotional well-being that's needed to cope in today's society.

Sign up here: <https://zeo.churchsuite.co.uk/groups/g267anoq>

ZEO CHURCH



Local Holiday Activities

To: Hitchin Schools

Please find below the activity summary for the Christmas holidays 2018.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8kz3fr6>

Kind regards

Debbie Robins

Partnership Manager - Hitchin Partnership CIO



THE ARENA North Herts' Football Facility
In conjunction with Hitchin Town Football Club

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FOOTBALL FUN!

5-14 YEAR OLD BOYS & GIRLS
FRIDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 2018
THURSDAY, 3RD JANUARY 2019
FRIDAY, 4TH JANUARY 2019

9.30AM-3.30PM

HITCH coaches & first team players

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

NORMAL PRICE: £20 per child per day / £55 all 3 days.
EARLY BIRD OFFER: £15 per child per day / £40 all 3 days if payment received by 19th December 2018.

For more information call 01462 720088 or email info@htfc.co.uk
www.northhertsarena.co.uk
The Arena, Norton Road, Baldock, SG7 5AU



MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS

Christmas Holiday:
2nd - 4th January 2019

A fun, action packed day of sports activities for children aged 5-14

VENUES:

HITCHIN GIRLS SCHOOL

WODSON PARK, WARE

Book for a day or half a day
Early drop-off and late collection also available

TENNIS & MULTI SPORTS CAMPS

@ HITCHIN GIRLS SCHOOL

3rd and 4th January

TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

www.uplaysports.co.uk

Or Email
office@uplaysports.co.uk

Prices from £14



30th December 2018

10-3pm

Fernhill Sports Centre

Ages 7-16 years

Bring a packed lunch and come along to play some fun games and learn the basics of badminton!

Equipment provided!

2 qualified coaches led by an ex-england player

Anna Collis

BOOK A PLACE ON

smashitclub@gmail.com or 07913703996

Competitions

LEGO MASTERS

Dear Parent / Carer

Do you or does someone in your house eat, sleep and breathe the LEGO bricks?

Is the LEGO MASTERS build room with over 1 million bricks your idea of heaven?

The producers of the popular Channel 4 series LEGO MASTERS are looking for a new bunch of imaginative building pairs to take part in a third series of the bold brick-building competition.

If you think you, a family member or a friend have the creativity, skill and imagination to be crowned Britain's best amateur building team then please email build@tuesdayschild.tv.

Applicants must be aged 9+ by 03/02/2019 in order to take part.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Your application will be received by a member of Tuesday's Child production company and they will contact you directly. Tuesday's Child will process your personal data in accordance with their privacy policy.

