



Priory News

The Perfect Prefect Picnic



Sumo hug!

On the 20th September, the sixth form prefects together with the new year seven students enjoyed a picnic in the sun.

The day was organised by the prefects for the chance to meet the new students and it was a great success. There was plenty of cake, coffee and sports activities and everyone had a brilliant time!!



Students enjoying the late summer sun.

Joe Sheehan, Year 13

Teaching and Learning...

Go To Bed! You Need To Learn

Have you yawned today? What time do you go to bed? Is it early enough? Do you know when 'early enough' is? If you're between 11 and 18 years of age, it is recommended you should have a minimum of nine hours sleep a night. So if your parents start turning lights and radios on at 7am, you should have been asleep by 10pm at the latest. Actually asleep. Lying in bed, still awake, doesn't count.

But why? Research around the relationship between learning and sleep identifies that a lack of sleep interrupts a crucial phase of the learning cycle. This cycle is made up of 3 parts – acquisition, consolidation and recall. Let's put it like this.....imagine you've just had a fabulous Geography lesson with Mrs Hall and learned a whole load of new stuff about The Great Barrier Reef – which country is it next to, how long it is, which ocean is it in, which endemic species (found only in that place) are there?...etc.etc. First step; acquisition – this is you, learning the stuff in the classroom. Next step; consolidation – this is where sleep

comes in. While you're snoozing away, your brain is busy consolidating your day's learning – a bit like backing up a hard drive. If you don't sleep enough, some new learning doesn't get backed up. And then? Step three; recall – this might be the next lesson, a test or an exam. Can you guess the punchline? You got it. If you don't do enough consolidation, you can't do the recall.

So the message is to sleep more if you want to learn more. Night, night!

Mr Foster



Raising Aspiration...

Year 7 Raising Aspirations Week (28th September – 2nd October)

This week we have really enjoyed working with Year 7 students. During Form Time, we have welcomed them into the Sixth Form Common Room to meet with Year 13 students and take part in a fun quiz. They have also had their first Careers Lesson, looking at their skills and qualities and how these might determine their future pathway. Their enthusiasm and engagement has been fantastic, and we look forward to working with them again in February.



We would also like to thank parents and carers for the high attendance at the Raising Aspirations Evening (Tuesday 29th September). We are here to discuss your child's hopes and ambitions over the coming years and look forward to working with you.

Year 10+ Work Experience Support

We have already had 30 students sign up for support finding work experience placements during the school holidays. Please remind your child that this programme is running now and they are welcome to come along to Kate Allan's office to discuss further.

Year 11 Raising Aspirations Ambassadors

This week the Raising Aspirations Ambassadors attended their first official event at the Year 7 Raising Aspirations Evening, and they were an absolute credit to the department and the school, carrying out their duties with a genuine sense of responsibility. Many thanks go to Zac Laycock,

Ben Philipson, Seb Gale, Joseph Galvin, Daniel Stephenson, Finlay Bevan, Vicky Clinch, Grace Goodwin, Esta Norton, Pippa Christey Reid, Antonia Roberts, Praveena Benedick, Fiyza Khan and Florence Richardson.

Year 11 Post-16 Planning Questionnaires

Please would all Year 11 students who haven't returned their Post-16 Planning Questionnaire do so as soon as possible. These can be handed in to Form Tutors or to Kate Allan in her office (next to B5, Mr Findon's classroom). Planning Meetings have now started and the questionnaires are an integral part of that process.

Year 11 Raising Aspirations Week (12th-16th October)

The Year 11 Raising Aspirations Week includes a range of activities details of which can be found in the Year 11 Post-16 Planning Pack, which was sent home at the beginning of term. In particular, we hope to see you and your child at the Year 11 Raising Aspirations Evening (Thursday 15th October), where you will be able to find out more about the choices that are open to them next year.

Friday Lunchtime Drop-In

Just a reminder that Kate Allan runs a drop-in for students in all school years from 12:30pm to 1:30pm every Friday. Everyone welcome, no question too small or too big!

Kate Allen

Student Leadership Committee...

The Student Leadership Committee

Last week saw the first Student Leadership Committee meeting for this academic year, where we introduced new members and welcomed back old members.



The Senior Leadership Committee

Our senior leadership committee (Head boy, Liam Brennan; Head girl, Hannah Fleetwood; Deputy head boy, Joe Sheehan and Deputy head girl, Faiza Saif) will be overseeing the entire committee along with the support of 6th form prefects. We are looking forward to working together over the rest of this academic year and I am sure that the students have some great ideas about how we can make The Priory School an even better place to be! The next Key Stage meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 14th October where we will elect a senior representative in Key Stage 3 and 4. Well done everyone!

Students received their welcome pack and signed their contract to show their commitment to their role. I would like to say a huge well done and congratulations to our successful applicants as the level of applications was of a particularly high standard this year.



The 2015/2016 Student Leadership Committee

Mrs Southall

Attendance

The school's attendance target is 96%.

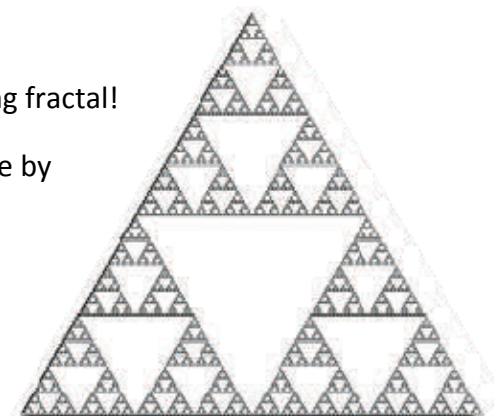
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7NW	99.6%	78	9AM	97.4%	78	11TC	95.4%	3
7NS	96.7%	50	9MF	93.3%	54	11BS	97.6%	0
7JT	99.0%	33	9NJ	94.0%	0	11RO	95.4%	51
7AR	99.9%	84	9CN	93.9%	33	11RC	92.4%	0
7SF	96.1%	40	9SO	96.6%	0	11CH	96.4%	0
7CT	97.4%	18	9TV	95.5%	1	11EG	95.5%	0
7CJ	98.0%	23	10RP	97.5%	4	FP	93.8%	0
8LC	96.2%	13	10MH	96.6%	46	LE	94.2%	0
8AA	97.4%	48	10RS	96.1%	0	LJ	97.7%	0
8VM	92.9%	20	10DM	98.3%	58	RF	96.7%	0
8HB	94.8%	21	10LP	96.1%	4	JH	95.8%	0
8GG	96.8%	12	10SB	95.2%	4	AX	93.8%	0
8MC	96.7%	11				VS	93.5%	0

Numeracy and Literacy...

Sierpinski pyramid

Since returning in September students and teachers have been getting fractal!

A Sierpinski Triangle is a fractal based on an equilateral triangle, made by dividing the triangle into four smaller triangles, removing the central triangle and then repeating for each of the three remaining triangles.



If you repeat this process forever, you get a fractal.

As a school, we have been making a 3D version of this – a tetrahedron made up of four smaller tetrahedra, with an empty space in the middle.

Every form group has been busy making tetrahedrons to build a very large Sierpinski pyramid. The grand reveal will be on open evening – watch this space!

Mrs Parsons

MacMillan Cake Sale

Many thanks to all the staff and students who helped to raise over £300 at the cakes sales for MacMillans during September!! Special thanks to Jas Jaswal for organising the event!!



'Make the pledge'

The Priory School is supporting Hertfordshire County Council's Year of Mental Health Awareness Campaign; with World Mental Health Day on 10th October, the school has decided to support this campaign.

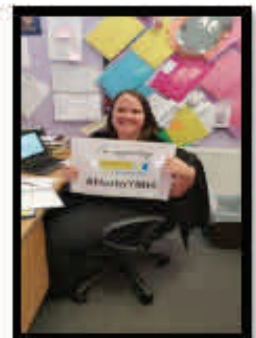
The main objectives being to:

- Tackle mental health stigma and discrimination,
- Help people get better access to treatment and care,
- Gain parity of access to treatment for both mental and physical health



'**Making the pledge**' is about inspiring and motivating people, to take some steps to help challenge mental health discrimination and to improve the lives of those with mental health. The poster shows members of staff at the school 'making the pledge'.

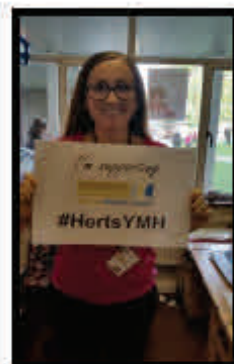
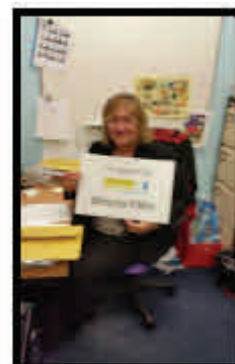
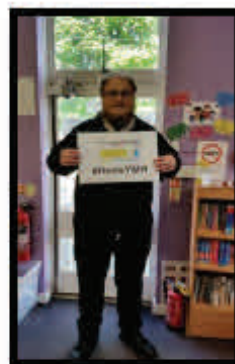
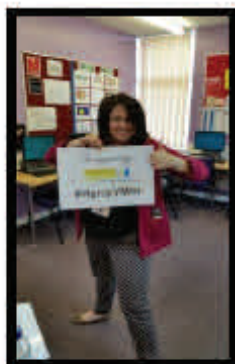
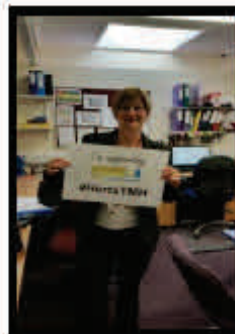
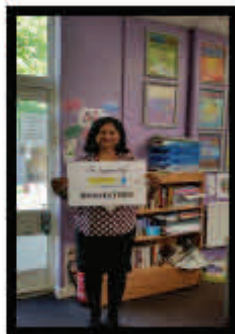
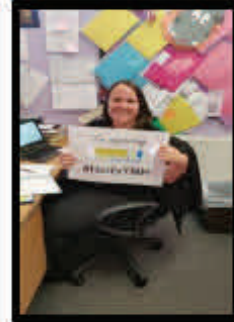
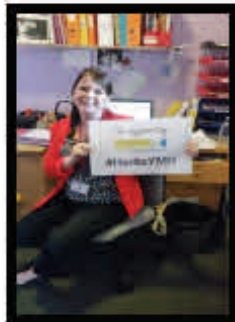
You too can join in on social media via **#HertsYMH** and make the pledge.





The Priory School

Physical, Emotional and Academic Progress for All



Sports, Clubs & Activities....

English teacher Mrs Hamer and 6th former Lexi Birk are taking part in **'The Great Priory Hair Off'** on 03/12/2015.

This event is 3 fold:

1. The students that want to, will donate to watch the 'Hair Off' , money going to the school's choice of charity – 'Children In Need'
2. The hair will be packaged and donated to 'The Little Princess Trust'; a charity that provides real hair wigs for children who have lost theirs
3. Both Mrs Hamer and Lexi's JustGiving sponsorship to go to 'RNLI' and 'The National Brain Tumour society' respectively

It's easy to donate online with a debit or credit card - just visit the JustGiving page -

Lexi Birk's: www.justgiving.com/Lexi-Birks

Mrs Hamer's: www.justgiving.com/owner-email/pleasesponsor/cheryl-hamer



JustGiving sends your donation straight to RNLI and The National Brain Tumour Society and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.



Thank you for your support!

Cheryl & Lexi

Special Thanks to Tracie and her staff from 'Talents' in Hitchin who have kindly offered to do the cuts.



The Priory School have launched the foodbank appeal for Hitchin, Letchworth and Baldock. We had a huge success when we collected for the foodbank two years ago, and we are hoping to replicate that success this year. We will be collecting for the rest of this half term – if every student brings in 1 item, we will have over 1000 products to donate! We are asking students to donate any items that they can as long as they are in date and not damaged. There are items that the foodbank are in need of which are specified on the list, but they are grateful for all donations. If students bring in 3 items they will receive an SLT sticker as a thank you! Please help us support our local community.

Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and bringing them to school or giving them to the Letchworth Foodbank (serving Letchworth, Hitchin and Baldock) - Thank you!!

- * Milk (UHT or powdered)
- * Fruit Juice (long life)
- * Cereals
- * Meat/Fish (Tinned)
- * Rice Pudding (Tinned)
- * Pasta Sauce
- * Tomatoes (Tinned)
- * Biscuits
- * 500gm Sugar
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Sponge Pudding
- * Instant Mashed Potato
- * Tea Bags/Coffee
- * Rice/Pasta
- * Jam

Damaged products and items past their sell by date cannot be used.

Katie Southall



PSA News

The great thing about easy fundraising is it's free and it really helps us to raise money easily. Since we launched easyfundraising at the end of last term we have already raised **£47.03** for the PSA and 38 supporters have now signed up to support us.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

Whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for The Priory School PSA. There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to The Priory School PSA to say thank you for shopping with them.

All you have to do is:

1. **Go to** <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/prioryschoolhitchin>
2. **Sign up for free**
3. **Get shopping** - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to The Priory School Hitchin PSA. It couldn't be easier!

Don't forget to log into your easyfundraising account whenever you shop online.

There are no catches or hidden charges and The PSA will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Gill Claxton, PSA Chair

Dates for your Diary 2015

Tuesday, 13th October

World Maths Day &
Learning Day

Thursday, 15th October

Y11 Raising Aspirations Evening -
Post 16 Pathways, 7 - 9pm

Friday, 16th October

Deadline for Reward Stickers

Wednesday, 21st October

Year 7 Disco, 7.00pm

Thursday, 22nd October

E Safety Parents' Evening,
7.00pm

Fri, 23rd—Sat 24th October

Year 9 Battlefields Trip

Mon 26th - Fri 30th October

Half Term

- Quiz -

Last newsletter's question:

2015 is the 600th anniversary of which famous battle?

Answer: The **Battle of Agincourt** was a major English victory in the Hundred Years' War which took place on Friday, 25 October 1415 (Saint Crispin's Day), near modern-day Azincourt, in northern France.

Question: What is the name of the world's highest mountain and in which country is it located?

Free Friday Football Tournament!

30th October 2015

7-10.30pm

The Arena, Norton Road, Baldock, SG7 5AU

Age 12 – 19 years

Up to 25 for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities



FREE ENTRY

Girl teams also welcome

5-A-Side Teams

Free Refreshments

Registration 7pm

First Game at 7:30pm

Finish 10.30pm

**For more info call 01438 843340
or email**

youthconnexions.northherts@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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HERTFORDSHIRE

Enabling young people to succeed

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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 24TH
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

Bloodwise

(FORMERLY KNOWN AS LEUKAEMIA
AND LYMPHOMA RESEARCH)

£10 PER TICKET