



The Priory School

Sixth Form

Educating Students for Success in Life



NEWSLETTER 14TH OCTOBER

Message from Mrs Hadaway

It has been a busy but productive half term in the Sixth Form, and it's been great to see our sixth formers working so hard in lessons and during independent study, as well as contributing to the wider school community with the prefect picnic and Year 6 school tours. I have been proud to hear how well our Year 13s have represented the school on recent Geography and Biology trips, and it has been a pleasure to appoint our new Year 12 Junior Prefects. I am heading off on maternity leave at the end of this half term, but I know that I am leaving a great set of students in the capable hands of the Sixth Form team. Your child's form tutor will remain your first port of call, with Mrs Shipp on hand to support students from day to day. Mr Carr and Mr Wright will continue to provide support and guidance in their capacity as heads of year and Mrs Nearney will be looking after the sixth form in my absence. I am looking forward to hearing how everyone is getting on when I return to work next summer.

Year 12 update from Mr Carr

The enthusiasm of our new Year 12 intake truly knows no bounds. Having spent only the barest amount of time getting used to new subjects, new protocols and new timetables, the year group has wasted no time in throwing themselves into a variety of enrichment opportunities that we have launched over this half term, making the most of every minute in the Sixth Form!

For students looking to go above and beyond their A-Level syllabuses, a new 'Levelling Up' Google Classroom has been set up. Here students are able to find resources not only to extend their subject knowledge and understanding, but opportunities to enrol in programmes run by Oxford, Cambridge, and other competitive universities that will help raise students' aspirations for when they graduate from school. One programme we are advertising currently is the Cambridge Higher Aspirations Scheme, an exciting and exclusive opportunity involving a course of small-group tutorial sessions with Cambridge professors and a trip to Gonville & Caius College. Applications close on 21st October, so students are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible. For this scheme and many others advertised throughout the year, please remind your child they should join the Levelling Up Google Classroom and check regularly for updates.

Applications for our Junior Prefect positions have now closed and we are very excited to announce the successful applicants below. The students presented tremendously strong applications and we cannot wait for them to take on their new roles, working alongside our Year 13 Senior Prefects.

Many Year 12 students have signed up to participate in Phase's Grow Programme. The students on the programme will volunteer in local primary schools, running a series of workshops for Year 5 students centred around encouraging and developing resilience. Our students who participated in the programme last year found it endlessly rewarding and we are delighted to see that the programme is growing year on year, with a large number of students volunteering their time and talents over the coming months to this valuable opportunity.

Year 13 update from Mr Wright

As the arrival of autumn heralds a change in season. October has most definitely seen a shift in the outlook of our Year 13 students. With our future planning sessions well under way it has been great to talk to so many individuals about their ideas for life after The Priory, whether that be university, an apprenticeship or another exciting opportunity. The very best part of being head of Year 13 is to read the personal statements of our young people and to see their aspirations and achievements laid out on a piece of paper. It always brings home how proud I am of the young adults they are becoming. I am safe in the knowledge that they are well prepared for the future and will go off into the world ready to make a difference.

Our next half term continues to look to the future, with the Parents' Consultation Evening on 10th November and the finalising of UCAS applications for those off to university. Parents' evening is a valuable opportunity to take stock of what has been achieved and also gain valuable advice on how to ensure that the next steps are as effective as possible.

Monday 10th October was World Mental Health Day and students had the opportunity to pause and think about their wellbeing. With a lot of important decisions to make, and for many students the first set of focussed exams coming up, stress levels can rise and worries become more significant. There are many wonderful resources available to help support mindfulness, from YouTube meditation videos to advice on breathing techniques. We will be covering revision strategies and good exam preparation in our RSHE lessons before the Christmas break, reflecting on tactics to help the knowledge stick, but also looking at how to keep focussed and calm in the lead up to the tests. If you are worried about your child, please contact their form tutor in the first instance so they can talk through any concerns they may have. The following link gives some useful advice from the NHS:

[NHS - Help your child beat exam stress.](#)

Data update

Please can we ask that all parents log on to SIMS parent app and ensure all their contact details are up to date including phone numbers and emails. We want to make sure all important information is getting through to everyone.

A reminder about absences

We have had a number of queries regarding protocols for absences - please visit the [Standards](#) area of the Sixth Form section of our website for further information.

Prefect picnic

Our prefect team put on a fantastic range of activities for our Year 7 students recently as part of their Welcome to TPS evening event. It was great to see students sharing their own passions, such as beatboxing, origami, cake decorating and coding, with our newest recruits. They also provided refreshments for the evening and their fundraising for their prom is well underway.



Team-Building Day

Our (now) traditional team-building day based on the TV show Taskmaster brought the very best competitive spirit out of the sixth formers, with 13TV the ultimate champions! The focus was on showing resilience in the face of adversity and it was an opportunity to practice the 'soft skills' that are so important to employers around the world. A set of challenges that included memorising a dance routine, throwing a piece of bread into a toaster and a pub quiz inspired great engagement and enthusiasm - not to mention some very competitive points scoring - from all of the form groups. The slightly tentative engagement with the first session led ultimately to a fully enthusiastic last hour, a fantastic response that demonstrated the success in encouraging teamwork, collaboration and problem-solving skills. I would like to thank the students for their efforts and for making it such an enjoyable day; the laughter will stay with us for a long time.



Junior Prefect Team

Congratulations to the following Year 12s who have been made Junior Prefects - they will be working alongside our Year 13 Senior Prefects to lead projects in a range of areas around the school:

Key Stage 3 Senior Prefects	Alice Tanner Sanam Parmar Rebecca Davies
Key Stage 4 Senior Prefects	Alice Rowlands Sapphire Crowe
Wellbeing Senior Prefect	Daisy Ramsey
Charity Senior Prefect	Louise Bamigbade
Diversity and Equality Senior Prefect	Nyasha Kasinganeti
Arts and Culture Senior Prefect	Rachel Stewart
STEM Senior Prefect	Aisha Quddus
Music Senior Prefect	Fran Peace
Eco Senior Prefect	Olly Barclay

Learn to Live

On Monday 17th October we have the first session of our Learn to Live driver safety programme taking place during the Year 12 enrichment session. This is a county-wide programme that delivers important information to our sixth formers who are either learning to drive or are likely to be passengers in friends' cars over the coming year. The first session is a video put together by the Road Safety team, and the second session is a new in-person visit from the team, which will take place on 7th November for Year 12 and 28th November for Year 13.

Careers and apprenticeships update

Not sure about what you want to do in life after you leave us here at TPS?

There are so many options open to you such as apprenticeships, uni, working or further study at a college. Keep an eye on the google classroom for Sixth Form. It has a whole section dedicated to careers and helping you make the next steps to where you want to go. Recent updates include:

- Hertfordshire Labour Market Information
- How to register for alerts that will let you know of potential vacancies which come up in the industries you are interested in
- A Q&A area where you can ask any questions you have regarding apprenticeships. You can also see what other students have asked once you have posted.



New-build update!

This week our student drive team for the new Sixth Form site met for the first time to share their ideas and input. Comprising students from Years 11 through to Year 13, the drive team has been eager to sound out all manner of suggestions for possible new features of the Sixth Form centre. We would like to thank all the students who have stepped forward to participate in these meetings and we cannot wait for them to see some of their ideas incorporated into the new block!

We now have window frames and walls! The new-build continues apace with more and more recognisable features of the amazing learning space that is almost with us!



Thank Crunchie it's Friday!

So our "Thank Crunchie It's Friday" rewards are well underway. Well done to these students for being nominated to receive a Crunchie! If you haven't done so already, please see Mrs Shipp to receive your chocolate and learn who nominated you and why!



Carys Williams Rowan Scourfield Alex Wills Nicholas Witham-Mueller Zara Heath Alice Bridge	Derya Yilmazgul Shaniyah Parcell Nike Gazso Cameron Luff Ryan Boon Lia Mitchell
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Thanks as always for your support!

Kind regards,

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