

September 2018



'Learning today for a better tomorrow'

Dear Parents & Students,

Whether we are a student, parent or staff member, September always promises new opportunities as we open the doors to the new academic year. Age and stage seems unimportant, as we look forward to a fresh start with eager anticipation. I am pleased to report that it was with that sense of wonder that we welcomed our young people back to our school this week.

Once again, we could not hide our sense of pride and joy as we met our new Year 5 pupils and of course, our other year groups, looking so smart, wearing Priory's name with such poise and charm.

In August, we celebrated our best ever GCSE results, an impressive achievement in a year where examination reforms have made it more challenging for students. These wonderful results include 82% grades 9-4 in English and maths and over 70% of all entries being awarded grades 5 and above!

Many congratulations to all our wonderful students, staff and parents and a special well done to the following students who have achieved outstanding individual performances: Klaudia Sokolowska, Lucy Vermeer, Emily Francis, Bethany Norris, Cora Enright, Owen Brailsford and Jude Slaney. A special mention to the following students who made outstanding progress from KS2 to KS4: Jessica Payne-Fraser, Kirwan Darcy, William Edwards, Alfie Balaam, Ryan Smith, Annabel Woodland, Benjamin McLean-Hall and Joe Smith.



As we start the term, we are very lucky to welcome several excellent new teachers to our existing fantastic team:

- Mr Connor (Leader of History)
- Mrs Humphryes (Teacher of Science)
- Mrs Love (Teacher of Spanish)
- Mr Golding (Teacher of Maths/PE)
- Mr Lysaght (Teacher of PE)

As in previous years, all students will continue to have access to me between 8:10-8:25 every Monday as part of my open door policy. They are welcome to come and talk to me about anything, or simply say "hello". I very much look forward to meeting them during the course of the year. I will also continue to have my 'Headteacher lunches/ afternoon teas' with groups of students throughout the coming academic year.

We value your continued support and we hope that you will always feel welcome in our school. We also understand what this time of the year is like for parents; please remember that your child's tutor is first port of call at school and you should feel comfortable to be able to contact them when you need to. It is often better to "nip things in the bud", rather than wait for situations to develop; we would far prefer to hear sooner rather than later, even if something seems insignificant at the time. That said, please also appreciate, as I am sure you will, that teachers are unlikely to be able to respond to calls immediately – they are with the students for most of the day – but will always aim to get back to you within 24 hours, if at all possible.

I look forward very much to an exciting new academic year with your child(ren). Good luck to all our students – we hope you have a happy and successful year.

Sincerely,

Mrs M Smith (Headteacher)

Jeans for Genes Day, Friday 21st September 2018

Once again, we are proud to be able support the Jeans for Genes appeal at Priory. This charity aims to raise awareness of genetic disorders as well as raising money to fund a range of initiatives that improve the quality of life for children and families affected. All students are allowed to wear non-uniform for the day for £1 as long as they wear a pair of jeans. The jeans must be suitable for school, ie. no tiny denim shorts and no jeans which are ripped above the knee!

Harvest Collection

Following a long established tradition at Priory, supporting those less fortunate, we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival week, beginning Monday 1st October. As with previous years, we will be giving thanks, collecting gifts (groceries/toiletries) and distributing them to charities that support local families and individuals in crisis. Items such as tinned foods, jars of jam, tea, coffee, rice, pasta, Christmas puddings, bottles of squash, biscuits, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. will be much appreciated and will be gratefully received by those in need. Children bringing in gifts/contributions should take them to their form tutors by Friday 5th October.

Mobile Phones

We would like to remind you that students should not be using their mobile phone during the school day. This includes to send text messages or to telephone their parents/friends. If a student is caught using their mobile during lesson it will be confiscated and taken to the office until the end of the school day and they will receive a '4' and a detention. If they continue to flout this rule parents will be asked to collect the phone from the office.

If students feel unwell during the day they should report to the medical room and if they have any friendship/other issues they should speak with their form tutor or year leader. If your child tries to contact you, we would be grateful if you would ring the school office so that we may help resolve any issues as soon as possible.

Bikes, mobile phones and other valuables

A quick reminder - if your child chooses to bring their mobile phone, bicycle or other valuables such as musical instruments to school they do so at their/your own risk. Please check that any items brought to school are covered by your household insurance as we cannot replace any lost/stolen items. **All bicycles must be locked whilst on school premises.**

School Hours

Could we please remind you that the earliest students should be in school is **7:45am for breakfast club**. Staff are not available to supervise students before this time.

Britain Street and Priory Road

To keep our students safe, please do not park on the 'School-Keep Clear' markings around the school entrances.



- If you drive your child to and/or from school, could we please ask you to park with consideration for our neighbours? Please do not park your car across driveways / in the private car parks or drop litter/cigarette butts on our neighbours' properties.
- Please also respect our neighbours' properties and do not sit on their boundary walls, as this can cause costly damage to fragile brickwork.

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school would you inform the school office via the absence telephone line (**not** e-mail please) by 9am, giving a specific reason for absence and update us on the situation daily if the absence continues. As part of our safeguarding procedures, you will receive a text on each day of absence if you do not ring us. A home visit will be made by our attendance officer if calls remain unanswered or the situation becomes a cause for concern.

Important Dates:

Friday 21 st September	Jeans for Genes day, £1 mufti
w/c Monday 1 st October	Harvest Collection
Wednesday 17 th October	Year 4 into 5 Open Evening, early closure tbc
w/c 22 nd October	Half Term
Monday 29 th October	Staff Training Day, school closed for students

2018/19 School Year Dates

AUTUMN TERM	Tuesday 4th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018 (Training Day: 29th October 2018) <i>Half Term: 22nd – 26th October 2018</i>
SPRING TERM	Thursday 3rd January – Friday 5th April 2019 (Training Day: 2nd January and 18th February 2019) <i>Half Term: 11th – 15th February 2019</i>
SUMMER TERM	Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 19th July 2019 (Training Days: 22nd July 2019) <i>Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May / Half Term: 27th – 31st May 2019</i>