



‘Learning today for a better tomorrow’

Dear Parents & Students,

The first half of the autumn term has been great! Our wonderful Year 5 children have had a brilliant start at Priory. While speaking to a group of them just before the half-term, I was delighted to hear their positive comments about their lessons, friends and the school in general.

I am sure that we all agree that schools are, by their very nature, busy and dynamic places and our school, I am glad to say, is also a happy place. Since September, we have had many momentous occasions. The most notable one was our ‘Open Evening’ a few days ago, when we, once again, opened our doors to our prospective pupils and parents. With a full house, the evening was a great success. I can’t tell you how pleasing it was to hear so many wonderful comments from our visitors on the night and then later through emails. My sincere thanks go to the staff and our fantastic student helpers. A special thanks go to Sylvie Couldridge, Harry Roberts, Annika Allamand (Head Girl) and Kyle Jansen van Vuuren (Head Boy) for their eloquent speeches and to our fantastic performers Yue Yang Liu, and Megan Wheeler.

The other notable events of the half-term were:

- The New Scientist Live exhibition at ExCeL (with Tim Peake, British Astronaut)
- The knife crime Question Time event (The Central Bedfordshire’s Police Headquarters)
- Harvest Festival when we collected 497.7kg of groceries and non-perishable goods for the Dunstable Food Bank (providing 1,185 meals for those in need)
- Jeans for Genes Day: raising £645
- Multi-Academy Trust status (Scholars’ Education Trust) Information Evening
- Our SATs awareness evening (Year 6 parents)
- The Curriculum Support Evening (Years 9 to 11 parents)
- The Iceland trip (Geography)
- The appointment of school’s ambassadors:
 - House Captains:
 - Aequitas: Ruby Cronin and Kai Jones
 - Reverentia: Heather Shepherd and Eloise Harper
 - Tolerentia: Krystal Fletcher and Claire Wilden
 - Libertas: Ruby French and Katarina Monteiro
 - Sports Captains:
 - Aequitas: Sasha Manders and Jack Johnstone
 - Reverentia: Jennifer Radford and William Hardie
 - Tolerentia: Ryan Roberts and Charlotte Roan
 - Libertas: Tia Steadman and Jessica Kefford
 - Prefects: Molly Bacon, Jacob Taylor, Bianka Misikova, Tommy Zervas and Rianna Denton



As for sports, the PE department have created a new twitter account (<https://twitter.com/PrioryAcademyPE>) to keep everyone updated with sporting fixtures (timings, practices, equipment needed, results etc.) and information. Mr David would love everyone to follow them! A big well done to all our footballers in the recent round of games for England Schools Football. These have included:

- Year 11 boys vs The Robert Barclay Academy - 5-1 winners, which means they progress to the next round.
- Year 10 boys played Etonbury when they unfortunately lost 5-4 on penalties. It was a very close game and was horrible to lose but we are incredibly proud of the effort.
- The Year 8 boys football team played their first ever competitive match against Leighton, losing 4-1 having been 3-0 down at half time. It was a great effort and good experience for all those involved.
- Year 9/10 girls vs @The Oxford Academy 5-0 win for Priory. This was an amazing win against a football academy school and means they also progress to the next round.
- Year 7 boys narrowly lost 1-0 to St Johns Wood. This was a fabulous game with some exceptional football on display. They move on to the county cup with heads held high!

On the academic front, our KS4 students showed their prowess in the Central Bedfordshire's league tables following the publication of national data released by the government (<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=823&laname=central-bedfordshire&geographic=la&for=secondary&datasetFilter=provisional>).

Congratulations and well done to all our students and staff; this is truly a proud moment for all of us!

But of course, you will not be surprised to hear that Priory students are also great young citizens, who 'do good' in our local community. Some of our older students, in their spare time, support the local businesses by delivering newspapers or working in shops. Speaking of good citizens, it was lovely to receive a phone call from a local lady who had witnessed one of our students (wearing a Priory Academy blazer) helping a lady who was injured after a fall in the town centre. After a few enquiries, I discovered that the helpful young man mentioned was our very own, Alfie Stoker in Year 11. After shaking Alfie's hand the next day and congratulating him, I found myself, once again, feeling very proud of our young people at Priory!

As always, I would like to thank all staff for their continued hard work these past few weeks and, more importantly, for staying true to the compass in our pursuit of excellence.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to you, the parents/carers who have attended various events or have supported us through face to face conversations or letter/email communications. We value your continued support and I hope that you will always feel welcome in our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Smith
Headteacher

Sixth Form Open Evenings

Please take a look at the Letters to Parents or GCSE Information pages of the website for details of the local 6th Form Open Evenings for Year 11 students. We aim to keep this as up to date as possible but please check with individual schools before attending.

Important Dates:

Friday 2 nd November	Harvest Reward Mufti (students will be told which classes were the winners)
Friday 16 th November	Children In Need Appeal day – details to follow
Sunday 11 th November	Dunstable Town Council Remembrance Day Parade
w/c 5 th November	Year 11 Mocks week (timetable available on Letters to Parents page of website)
w/c 12 th November	Year 10 Mocks week (timetable available on Letters to Parents page of website)
Friday 7 th December	Dunstable Town Council Torchlight Procession and Christmas Tree Carols
Weds 19 th December	Last Day of Term
Thursday 3 rd January 2019	First Day of Spring Term
13 th May – 26 th June	GCSE Exams
13 th – 16 th May	SATs week
Friday 28 th June	Year 11 Prom (tbc)

Term Dates:

AUTUMN TERM	Tuesday 4th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018 (Training Day: 29th October 2018)
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>