

December 2018



'Learning today for a better tomorrow'

Dear parents & students,

With the end of term drawing near and Christmas round the corner, I cannot help but reflect and be reminded of how wonderful our young people are at Priory. From my own perspective, I see much kindness and respect daily within our community; but more importantly it is heart-warming when it is witnessed by our neighbours and the local residents.

A few days ago, we received an email from a local gentleman with severe sight impairment who uses a white cane. In his email, he gave an account of how a few of our students offered him help to cross the road. He spoke of the students' gentleness and kindness and finally, he expressed the view that those students were "a credit to themselves and to the school!" I am sure you will understand my delight at moments like these! I am also very glad to say that reports like these are not that uncommon at our school and I thank all our students for their part in that.

Throughout this term, the curriculum has, as always, benefited from many trips, visits, external visitors and extra-curricular activities to enhance our students' learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those staff involved, as I am sure you appreciate the number of hours that planning and conducting such events entails.

Speaking of extra-curricular activities, my sincere thanks go to Miss Khatun for organising the debating competition in November hosted by Bedford Modern School. Many congratulations to Kyeesha Weston-Samed and Ollie Putman for their winning deliberation against Bedford School and going through to the finals in the spring term. A big well done to the team, an incredible achievement! Congratulations also go to Ryan Roberts, Bianka Misikova, Jennifer Radford, Heather Shepherd and Iris Khalid for having their work published in "The Poetry Games" anthology as part of the Young Writers competition. The students have shown great creativity within their work and have demonstrated the Academy's literacy values very well.

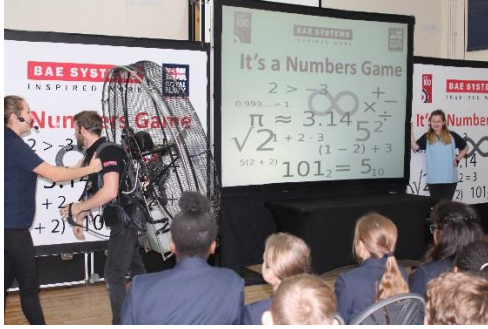
Furthermore, we were over the moon to be recognised and be awarded 'Gold' for our support and participation in the National Citizen Service in 2018.



The debating team



Talent Show winners



'It's a Numbers Game'



Maximise

Finally, a very big thank you and well done to all our talented performers who took part at our 'Inter-House Talent Competition and show' last Monday. It was truly a joy to watch! Sincere congratulations to 'Reverentia' for securing the winning House place and to the individual winners: Poppy Byrne (1st), Madison Coupe (2nd), Charlie Alligan (3rd). Last but not least, a very big thank you to Miss Lewis, Mrs Lewis, Mr Mead and a host of helpful staff, parents and students who made this wonderful event possible.

On behalf of all of us at Priory, may I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoy a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

We look forward to welcoming our young people back to school on Thursday 3rd January 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Smith
Headteacher

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served on Tuesday 18th December by Hobbs Catering (copy of menu attached). The price is £2.30 for the 3 courses and payment should be made in the usual way – by ScoPay. There will be no break snack service or Pasta King on that day, just Christmas dinner and the kiosk will be serving pizza or panini.

Arrangements for the Last Day of Term (Wednesday 19th December)

Please note that on the last day of the term, Wednesday 19th December, our Years 9, 10 and 11 students will be dismissed at lunch time – if the permission slip has been received before this date. The rest of the school will attend the church and will finish at the usual time of 15:00.

If your Year 9/10/11 child is entitled to free school meals and would like a packed lunch before they leave please inform the school office asap.

Please note that the after school club will be operating as usual.

Polite Notice

Please remember both the 'Cloisters' car park (the corner of Priory Road/Britain Street) and Viceroy Court are private property and should not be used when collecting students. Viceroy Court have an enforcement system in place for those parked irresponsibly. We have also received complaints from our neighbours regarding inconsiderate parking on Britain Street, we have a good relationship with the majority our neighbours but I am sure you can appreciate how frustrating it is for them to return home to find a car in their allocated parking space/across their driveway.

E-Safety Events

Bedfordshire Police school liaison team will be running a series of e-safety assemblies on Wednesday 16th January for Year 5-9 students. There will also be a Parent Information Evening beginning at 5.30pm. We will be sending further information nearer the time.

'Be Happy'

Avoid the stresses of the season by following the '5 ways to improve mental well-being' published by the government which offers a real focus to happiness and contentment:



Connect... with the people around you. With family, friends, colleagues and neighbours. At home, work, school or in your local community. Think of these as the cornerstones of your life and invest time in developing them. Building these connections will support and enrich you every day.

Be active... Swap your inactive pursuits with active ones. Go for a walk. Step outside. Cycle. Play a game. Garden. Dance. Walk or cycle when making short journeys. Being active makes you feel good. Most importantly, discover a physical activity you enjoy and that suits your level of mobility and fitness.

Take notice... Be curious. Catch sight of the beautiful. Remark on the unusual. Notice the changing seasons. Savour the moment, whether you are walking to work, eating lunch or talking to friends. Be aware of the world around you and what you are feeling. Reflecting on your experiences will help you appreciate what matters to you.

Keep learning... Try something new. Rediscover an old interest. Sign up for that course. Take on a different responsibility at work. Fix a bike. Learn to play an instrument or how to cook your favourite food. Set a challenge you will enjoy achieving. Learning new things will make you more confident as well as being fun.

Give... Do something nice for a friend, or a stranger. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Join a community group. Look out, as well as in. Seeing yourself, and your happiness, linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and creates connections with the people around you.

Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor for 6.25 hours per week. Please see the school website for further information and application form.

Christmas reflection

*Lord, at Christmas time we can be
so busy about this and that,
shopping, presents, cards,
meals to prepare and meals to attend.
Life can become a little frantic.*

*Please grant us the space
amongst all the hustle and bustle
in which to think of our neighbours
our friends and our families
and to thank you
for all the small things we take for granted.
Amen*

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Important Dates:

Monday 17 th December	Year 5/6 Disco
Tuesday 18 th December	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 18 th December	DofE Expedition Parents Evening, 5.20pm
Weds 19 th December	Last Day of Term
Thursday 3 rd January 2019	First Day of Spring Term, students return to school
3 rd and 4 th January	Year 11 English mocks
Wednesday 16 th January	E-Safety events
w/c 28 th January	Year 11 Mock week
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>

