

Newsletter
January 2019



‘Learning today for a better tomorrow’

Dear Parents/Carers & Students,

I do hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well. I always find it rather curious that January seems to be such a long month! Maybe it is because of the inclement weather or possibly the dark, short gloomy days or maybe it is because Christmas has just come and gone. Whichever way it may be interpreted, it is delightful that despite my feelings about January, everyone at Priory has been working hard both in and out of the classroom.

Our school’s busy life, these past few weeks, have included:

- Years 5, 7 and 8 Parents’ Evening
- E-safety assemblies and e-safety information evening for parents led by Sally Simmonds (Bedfordshire Police)
- Poetry and literacy sessions for KS2 students with Karl Nova (award winning author and poet)
- ESU Mace Debating competition held at Priory

With that in mind, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the team but especially to Miss Croft, Mr Cronin, Miss Khatun and Miss Wickert for organising and running the e-safety, literacy sessions and also the fantastic debating competition!

Of course our students have, as always, been rays of sunshine in the cold and freezing January. A big well done to our Year 10 Debating Team: Jess Kefford, Jasmine Harding, Heather Shepherd, Ruby Cronin, Zak Hopkins-Weatherby, Ollie Putman and Ryan Roberts. Many congratulations to Ruby, Zak, Ryan and Ollie who deliberated magnificently against the sixth formers from 2 schools: Stowe and Moulton. Undoubtedly, a proud moment for all of us at Priory!



I must not forget to praise our Year 11 students who have been working hard, preparing and sitting their Pre-Public Exams in recent days with poise and commitment.

I am sure that we all agree that good attendance is paramount to our young people’s success. As such, many congratulations to Year 5 with 97.4% who top the list on our attendance at present!

As you may know, January also brings with it the publication of secondary schools' league tables by the Department for Education. It is thrilling to see how brilliantly our students performed in comparison with other schools, locally and nationally. Many congratulations to our alumni students in their amazing success. Speaking of successes, we were over the moon to hear that one of our old students, Amy Roberts, has secured a place to study Bio Chemistry at Somerville College, Oxford. Of course, we are always interested in hearing how our old students are and we will be delighted to hear of any successes our former students have achieved.

Finally, I am pleased to report that in our pursuit of excellence, our future partnership within the Scholars' Education Trust is close to completion. My thanks go to our governors and our parents for their diligence, support and encouragement these past few months as we have forged ahead in joining this group of successful schools in Hertfordshire.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Warmest regards,

Mrs M Smith
Headteacher

Successes

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements:

Outstanding Effort, English Year 7 (Miss Croft):

Sebastian Fowler
Susanne Lenthall
Katy Orchard

Year 5 Word Millionaire (Mrs French):

Isabel James

Year 5 Maths – Timestables knowledge (Mrs Ford):

Luke Smith
Evaelle LeCoguic

Extra-curricular exam passes

We have been made aware of the following student successes. Well done to you all:

Ruby French, Grade 4 Ballet - with merit
Ruby French, Grade 4 Modern dance - with distinction
Ava French, Grade 2 Ballet - with Merit
Ava French, Grade 3 Modern Dance - with distinction
Krystal Fletcher, Grade 4 Ballet - with merit
Krystal Fletcher, Grade 4 Modern dance - with distinction
Eloise Harper, Grade 4 Modern dance - with distinction
Yue Yang Liu, Grade 6 piano – with merit.

Chinese New Year Menu

Hobbs Catering have planned a special menu to celebrate Chinese New Year on Tuesday 5th February (a copy of the menu is attached). We would also like to inform you that there will be no Pasta King meals served on Fridays.

Year 11 Prom

We are very happy to confirm that the Prom has been confirmed as Friday 28th June from 6.30pm at Eversholt Hall. A letter will be sent to Year 11 parents shortly with full details, including a payment plan.

School Closures

As you are aware the weather forecast for the coming days includes the risk of snow, we thought it appropriate to remind parents of the procedures if we do have to close the school. Notification will be posted on the home page of our website before 7:30am (and updated daily) and reported via the local authority's SOS system. The local radio stations will also be notified at that time.

To receive an e-mail alert via the Central Bedfordshire School's Open Status (SOS) system you will need to register:

- Click on the following link: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>
- Click on 'register for updates' and complete the text boxes
- Click on 'submit'.

You will then receive an email which contains instructions on how to 'activate' your account which will include a 'one off' activation code:

- Click on the link: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/>
- Go to 'Log in to edit your details' and type in your email address and the activation code.
- The next time you want to edit your details (e.g. change the names of schools for which you wish to receive alerts), type in your email address and password.

If you have an existing account but have lost your log-in details please send an e-mail to sos@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk to have the account refreshed.

If your child travels by school transport please check the following link to confirm whether they are running - <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/school/transport/weather.aspx>

Alternatively parents can check the Facebook page for the transport provider direct. Importantly if a transport provider deems it unsafe to run transport then they will have the final say on this. Should any transport on any route be cancelled it is highly likely that it will also be cancelled for the afternoon unless there is a dramatic improvement in the conditions. If any parent brings their children into school under these circumstances then they will need to arrange transport home also.

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Important Dates:

Tuesday 12 th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening (information to follow)
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 11 Parents' Evening (information to follow)
13 th May – 26 th June	GCSE Exams
13 th – 16 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Friday 28 th June	Year 11 Prom, 6.30pm

Term Dates:

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>
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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>
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