



From the Headteacher

A very warm welcome to The Priory School. I hope this prospectus gives you a clear insight into our core values and a flavour of the excellent, holistic education that your child will receive should you choose to send them to us.

The Priory School is a unique and vibrant community which epitomises all that can be achieved through a dedicated, and caring staff working tirelessly to encourage an independent and resilient student body. As soon as you enter the building you notice a very special, mutual respect between staff and students. Our size allows us to know every student as an individual but also gives us the flexibility to provide a high quality learning experience.



Our core values are encapsulated within the school's message to students to always endeavour to be Selfless, Self-assured and Successful. Naturally there is a focus upon the academic to ensure that each individual fulfils their true potential. We are traditional in our expectations of students but we never lose sight of innovation in the classroom. We endeavour to ensure lessons are dynamic, and exciting to capture and captivate young people's interest and love of learning.

However, your child will gain so much more than this from their time with us. Our House System and wider curriculum will allow them to explore and experience new opportunities; nurturing the whole person. We deliberately place 'Selfless' before all else; we truly believe if you develop this, the rest will follow.

I look forward to welcoming you in the near future, to meet you and your child but more importantly for you to meet our students and see them at work and play.

Mrs Alison Pope

Headteacher







Excellence and enjoyment in the classroom

To enable students to enjoy their learning

Our intention is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure all students:

- · Enjoy, thrive and develop a curiosity for all aspects of their learning.
- Develop into resilient, caring individuals who contribute positively to society.
- Are academically prepared for a successful life post 16 and beyond.

At the heart of our school ethos is a determination that all of our students not only succeed but develop a real thirst for, and love of, learning. Our teachers focus on the individual child, ensuring they are supported, guided and enthused. As a community we are continually striving to maintain our outstanding levels of teaching to ensure students are sufficiently challenged and stretched as well as supported, when needed.

We offer a wide range of subjects at both key stage 3 and 4 that enable all pupils to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, aimed at producing self-assured, resilient individuals, well prepared for the next stage in their academic career.

The Priory School prides itself on offering a pathway to suit all at key stage 4 with a combination of compulsory and optional subjects, allowing students to develop a greater insight into their areas of interest. All, apart from a very small number of students, will follow an Ebacc combination of subjects when they choose their options in Year 9, ensuring they are well prepared for post 16 pathways.





I wanted to say how much our son loves school.
He cannot stop talking about it and has settled in so well.
Our sincere thanks to the staff.
Thank you very much.
Parent





Student Welfare

Even before their first day, we aim to support and care...

We understand the significance of the move from primary to secondary school and, as such, have a comprehensive transition programme in place to enable students to settle quickly.

Our staff liaise closely with primary school staff as part of this process, as well as meeting with our new students prior to their full induction day in July. This day enables students to meet with their classmates, tutor, Head of House and buddy mentors and begin to form their own House community. This day is closely followed by an induction evening in July for Parents/Carers to learn more about life at The Priory School and a further meeting takes place in September. Much care is taken to place students in diverse and well-balanced groups; where possible we place students in the same House as their siblings, but this is not always feasible.

Our Year 8 and 11 buddy mentors play an extremely important role in helping our new students to settle in and navigate their way around school; they begin forming important bonds with the new students prior to the induction day through talks about their own transition experience and conducting question and answer sessions.

...and our Student Support

Students and families can have times in their lives when they need additional support and help. In school we have a dedicated Student Support Team, consisting of three full time members of staff who work exclusively with students and families who may need support. Within this team, there are staff who specialise in working with families who receive Pupil Premium funding and looked after or post looked after children. We also have access to wider support through trained counsellors, mentors and health advisors.







Beyond the Classroom

There is a very close relationship between those who are busy and successful inside and outside of the classroom and those who enjoy and achieve a great deal in their studies. To this end we have a varied programme of extra-curricular clubs, visits and activities. Many of these are based around the House system; whether students are competing in sport, music or dance. Students also get the opportunity to represent the school in various teams and to showcase their talent in a school production or concert.

Educational visits are also utilized to broaden the horizons of students; some are residential such as the Year 8 visit to France but many more are not and include a wide range from visiting Jaguar cars, Chester Zoo or Oxford University. External speakers are also a valuable resource, sharing expertise and life experience with students in Careers workshops, mock interviews and other activities.

We have a strong history of raising money for Charity in line with our goal of Selflessness, recent years have seen sums of over £12000 donated to a range of charities chosen by the student body and raised by Colour Runs, Quiz nights, Cake sales and numerous other events organised by the students and staff.

...the House System

An essential pillar of the approach we take to student welfare is the House system. Students are assigned a House from the very start, which becomes a community that they come to regard as their family. Led by a Head of House, and supported by Form Tutors, the Houses provide support, care and guidance to our students. The team spirit that builds (which can sometimes be fierce!) creates a strong sense of loyalty and belonging. Either through the team of students in Year 11 that oversee the House, or through contributions made by younger students, the House system enables students to contribute and to support each other, in turn leading to them growing in confidence and resilience – to give to others, to make the right choices, and to do so with confidence.









Beyond the School

School is about learning, making friends, having fun, then moving on. As our students progress through school, their eyes move towards the next stages of their education, their training or employment. Developing those characteristics of confidence, resilience and independence enable them to have choices when they leave us. In order to facilitate the next stage, we have developed very good relationships with the main providers where our students continue to thrive. Whether it is studying A levels, engaging in vocational qualifications, enjoying an apprenticeship, or working, our Careers advice and the preparation we provide for our students enables them to access routes that they want to follow.









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