



The Priory School

Headteacher: A Pope BA (Hons) PGCE MA
Longden Road, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire, SY3 9EE

01743 284000
info@tpstrust.co.uk
www.tpstrust.co.uk

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Dear parents and carers

As promised, in my end of half term letter, here are some of the main points recorded in the 218 (849 possible) responses to our recent survey. The main theme of the responses was overwhelmingly positive with some very helpful, constructive feedback which we have already started to action. 92% of all respondents said they would recommend the school to other families. Thank you to everyone for taking the time to complete it; we have found it an incredibly useful process as part of our on-going school self-evaluation and development. This is a summary and will not necessarily capture all comments.

Some of the strengths identified were:

A sense of community, with good relationships between staff and students.
Teaching staff, especially tutors and Heads of House who know the students well.
High expectations and a smart uniform.
Good levels of communication from school to home.
Children who enjoy and feel safe at school. (96%)
A wide variety of after-school activities and extra-curricular events.
A good choice of subjects on offer.
Strong leadership team.
Children performed well and are challenged.
Support for children's well-being and mental health.

Suggestions revolved around the following

More face-to-face events in school to help aid communications between parents and staff.
More knowledge of other events and activities.
Knowledge of the topics being covered as the year progresses.
Email response times from staff.
Understanding of how we support SEN students who do not have an EHCP.
Bullying and reported incidents (although nearly 70% stated their child had not been bullied and almost 30% were happy at how it had been resolved, I would like this to be higher).
A feeling that the more unassuming child can be overlooked.
Further support for mental health and well-being.
Frequency and quantity of homework, as well as the level of challenge of work.
Some concerns over different aspects of Arbor.
Some low level behaviour incidents in lessons - a feeling we could escalate some incidents more quickly through the use of suspension and exclusion.

Below are some of the actions in relation to these suggestions:

With regard to homework, we have recently concluded a full review of the school's homework policy and made some changes to our policy. This policy involved a consultation with parents who volunteered an evening of their time before Easter to share their thoughts and ideas for how

homework can be improved and we are extremely thankful for their time, their enthusiasm and their constructive ideas. We have spent time with Heads of Departments as part of this process to ensure that delivering on this revised policy is manageable and that there is a robust rationale for homework tasks set within each subject area, so the time students spend on their homework is impactful on their learning.

The revised policy can be found here: <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/media/5781/homework-policy-2022-6th-may-2022.pdf>

We have a policy of a 48 hour response on emails from parents and staff are aware of this. Pastoral staff will always get back to you as soon as possible around an urgent matter. Please let the school office know if this is not the case.

We were unable to hold any face-to-face parents' events until the end of April but our online parents' evenings were also in a response to parental consultation in the summer term of 2021, where the majority requested an online style. My feeling is that I would like parents back in school but please respond to this online link <https://forms.office.com/r/4JODM2Lv9L> if you would like to register your preference so I can gain an overview of this. We have already started to return to large scale parental events e.g. our recent Sports Award and Year 11 Presentation Evening and are looking forward to the School Production and Key Stage 3 Awards evenings this term.

Our fully mapped, term by term curriculum is already on our school website so you can see what your child should be studying each term. However, we will be adding in an 'old style' homework planner from September which will not only log the frequency of homework and type of task per subject but also give a half termly overview of class topics being covered.

Arbor - we continue to work with the Trust and directly with Arbor over some of the points raised.

I have met with the student executive and will be leading an assembly for each year group around some of the student level comments raised, for example how we continue to work towards all students being kind. This will lead into School Parliament discussion as well as a school led approach to raising awareness of how our students can voice their worries. We have also reminded all students of the system already in place to log anonymous concerns - the school's 'worry box'.

We have already increased our student support team capacity over the course of the past two years and have appointed an additional mentor for September to meet the needs to students with anxiety, low levels of attendance and other barriers to learning.

In next year's calendar you will notice an increase in open school events where parents will be invited into school. This will include themed drop ins around our wider SEN intervention programme in the support hub, student support plans for every child, an overview of pupil well-being and mental health strategy, our feedback and assessment processes (you won't always see this as traditional green pen marking on work), teaching and learning principles and much more.

All of our school news and events are on our website and links are sent out regularly but we will also be launching a new style school newsletter, which will hopefully give you a much clearer overview of life at school. This will be produced on a half termly basis.

Tutor 1:1s and individual target setting will continue into next year with a focus on the role of the tutor and knowing the strengths of each child.

We continue to review our Behaviour Policy on an annual basis with support from our Trust of schools and work with external agencies. We will always try to apply this as consistently and fairly as possible and this continues to be our focus with staff. Some people felt we needed to escalate to suspensions or permanent exclusion more quickly. It is not possible to accrue a certain number of detentions which then leads to suspensions or exclusions as each incident needs to be looked at in isolation.

We continue to work in conjunction with our local governing body to ensure we take on board all feedback and continue to improve the experience children, at the Priory, receive on a daily basis. There may be individual concerns you noted that you feel are not captured above but they have all been read, discussed and actioned, where possible or appropriate.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "A. Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a smaller 'Pope'.

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher