

THE PRIORY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022



Issue 2



Mrs Alison Pope Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. I hope you find this a useful insight into school life and a celebration of all the students and staff have been able to achieve this half term.

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the first half term already. It has witnessed school getting back to a more 'normal' routine; Year 7 parent welcome events, Year 10 Information evening, House Run, Open week, House Music rehearsals, postponed Awards Evenings, extra-curricular clubs, the launch of school production rehearsals, the launch of a number of residential and international trips and much more. It has been wonderful to welcome so many of you back into school.

Planners

We will be issuing new planners for next half term which will include up to date curriculum and homework overviews so you can keep track of the work we are covering with your child, as well as the clubs, activities and events they can sign up to. There are also useful literacy and reading log sheets which you can review together. We are encouraging pupils to record homework alongside staff updates on Arbor to help with their organisation.

Homework support and study buddies

In addition to our homework club which runs Monday to Thursday 3-3.45pm, staffed by our teaching assistants we are also adding a pre-school homework catch up session. These morning sessions will run from 8-8.30am in the Support Hub, please encourage your child to attend if they have any questions or queries at the start of the day. If they prefer to speak to another student with regard to additional work, we are also running 'study buddy' sessions 3-4pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday where older students have volunteered their time to help peers - this could just be discussion around organisation, how to revise etc. All of this additional support has been advertised to year groups via the daily bulletin.

Attendance

My opening letter, at the start of term emphasised how important it is to return to our pre-pandemic attendance levels with our aspirational target of at least 96%. We have set this target as it was a clear indicator for GCSE success for pupils, in the summer. I realise that



Mrs Alison Pope Headteacher

our students with specific medical needs will have extra challenges and this, of course will be taken into account but it has been pleasing to see levels return to 95%, so far. A gentle reminder that we are not encouraging testing for Covid anymore, following government guidance. We do not require you to give us this information via our attendance line. In addition, we do not supply work for students who are ill; if a child is well enough to complete work, we would be looking for them to attend lessons.

Forgotten Items

With the ability of parents to visit school site we have noticed a large number of parents and carers dropping off forgotten items at reception. We would ask that you only do this where absolutely essential as this is becoming more onerous for reception staff. In addition, students should not be texting or contacting parents using their phone once school has started unless this is supervised by staff and they have permission. This is to ensure phones are switched off, so they are not a distraction to lessons but more importantly we safeguard students and staff. Please do not message your child and stress that phones should be switched off, during the school day.

Last year, we found the parental survey and other short MS surveys invaluable for feedback on important aspects of school life. With this in mind I will be including an MS Forms link to a brief feedback form in each half termly newsletter and use this to review our own self-evaluation. This should take no more than a few minutes.

<https://forms.office.com/r/QHrybZPSrY>

As always thank you for your continued support of school.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Pope".

Mrs Pope

Mr Ian Peterson
Chair of Governors



View from the Governors

The new term starts with the Local Governing Body looking both backwards and forwards. We look back on the good results achieved by the Priory School pupils who took their GCSE examinations at the end of the last academic year. Their achievements are all the more impressive as these pupils undertook the first full exam season since the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns were imposed.

We also look forward to the school events and activities that are now able to be planned for the current pupils. It is worth noting that it will not be until at least September 2028 that the school will receive an intake of pupils whose schooling was unaffected by lockdowns. The Local Governing Body will continue to monitor the school's plans for the catch-up funding made available from the Department for Education; it is worth noting that this funding has specific criteria set by The Government which restricts how the school can use it.

In addition to the academic provision, this term marks a welcome return of school events which can be attended in person, culminating in House Music on 14th December. We hope to see you there.





Charity Update



Last year we set ourselves the aspirational target of raising £15000 for charity. There were a few hiccups along the way but students and staff rallied together to put on a myriad of different events. Some of the highlights were the trips to Area 51, Pizza Hut, The Charity Quiz nights and of course our amazing Colour Run. There were so many more individual triumphs and small group fundraising activities (too many to mention them all) but they all greatly contributed to our final total of £11665, a wonderful achievement considering the challenges we have all faced over the past two years.

Our charity year runs from summer half term to summer half term the following year; this gives our new Year 7 students the chance to hit the ground running in September because the fundraising activities for the current year are already well under way.

Last week, we voted for our three charities that we will support throughout the year and the students have decided support:

- ◆ The Dogs Trust
- ◆ Cancer Research UK
- ◆ The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

And we will also be supporting Barnardos, Children in Need, Save the Children and Comic Relief at different points in the year with non-uniform and fancy dress days.

This year, once again we have set ourselves the aspirational target for raising £15000 for our chosen charities. I am delighted to say that we have made an amazing start. Student have been very busy this term, and coupled with the money we raised at the end of the summer term, we have already raised over £2770 from bake sales, swishing events, quizzes, hamper sales and the very successful coffee morning held a few weeks ago.

I would like to thank every member of our school community who has continued to support our charity efforts. We do this to raise money for good causes, to teach our students about the importance of helping others, and it is a brilliant way to foster our school family.

Best wishes,

Mr Bucknall





Headteacher's Breakfast

The Headteacher's Breakfast takes place weekly and is awarded to students who have been nominated by teachers for a variety of reasons. Students attend a special Breakfast with Mrs Pope where they can share their successes and achievements. This half-term the following students have been selected:

28th September 2022

Students	Form
Marcie T	10K
Sophie B	10A
Iris N	10F
Ruby H	10K
Dylan W	10H
Charlotte R	10F
Joe F	10P
Matthew P	10P
Oscar D	10P
Ethan L	10P
Nathan S	10K

21st September 2022

Students	Form
Anna S	9H
Ash S	9A
Shannon B	9K
Lily B	9P
Joshua M	9H
Hannan M	9H
Matthew B	9P
Lily B	9P
Martha F	9H
Charlie N	9P
Thomas E	9P
Sophie O	9N

12th October 2022

Students	Form
Kieran A	11A
Erin G	11A
Molly C	11A
Sophie C	11F
Issy P	11H
Maxeen A	11A
Rachel Y	11H
Isobel P	11H
Alison H	11H
Claudia S	11N
Jemima L	11K
Shannon B	11N
Poppy S	11K
Dan B	11F
Charlie B	11A
Layla S	11A
Matthew W	11K
Milly S	11F
Emily Q	11P
Olivia M-H	11F
Matthew R-W	11A
Josh R	11N
Lily M	11K

14th September 2022

Students (Pictured)	Form
Oliver J	8P
Jake J	8N
Ned R	8F
Chloe W	8K
Yas L	8F
Alfie M (not pictured)	8F



Alumni Update

The Priory School Alumni is a network of past students who would like to keep in touch with school and their peers.

The Priory School Alumni now has **160 members**. It is so interesting to see what our students have been doing since they left school. I have listed some examples below:

- ◆ Professional Cricketer Head Coach
- ◆ Business Manager for a music management company
- ◆ Veterinarian
- ◆ Environmental Consultant
- ◆ Chartered Accountant
- ◆ Product Director Media and Entertainment
- ◆ CEO of a software development company in Belgrade, Serbia
- ◆ Solicitor in criminal and property law
- ◆ Freelance Illustrator
- ◆ Rare book Librarian
- ◆ Owner of an IT Recruitment Business
- ◆ Owner of a Media Company
- ◆ Dentist with their own company
- ◆ Primary School Teacher
- ◆ Financial Incident Manager
- ◆ Tutor in Classic Teaching Greek History and Art and Archaeology
- ◆ Automotive Sector Engineer



On joining the Alumni members receive newsletters, are invited to attend events and activities at school and participate in presenting to our students on various subject areas such as Computer Science, Drama, English, Geography and PE.



At our Open Evening, we were delighted to welcome Judy Arliss and Gloria Lewis (nee Taylor) who were at The Priory School in 1953.

Judy and Gloria chatted to staff and Governors as well as having a tour around the school which brought back many memories for them!

If you are a past student of The Priory School and would like to find out more, please visit <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/community/alumni/> We would love to hear from you!

The Priory School Alumni

School Uniform



School Shop Direct are the suppliers for the majority of our school uniform. Further details can be found here:

<https://schoolshopdirect.co.uk/product-category/schools/schools-priory-school/>

This year they have also launched an early order discount for us:



There is now a new way to recycle good quality used Priory uniform. Drop your badged, laundered uniform into School Shop Direct for sorting. Uniform is then sent to the Hope House Charity Shop where it is available for purchase. This offers everyone a local, eco friendly, and simple way of supplying good quality second hand uniform to parents whilst supporting a local children's charity.

Unit 3 Lancaster Retail Park, Shrewsbury, SY1 3AZ. Tel 01743 463361
Opening hours Monday to Saturday 9.30am- 4.45pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm

School Shop Direct
Unit 17-18 Sundorne Trade Park
Featherbed Lane
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 4NS
United Kingdom

Email: info@schoolshopdirect.co.uk
telephone: 01743 440 449



Opening Times Monday – Friday: 9am-5pm, Saturday: 9am-4pm



Library News



Welcome to a new school year in the library and one of the cosiest terms for spending time here, reading and taking in the autumnal views.

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers" - Anne of Green Gables

You can search our library catalogue online here: <https://u016357.microlibrarian.net>

This term, we have new art books, new graphic novels, manga, autumn reading packs and creative lunchtime activities running to mark **National Poetry Day**.



- Borrow a book and earn one raffle ticket.
- Complete a card explaining why you recommend a book and earn two tickets.
- Write a book review of 100+ words and earn three!
- To enter the prize draw write your **FULL NAME** clearly on the back of your tickets and pop them in the raffle box.



5 winning tickets will be drawn every half-term. Winners pick prizes!

We are also launching a new reading raffle. Checking out a book will get you one ticket entered into a prize draw, recommending a book on the noticeboard will get you two tickets, and borrowing a poetry/art book or writing a book review of 100 words or more will get you three tickets! Five winning tickets will be drawn out before half-term. Prizes include a Heart Stopper colouring book and notebook, a Stranger Things novel, the Guinness Book of Records 2023 and Marcus Rashford's latest book, 'You Can Do It.'

We have a super new team of volunteer pupil librarians who will be around to help at breaks and lunches. They will be wearing a badge

to identify themselves and have been chosen for their love of books and helpful personalities.



A reminder: Year 7 & 8 can use the library during break and lunch each Mon/Wed/Fri and Year 9 & 10 Tues/Thurs. We are also open after school until 4pm to all. This is a great quiet time to get homework done, read, or quietly study. Computers are available to use in the next room (19) most days (no computer access on a Friday). Please do get in touch if you have any reading or book queries....library@tpstrust.co.uk.



Mrs. Edwards & Miss Donegan





Sporting News



NETBALL

Recently, Year 10 travelled to Shrewsbury Academy to play two matches against Meole Brace and Belvidere, winning both very comfortably. Sophie Butler and Caitlin Pountney were voted *player of the matches*.

For our Year 9 matches, we were able to make up two teams, again winning all our games with ease! *Player of the Night* went to Mya Orme.

On Thursday 15th September, the year 11 netball team had a mini 'district' tournament. Despite being short of players to begin with, we played extremely well and thankfully Joe and Callum stepped in to help us out. We won both our matches, the first one being 10-4 to Priory against Meole. The second one, 6-3 to Priory against Shrewsbury academy with Ruby V-J being named star player by the other team. In both matches, we led from start to finish.

-By Shannon Barker 11N



Year 9 Teams



Caitlin Pountney, Year 10



Sporting News



MORE NETBALL!

Last week, we took two teams to compete in the Under 15 and Under 13 North Shropshire Netball tournament, held at The Marches. The Under 15 team consisted of four Year 9 players, as some of Year 10s were on a Geography field trip.

Everyone played really well and supported each other through the games. We played Ellesmere and drew 1-1, a win against Corbet 8-1, another win against Thomas Adams 4-3 and a loss against Oswestry 6-3. Everyone should be super proud and we went home with our heads held high!

-Sophie Butler, Year 10

The Year 8 team came second in the group stage, progressing though and going through to the semi-final, where they lost to Oswestry school. A great effort from all!





A number of Year 11s took part in their Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition on 14th and 15th October. They all enjoyed their time on the hills while successfully completing the challenges, which included walking, cooking and tent pitching. This award is incredibly challenging and all involved should feel a great sense of pride in their work to date.





Duke of Edinburgh

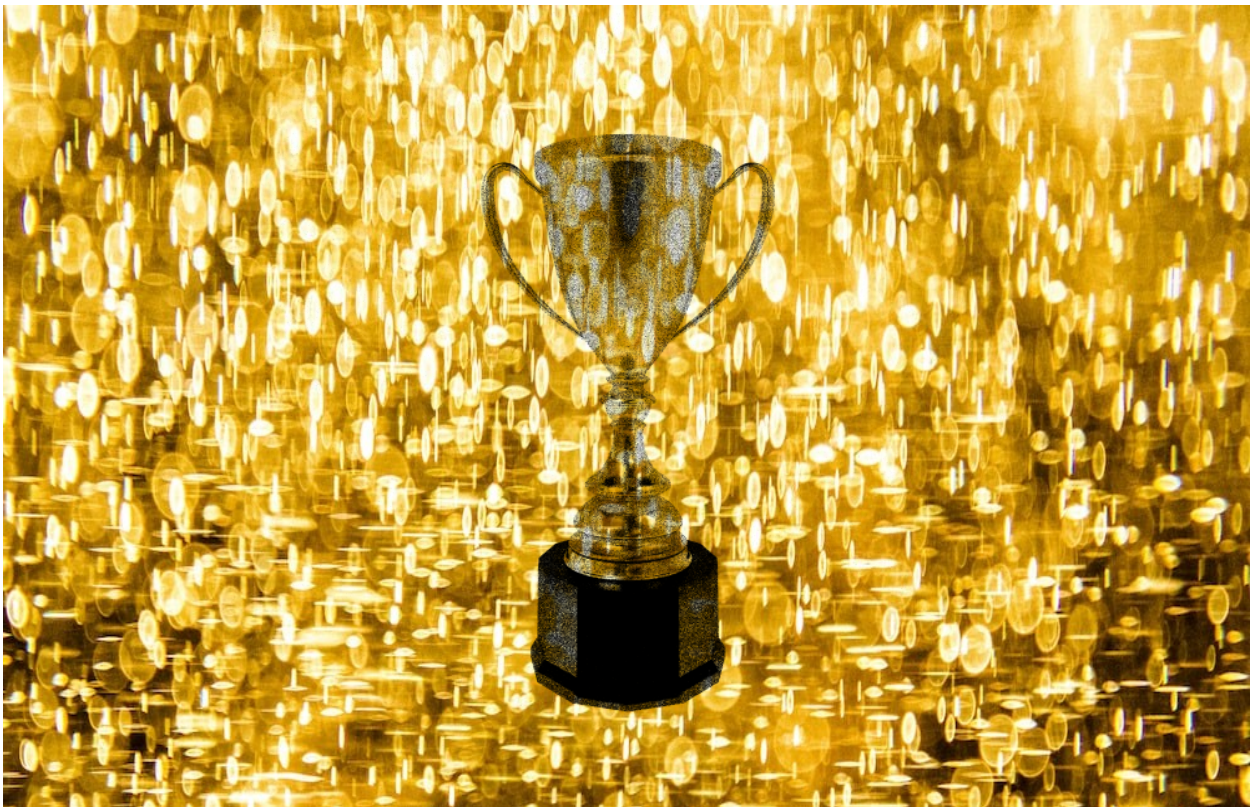


House Awards Evenings

Second Time Lucky

It was truly wonderful to welcome so many students, parents/carers and staff to our re-scheduled Awards Evenings on 14th and 15th September. We had taken the decision to postpone these evenings from the end of the summer term due to the heatwave, so thank you to those involved for your understanding and for so many for attending.

Wednesday 14th saw students in Years 8-11 from Attenborough, Frank and Hawking collecting their awards and on Thursday 15th, King, Nightingale and Parks students had their time to shine. Students, parents, carers and staff joined together for light refreshments to start before the formal proceedings where students were awarded for a variety of contributions to school life; academic achievement, attitude to learning, participation in wider school life and selflessness.

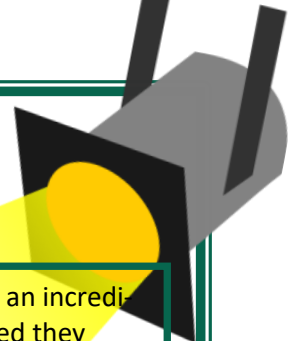


The students receiving awards presented themselves impeccably and navigated the various routes up to the stage to receive their award from Mrs Pope without incident; although most chose not to pose for photographs at this point, the queues to have photographs taken with Mrs Pope at the end of the evening were testament to the pride the students and their families felt.

The awards were interspersed with performances from students, showcasing their wonderful talents and confidence; Claire Ward in 8H, Marc Fideli in 9A, Molly Switonski and Lara Debenham in 11A provided superb musical interludes, and Michaella Gutierrez in 11P delivered her incredible speech about the lack of representation of people of colour in the media, which won her the Year 10 House Public Speaking competition.

It has been so lovely to be able to open the school up even more again this year and we look forward to many more opportunities to celebrate the participation and achievements of our students across all aspects of school life.

Student SPOTLIGHT



Each half term, we will be highlighting student achievements outside of school. Our students do an incredible job of balancing school and other commitments and it is always wonderful to see how talented they are. If you would like to be a proud parent and give permission for an image and story to be included, please forward them to me and we will share with the school community via this newsletter. -Mrs Pope



Eve Brocklehurst in Year 9 has been rehearsing with the English Youth Ballet, culminating in a performance of Swan Lake. This is a fantastic achievement that has led to Eve successfully auditioning to join the Midland Theatre Ballet Associates Programme and will begin Ballet & Contemporary training over in Birmingham every Saturday. Congratulations, Eve!



Student Support



Useful Links to Resources for Families:

- **'Worrying About Money?'** Leaflets- free hard copies available through SophiePadgett@cabshropshire.org.uk
- Online, interactive version: <https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/shropshire>
- **Shropshire Larder**
- <https://www.shropshirelarder.org.uk/>
- **Shropshire Council Cost of Living webpage**
- <https://shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help/>
- **Information about Free School Meals** -
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/>
- **Shropshire Family Information Service** -
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/parents-and-carers/shropshire-family-information-service-0-19-years/>

The Shropshire Council Cost of Living webpage includes links and advice for specific money worries, including :

- Cost Of Transport
- Debt and borrowing
- Rent or Mortgage Help
- Help with Energy Bills
- Help with water rates
- Financial help for people with disabilities
- Help with pensions

Do I look like I care?

Crossroads Together

Young Carers

Could this be you?

Young carers often go unnoticed

If you are a young person under 18 and you help to look after someone in your family, either physically or emotionally, who has an illness, a disability, a mental health problem or a substance misuse problem, you are a young carer.

Contact us to find out how we can support you:

07990 045045
shropyc@crossroadstogether.org.uk

www.crossroadstogether.org.uk

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Beam

The Children's Society

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25

Monday - Drop In's at The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury, SY1 4NG
From 12pm - 4pm (last session 3:15pm)

Tuesdays - Drop In's at Wellington Beam, 9 Market Square Wellington, TF1 1BP
From 10am - 6pm (last session 5:30pm)

Thursdays - Drop In's at Wellington Beam, 9 Market Square Wellington, TF1 1BP
From 10am - 6pm (last session 5:30pm)

This service is run by The Children's Society: Proud to be part of Bee U.

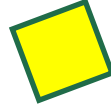
Bee
Emotional Health and Wellbeing



After School Clubs



Participation on the Rise!



Here at The Priory School, we try to offer as much variety to students both in the classroom and out of it as possible. Participation is a key factor in becoming selfless, self-assured and successful. So far this year we have 509 students who have taken the steps to achieve this.

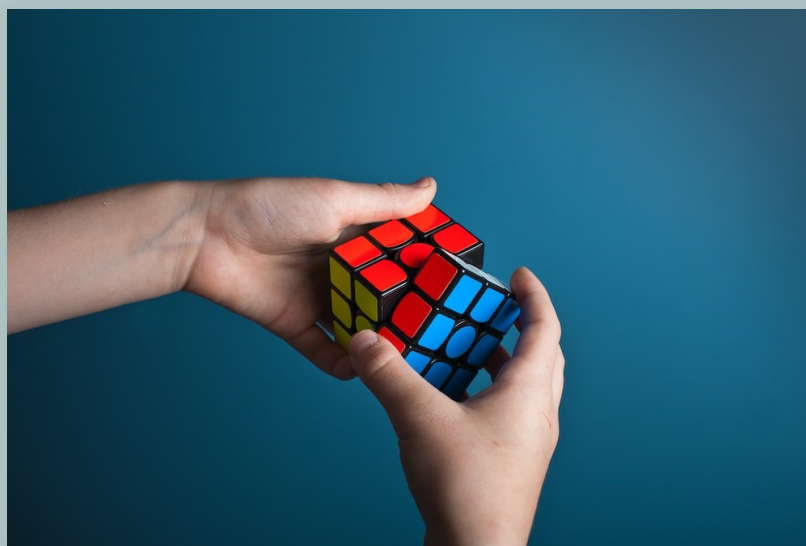


We have numerous extra-curricular activities on offer for students, from sports to Rubix Cube, and many things in between. Clubs run before school, for those early risers, during lunchtime, and after school, so there should always be a time suitable for students to get involved.



Competition amongst staff and students is always high and it is King House who currently lead the way for participation, however the other houses are hot on their heels. Individually, praise must go to Luke Davies (9N), Cameron Brown (10P) and Charlie Heath (7K) who form our top 3 students for participation.

Take a look at the website for further details of clubs and activities on offer, and I would encourage every student to try something new or develop a passion, whether it is creative writing, music, or simply a love of board games — there is something for everyone!



Futures Focus



This half term has been very busy for our Year 11 students thinking about their next steps after The Priory School.

Thinking Ahead Event

Our annual Thinking Ahead event has once again given students the opportunity to find out about a diverse range of potential careers ranging from accountancy, military, food & nutrition, physiotherapy, architecture, medicine, nursing, sport, journalism & public relations, IT, and graphic design to police, aerospace and civil engineering. We were delighted to be supported by many local businesses with a huge wealth of experience to pass on to our students about working in their profession and their routes to getting there – all of which were very diverse.

Representatives from Base Architecture, WSP, Radius Aerospace, Rebel Recipes, Wellmeadow Consulting, The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Dyke Yaxley, Coleham Primary School, Shrewsbury Town Foundation, RAF, Realise Design, Information Solutions, Zen Communications and Seymour John all ran workshops sharing their stories and answering student questions about their occupations.

Our two keynote speakers, Dave Parry from Wellmeadow Consulting and Tony Nicholas Vice President Finance, Europe at AIT Worldwide Logistics shared their career paths to date, both of whom have taken very different routes to their current occupations, which students really engaged with and found very interesting.

All of our visitors were full of praise for our students who really engaged with the workshops and were keen to learn more by asking many enquiring questions, an important skill for life.

Year 11 Post 16 Assemblies

During this half term, Year 11 have had a series of assemblies from local post-16 providers including Shrewsbury Colleges Group, Shrewsbury Town Foundation, William Brookes Sixth Form, Thomas Adams Sixth Form. and SBC Training. These are designed to help students make more informed decisions about their next steps after The Priory School and what they need to consider when making their choices.

Kim Weston, our Careers Advisor, has also been seeing a number of students throughout the half term to help them think in more depth about their post-16 choices and applying for various providers. If you feel your child may benefit from an appointment with Kim, please email careers@tpstrust.co.uk and Kim will find an available slot.

Year 10 MCMT Apprenticeship Taster Day

A small group of Year 10 visited MCMT for an apprenticeship taster day focusing on engineering. After a tour of the facilities, students learnt more about the different types of apprenticeships and completed group problem solving engineering tasks – a fantastic opportunity that they really enjoyed, with many now considering apprenticeships as a potential route for the future.



Futures Focus



Year 11 STF Taster Event

A group of Year 11 GCSE PE students attended a taster event at Shrewsbury Town Foundation to learn more about their level 2 and level 3 vocational courses focusing on sport, coaching and physical activity as well as their degree BA (Hons) in Sports Business and Management. They had careers talks from several members of the STF team including from the CEO of Shrewsbury Town FC, Women's Team Manager, Football and Participation Manager and Men's First Team Coach about the Shrewsbury Town Foundation, careers in sports, their journeys, studying at STF and UEFA A licence. This was finished off with a tour of the ground and a practical session for all.

Year 10 Information Evening – Post 16 Talk

As part of our Year 10 Information evening Mrs France delivered a talk to parents on Post 16 pathways. She shared information about destinations data for our leavers and which post 16 route they take, guided parents through the different post 16 routes including academic, vocational, apprenticeship and study programmes, as well as the new T-Levels, and the various providers within the local area. A brief introduction of our careers software, Kudos, was followed with a Q&A session. The session was very well received by parents who now feel much more information about the options available for their children

Coming up in the Autumn Term

- Year 7 Enterprise Event
- Year 7 introduction to Kudos
- Work experience launch with Year 10
- Y10 GCSE PE groups attending Careers in Sport – No Sweat Conference and English at Work Day.

If you are able to offer your support with any events or would like to know more about our careers education, please contact Mrs France at info@tpstrust.co.uk.





Recruitment

Are you thinking about a career in teaching?



Salop Teaching Partnership

Come to one of our information sessions to find out about our School Direct PCGE programme delivered in partnership with University of Chester

Thur 3rd Nov 4-6pm	STEP Partners Primary & Secondary	University Centre Shrewsbury Guildhall, Shrewsbury SY3 8HW
Tue 18th Oct Tue 15th Nov Tue 6th Dec Tue 10th Jan 5.00-6.30pm	STP Secondary	Online via MS Teams Please register your interest via e-mail or our website and you will be issued a 20 minute Slot on your chosen day between 5-6.30

Contact us to register your interest in attending

STP@tpstrust.co.uk

www.salopteachingpartnership.co.uk



 @PriorySch

 <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/>



Diary Dates & Reminders

Term Dates 2022-2023

Autumn Term 2022

Main Term: Wednesday 7th September - Friday 16th December

Half Term: Thursday 20th October - Friday 28th October

Christmas Holiday: Monday 19th December - Tuesday 3rd January

***PD Days:** Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th September

Thursday 20th & Friday 21st October

Spring Term 2023

Main Term: Wednesday 4th January - Friday 31st March

Half Term: Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February

Easter Holiday: Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April

***PD Days:** Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Summer Term 2023

Main Term: Monday 17th April - Tuesday 25th July

May Day : Monday 1st May

Half Term: Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June

ALL DATES ARE INCLUSIVE

*** School closed for students**

Any 1pm finishes will be communicated in advance

The Priory School
Longden Road
Shrewsbury
SY3 9EE

☎ 01743 284000
✉ info@tpstrust.co.uk

🐦 @PriorySch

🌐 <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/>