



The Priory School

May 2023





Mrs Alison Pope

Headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

It's hard to believe we are already in the Summer Term!

For a short term it has already been a busy one. We started with Year 11 Awards Evening where it was fantastic to see the majority of the year group coming together to celebrate coming to an end of their time at Priory. They are now entering their GCSE exam period which will last until the end of June. All Year 11 parents will have been sent a copy of the revision timetable and key dates and times; a version is also on the school website for your reference. It is vitally important that all pupils arrive promptly and are not late as this can compromise their ability to enter the examination room.

Year 10 have also been busy with their recent internal exams. Invigilators were quick to praise them for their conduct throughout, which bodes well for the future. It has also been great to see high levels of participation in lower school clubs and activities as these continue throughout this term – please check your child's planner for details of days and times.

As part of our continuous self-evaluation, we have hosted a number of governance and Trust CEO visits and reviews this academic year. They have given us invaluable, constructive advice in helping us to continue to move school forward but have also been complimentary of staff and students and the way they work together. I would also like to acknowledge and thank all of the parents and carers who have attended our parent consultation events. They have focused on informing parents and carers on areas of school life raised from last year's parental survey and have helped us to gather feedback on SEN, homework, reporting, feedback and parents' evenings, as well as teaching and learning. We have one more event this academic year on how we deliver careers education, advice and guidance – please look out for the date if you are interested in attending.

Looking ahead into this term and next academic year, I wanted to draw your attention to a few items below.

Uniform

As you already know, if your child chooses to wear a skirt to school, this should be knee length. We're aware that it is reaching that point in the year where families will be waiting until the new academic year to purchase one. **If this is the case, please remember that this should not be green.** The new school skirt should be **black with permanent pleats** (not straight in style). The School Uniform Policy has examples of these. They can be purchased from the School Shop suppliers or from supermarkets or high street chains as long as the style and length are correct. **Please note: by September 2024, all skirts will be black.** Many pupils choose to wear black tailored trousers and this is still an option. Please remember they should not be fitted, leggings, jeggings or denim in style.

I would also like to draw your attention to the jewellery and nail section of the Uniform Policy. One pair of stud earrings on health and safety grounds and nothing else, please. We have seen an increase in the number of students not adhering to this. I would ask for your support on this as it is becoming time consuming for staff to monitor. There has also been an increase in very long acrylic nails. If these are worn for a special occasion during the holiday or weekend periods, they will need to be removed or cut down. We have had one very serious injury involving damage to a pupil's nail beds due to these being worn during a game at lunchtime. They are a health and safety concern in a busy environment but also within practical lessons such as PE.



Mrs Alison Pope

Headteacher

Lanyards with school cards also need to be worn on a daily basis. They allow entry to the school building and students need them to be easily accessible so they are not late for lessons or registration. If they are lost, they need to be reported immediately as they give access to the building. Replacement cards can be purchased from reception.

Toilet Facilities

During the summer holiday period, we will be looking to refit and modernise our toilets in school. It has been a number of years since we have been able to update them and I feel they are an area of the building we need to focus on. Taking on board pupil voice about the style and layout as well as reported behaviour within the toilets and cloakroom, they will be revamped and all moved to the centre of school with a more modern feel to wash basins and cubicles. Cloakrooms for hanging of coats and bags will now be separate, with increased numbers of hooks to hopefully cut down on items being left on the floor.

Parental Survey

Many thanks to those parents and carers who took the time to complete our annual parent survey from the previous newsletter. With 90% of responders stating they would recommend the school and high return rates on children feeling happy, safe, behaving well and making good progress. As always, there were some very constructive areas raised which have been discussed and reported at leadership level (school and Trust). One area raised was communications, namely how we communicate with parents (method and frequency). To gather some more specific feedback, we would very much appreciate your ideas via this short survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/ibwnJAVPxx>

Behaviour Survey

Following on from the above section, close to 85% of parents felt that behaviour was either good or better in the parental survey. However, we would value some more targeted input on our Behaviour Policy. This is in a Trust format with specific sections in relation to The Priory School. There are many sections we cannot change as they are aligned to the Department for Education's Behaviour Guidance document. However, we would like to consult with you and receive any input you feel would be constructive to allow us to move the school sections forward.

Our Behaviour Policy can be found at: <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/parents/school-policies-statutory-information/>

We would appreciate your time in reviewing it and then feeding back on this very short MS Forms so we can collate views and ideas: <https://forms.office.com/e/bXFSyjFXPr>

Timings of School Day

As you may be aware from recent news, the Department for Education has made it compulsory for all maintained schools to deliver a contact time of 32 and a half hours per week. We are not allowed to count extensive before and after school provision in this. Currently, we are short of 5 minutes per day to meet this statutory requirement which comes into place this September. Taking on board parental and pupil voice about the length of lunch times and the ability for students to have enough time to eat during their sitting, we have decided to add this 5 minutes on to our lunch break. This will have the added ability to slightly extend the time given to any lunchtime clubs or activities. However, it does now mean that from September our school day will end at **3.05pm not 3:00pm**.



Mrs Alison Pope Headteacher

Dropping Off Forgotten Items

Unfortunately, the number of items such as forgotten kit and equipment dropped into reception on a daily basis hasn't reduced. This is adding extra workload to the office team, through answering the gate and then ensuring any items reach students. I would ask, again, that nothing is dropped off unless urgent, for example medication. Many thanks for your support with this.

As always, I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you a happy and rested half term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher

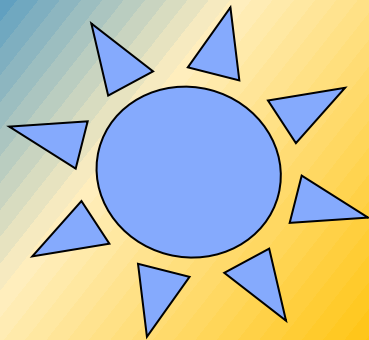




Headteacher's Breakfast



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:



27th March 2023

Student Name	Form
Hannah L.	8K
Hugo H.	8K
Lara H.	8N
Maisie E-G.	8P
Rosie L.	8K
Alina S.	8F
Ella S.	8A
Teddie S.	8A
Martha N.	8N
Dylan H.	8K
Amelia K.	8N
Jayne J.	8H
Freya P.	8K
Teddy S.	8F

24th April

Student Name	Form
Max Ruffles	9K
Ed Auckland	9K
Archie Wilde	9K
James Jones	9F
Caitlin Murphy	9N
Daniel Beddoes	9K
Bill Mason	9N
Orlagh Markey	9K
Danielle Pugh	9N
Chloe Middle	9F
Olivia Raynor	9P



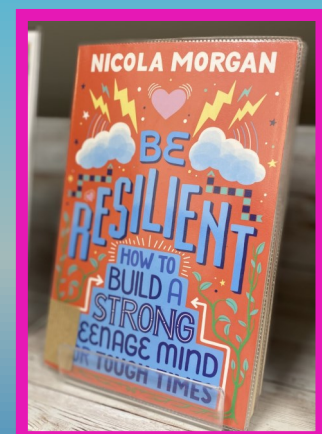
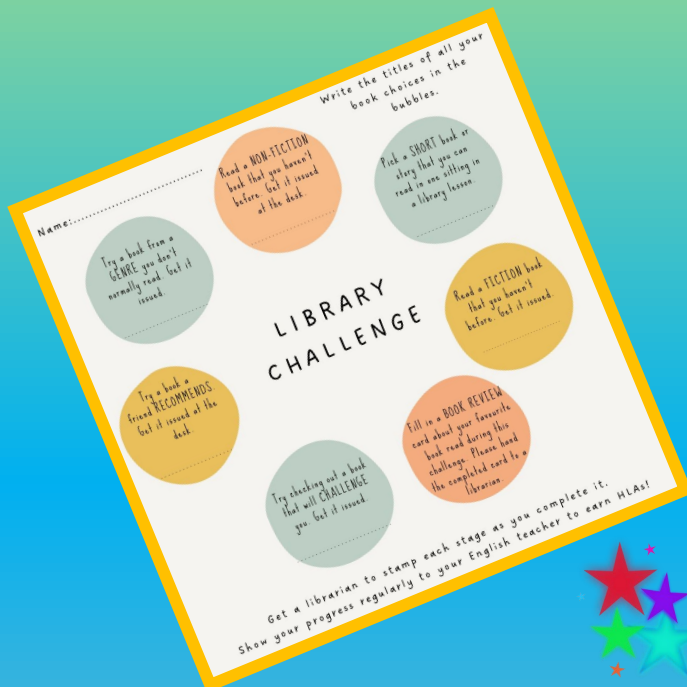
Library News



Mike Garry Visit

“Thanks for another amazing day at the Priory - your students are amazing. I don't think I've ever been greeted so beautifully — it will stay with me for a long time”

The words of the renowned poet and performer, Mike Garry, who visited us in March and spoke to Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, relaying his thanks and appreciation to our student body. Mike spoke with passion and joy of his own experiences as a performer, his life growing up in working-class Manchester, the importance of being proud of your roots — and the incredible power of reading to unlock the future.



Spelling Bee!



Three girls from Attenborough travelled to Warwick University on Wednesday 26th April for the regional finals of the **Modern Foreign Languages Spelling Bee!**



The girls competed against pupils from six other schools for a place in the national finals. The girls had worked very hard to get this far, learning 150 French words and how to spell them in French. They were not phased by the pressure of the competition and all did very well.



Swishing



Vibrant dresses, sequined tops catching the light, gold bubbles rising ... and a LOT of coat hangers!



From Left: One of our school administrators, Kate (Miss Moore) and friend, Chloe, relaxing with some bubbles after their clothes haul!

Our annual Swishing Event was a huge success and raised £300 for charities! If you weren't able to attend this year, look out for our next fun eco fashion event.

Our New Reception!

During the Easter break, our Site Team was hard at work transforming our reception area. If you haven't seen it yet, come take a look at the (almost) finished result! All involved did a stellar job in a short time.





PARIS!



Year 9 French and PE visit to Paris, April 2023

From 14-17th of April, 42 Year 9 students visited Paris, along with Mrs Talbot, Mrs Heath, Mr Tudor, Mrs Wassall and Mr Smith. This was the school's first visit to France since Covid and it did not disappoint! These year 9 students had waited a very long time for a school visit to France and there was an activity-packed programme to ensure that they made the most of the visit.

On our way to Paris, we stopped off at the Canadian War Cemetery at Vimy Ridge. Thousands of Canadians lost their lives fighting for the British Empire during the First World War, and our young Canadian guide helped us all understand the importance of this particular battle for Canada and the impact it had on so many people.

PARIS!

Whilst in Paris, we headed straight for the Eiffel Tower, testing all our leg muscles during our climb up to the second floor. We were able to spot so many of the places we would go on to visit close-up later in the trip - the Sacré Coeur, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe and the Louvre, amongst lots of others.

We stopped off at the Stade de France and enjoyed a fantastic tour, sitting in the changing rooms where stars such as Griezmann and Mbappé have previously prepared for big games. We had time to wonder around Montmartre and loved seeing the city from onboard a river cruise along the Seine. We did lots of walking, taking in the Pompidou Centre and the Tuileries Gardens as well. We even managed to track down some ice creams, with students ordering their chosen flavours in French!



PARIS!

On Sunday morning, we had beautiful sunny weather which was just PERFECT for our trip round the typical French market town of Brie (yes, it's where the cheese is produced!) Students immersed themselves in the experience, buying fruits, warm snacks such as *poulet et pommes de terre* and lots of quirky sunglasses and hats. They followed a trail around the small town, noting interesting landmarks and enjoying the independence and adventure.



We loved the evening activities as well- there was a very interactive quiz and some *crepe-making* too. Students had the chance to taste some *escargots* and we met some really interesting people including our very well-travelled guide, Tahlia, and our super-calm and talented driver, Tony. The ferry journey was a first for many and, despite a bit of a delay on the way home, students came home bubbling with tales of all the sites they had seen and all the adventures they had experienced.

This was a wonderful visit; many thanks to all involved! Year 8 are about to embark on a very similar visit in June and we have lots of Year 7 students signed up for June 2024. It's so good to have school trips back on the menu again. Long may it continue!

Community Litter Pick

7A did us proud on May 16: with very little notice, 17 of them joined Mr Tudor, Mr Jennings and Mr Dalgarno on a litter pick down Longden road towards Coleham, splitting off down Beehive Lane, Old Roman Road and various connecting roads that way out of school.



Lots of litter was collected and the kids loved it!



Each Year 7 form is doing one litter pick per week on a Tuesday



7K clean up the local streets as they strive to make their mark on our local community: We had an excellent turnout from 7K, including a number of staff members and their Form Tutor. Four large bin bags were filled as they took to the streets of the local community around Radbrook. One student commented "I am surprised at the amount of litter and I believe that we all need to play a part in making sure we simply put our own, as well as other rubbish we may see, in the bin."

CoLoUr RuN!

On 11th May, nearly 300 members of the school community (including students, staff and parents), got together to get covered in paint! It certainly brought out the more vicious side (in the nicest possible way) on the part of the paint throwers, who were definitely targeting the teachers who took part ... The event was another great success; current numbers are to be finalised, but together we raised **over 2000 pounds** for our school charities! Lots of students have already been asking when they can do it again!



CoLoUr RuN!



Netball & Swimming

In the week before Easter, the Year 7, 10 and 11 Shrewsbury District Netball tournaments took place. The Year 11 Team played their final school netball, putting in a great performance, coming second overall and only losing out to Shrewsbury High School. A very similar story for both the Year 7 and 10 teams too, placing 2nd to Shrewsbury High. Some excellent netball on display by all teams!

The first week back, it was Year 8 and 9s turn. Both teams were outstanding, winning all their games comfortably, finishing as Shrewsbury District winners!!



The Priory swimming team made a splash at the Secondary School Swimming Gala on May 25 at Thomas Telford School.

The team of 6 had to achieve qualifying times to enter the event.

Will Diable won gold in the senior boys 200 medley.

Oliver Zeilke took part in the 100m free-style, his first ever competitive swim.

Pictured, back: Will Diable, Ed Auckland, Oliver Zielke.

Front: Eve Waters, Leo Scott, Dylan Scott.



Student SPOTLIGHT

*Olivia C.
Charlie H.
Lexie T.*

Olivia Caffrey and Lexie Taylor in Year 7 represented Shropshire in a Midlands Hockey tournament this month, as well as representing Shrewsbury in the U12 In2Hockey at Leicester. Both girls are looking strong and playing really well.

Charlie Heath, also in Year 7, represented Telford in the same In2Hockey tournament in Leicester.



Student SPOTLIGHT

Lucy W.

Lucy Wrench, in Year 10, recently competed in the British Youth Championships Fencing, finishing 28th in the UK! Lucy had to travel to the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. Well done, Lucy!



Student SPOTLIGHT

*Will N.
8F*



Will Neil has been awarded the Shropshire Star Cup for the highest male finisher at the UK inter-counties XC this year!



Student SPOTLIGHT

Gymnastics

A huge congratulations to all of the gymnasts who competed at the Shropshire County Gymnastics Championships just before Easter at Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Year 9 : Mya Orme (Regional Grade 1 — 1st on beam, 2nd on bars)

Year 7: Chloe Williams (Regional Grade 2 — 2nd on vault)



Year 9: Isabelle Hughes (Grade 1 - County Champion)

Student SPOTLIGHT



Lily L.

9A

Lily Lewis, Yr9, won the David Tozer Award at Shrewsbury Rugby Club. David used to work with us in the PE department.

David Tozer established the girls section in order to give his daughter Frances a place to continue her rugby after having to leave the boys section. He went from just a few players to building a massive girls section in just a couple of years with the help of the RFU and some coaches going into schools, including Priory! The Tozer family decided to move to Tanzania just as Covid was breaking out! Unfortunately, David passed away in December whilst living out there with his family. We decided we needed something to keep the memory of David alive in the club and so created this trophy, which we will now award annually based around the foundations of Rugby, the TREDs values, and what rugby meant to David.

Teamwork

Respect

Enjoyment

Discipline

Sportsmanship

Lily fulfils all of these categories and more. She turns up week after week with a smile on her face, enjoys the sessions, and always works hard. She is a great team player and very respectful to not only her coaches but her peers. She supports others and also has to put herself in a group of girls she doesn't train with often and become part of a team that isn't hers just to get a match, yet she's persevered with the Shrewsbury club and next season she'll have her own team mates! We are very grateful for this loyalty. She has grown massively as a player over the season, happy to tackle and be tackled, and always with a determination to do her best. She is, and will continue to be, a great rugby player! Well done Lily, you thoroughly deserve this award 😊

Student Support

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2023

Last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, and here at Priory we have spent *afternoon form* working on five different focuses; managing anxiety, healthy sleep, healthy eating, ditching distractions, and autistic fatigue.

Students have been engaging in activities aimed at providing them with the skills and knowledge they need to support wellbeing in themselves and their peers. We have based our activities on videos from Dragonfly Impact: [MH Week Parent Videos \(dragonflyimpact.com\)](https://www.dragonflyimpact.com).

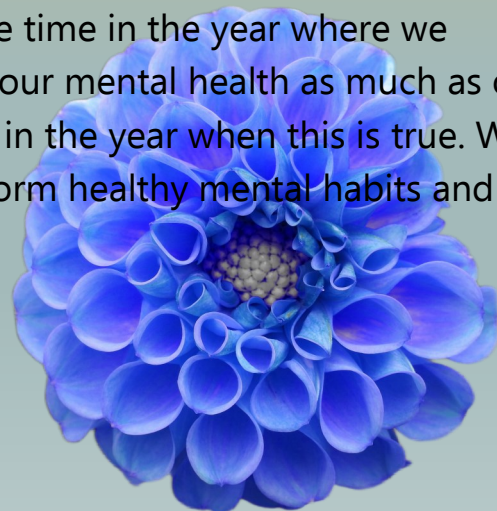
It is really important for all of us to take care of our mental wellbeing, but it is especially vital for students. The competing pressures of social life, school, and extra-curriculars can be a lot to deal with, so we strongly encourage everyone to make sure that they take time to rest and recuperate.

When most of us think of rest, we think of sleep, or maybe vegging out on the sofa watching TV – and these are both valid forms of rest. But more things can be restful than just these: spending time with friends and family, going for a walk, and even enjoying hobbies. These may seem like more effort, but they can help us reset our minds and refocus our priorities on the things that matter to us.

Mental Health Awareness Week is just one time in the year where we highlight the importance of looking after our mental health as much as our physical health, but it is not the only time in the year when this is true. We hope you and your children continue to form healthy mental habits and take the time to look after your mind.

Claire Revans

Student Support Mentor (PP)



Student Support



Emotional Health and Wellbeing Support

Getting Advice and Help

Healthy Shropshire Webpage – contains a range of information and links to resources for concerns about mental health and emotional wellbeing and includes a page specifically for support for CYP and Young Adults: [Mental health and wellbeing | Shropshire Council](#)

NHS Every Mind Matters has a self-care page for young people including videos: [Self-care tips videos for young people - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS also has a dedicated page aimed at teenagers, young adults and students and stress: [Help for teenagers, young adults and students - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Young Minds are a national young people mental health charity where the young person, parent or someone who works with young people can get more information about mental health, coping, how to talk about mental health, etc: [Young Minds | Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People | YoungMinds](#). There is a dedicated page on exam stress: [Exam Stress | How To Deal with Exam Stress | YoungMinds](#)

Getting More Help

BeeU is our local emotional wellbeing and mental health service for CYP aged 0 to 25 years in Shropshire Telford & Wrekin: [BeeU :: Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust \(mpft.nhs.uk\)](#)

Student Support



- *Would you like to know more about why sleep is important for our health and emotional well-being?*
 - *Does your child struggle with their sleep?*
- *Would you like to access support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines?*
 - *Would you like to meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences?*

SLEEP TIGHT WORKSHOPS

The workshops are delivered virtually via MS Teams or face to face at a venue in Shropshire

Our workshops run for 5 weeks from the start date excluding the School Holidays

Starting on Friday 16th June 2023 from 9.30am to 11.30am
Virtually via MS Teams

To book a place on one of our workshops or for further information on the workshops we run please contact the Parenting Team by:

Emailing Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

Or call us on 01743 250950



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Student Support

SHROPSHIRE
youth
youth work team

SHREWSBURY

This half term, Youth Workers will be out across Shrewsbury!

(Meole Brace, Monkmoor, Sundorne + The Grange)
if you see us, come say Hi and grab a snack!

20
23

MAY

30

Detached - 3pm - 8pm

(Meole Brace/ Sundorne)

Safer Streets (town) 5:30-8:30

MAY

31

MEOLE BRACE

POP-UP Youth Space with snacks

+ games

Safer Streets (town) 5:30-8:30

JUNE

01

Detached - 3pm - 8pm

(Monkmoor/The Grange)

Safer Streets (town) 5:30-8:30

JUNE

02

Detached - 3pm - 8pm

(Town, The Quarry)

MAY HALF TERM

Careers



Ask us how young people can
volunteer in healthcare

sja.org.uk



**Join
NHS Cadets
today**

Reach your potential with NHS Cadets and learn the skills you need to support vital healthcare teams across the country.

[NHS Cadets](#) is a brand-new scheme created by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS. It's designed to provide you with the opportunity to explore roles in healthcare.

The programme consists of two pathways: Foundation (for 14–16-year-olds) and Advanced (for 16–18-year-olds). You'll learn about a range of exciting healthcare topics, develop your leadership and communication skills, and gain insight into volunteering within the NHS.

It is a free programme consisting of 2-hour weekly sessions over 11 months. You'll be supported throughout your volunteering journey by our NHS Cadets Team.

Careers continued

Who can get involved?

Our Cadets come from a diverse range of backgrounds - there is no 'typical' NHS Cadet. If you identify with one or more of these statements, our programme would be a good match for you.

- I'm from a minority ethnic group
- I consider myself part of the LGBTQI+ community, or I'm questioning
- I'm not in education, employment or training, or I'm at risk of this
- I'm struggling with my progress at school or college
- I live in care, or I've recently left care
- I provide regular care or support for someone
- I receive free school meals
- I have mental health concerns
- I consider myself to have a disability or impairment
- I consider myself neurodivergent, or I have special educational needs
- I am seeking asylum, or I'm a refugee

You can find more information about these statements [here](#). If you're unsure, don't hesitate to [email our friendly team](#).

How do I get involved?

New groups will be opening from January 2023.

To learn more, find your local programme and apply, please visit <https://nhscadets.sja.org.uk/join-today/>.



ALUMNI UPDATE



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

Priory School Class of 1953 Reunion

The Priory School hosted the reunion event for the class of 1953, which was a great success. The Headteacher welcomed the class of 1953 and introduced the School Captains and staff. The ladies then chatted together, reminiscing about their time at school over tea and cake. Memorabilia tables were browsed and then the ladies had a tour of the school with our school captains.



Sponsorship

Our sincere thanks to the Alumni who very kindly sponsored the purchase of benches for our students which have been made available in community areas around school.

Enough money was raised to buy two benches which have plaques mounted on them stating sponsored by The Priory School Alumni.

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.



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

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✉ pri-info@pri.318education.co.uk

🐦 @PriorySch

🌐 <https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/>