

The Priory School

July 2023





Mrs Alison Pope

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of everyone who works at The Priory, thank you for your continued support of school over the course of the academic year.

In my previous letter I alluded to a communications survey that was sent out, and in response to this, I promise to be brief and mention a few key reminders for the start of next year.

Updated toilet facilities and cloakrooms – These will be completely remodelled and updated for the start of the next academic year. Please remind your child to take everything home with them as they will need to be cleared out for work to commence.

End of school day will remain at 3pm – I mentioned in my last letter the school day would need to be extended by 5 minutes as the Government had stated it needed to be 32.5 hours per week by September 2023. Last Monday, 17th July, they retracted this and have now changed it to September 2024. We will be waiting until this date to make any changes.

Uniform – Black, pleated skirt, knee length if your child needs their skirt replacing as it has become too short (as green skirts are being phased out, all will be black from September 2024), or tailored trousers (not skinny fit, please).

Lanyards and badges – Are part of the Uniform Policy and need to be worn each day.

Long, artificial nails and jewellery – Are a health and safety concern; we have had accidents around these items this year. One pair of stud earrings only. No facial piercings.

Attendance – I cannot authorise term time holiday. We have a target of 96%, and currently sit short of this at 93%. We look forward to having everyone back in September. Thank you for your support with this.

Curriculum – Please remember this detail, which is on our website by subject and by year group.

Communications – Please follow us on social media via Twitter and Facebook (please ignore the old 2012 account which we currently cannot have removed). Please use Looking Ahead each half term to see what is happening in school. We are looking to further build on our use of Arbor but also Teams-related apps, although this needs discussion with our current providers.

Parent Survey – Thank you for your responses. We had an increased number of approximately 200 respondees this time, which was incredibly useful, and 20 responses to our Behaviour Survey. 90% of parents would recommend the school, with 90% feeling their child is happy here and 87% felt that behaviour was good or better. Areas you recommended we look at include:

- Strengthening the section in our Behaviour Policy about parents supporting school sanctions.
- Continued improvement in our communications with you. This is mixed; some say we do too little, some say too much. We will try to find a happy medium.
- Ensure our rewards strategies include a range of pupils.
- Share our work on anti-bullying with you more frequently.
- Ensure we come back to you in a timely manner.



Mrs Alison Pope Headteacher

This is just a sample of the main areas. All comments were read.

Pupil Survey – we recently carried out our annual survey with pupils:

87% say they enjoy school, 89% stated that teachers help them to do their best ,and 92% felt that the work set challenged them.

We will continue to build on moving this closer to 100% and I will share this survey with the Student Leadership Team, School Parliament, and the Student Body into next year.

Have a wonderful summer.

Term starts Tuesday 5th September at 8.35am.

Very best wishes,

Alison Pope



A New Governor's View

It all began when I saw an advertisement in an e-mail to parents requesting volunteers to take up a school Governors role. I had heard about the Board of Governors but had a limited idea of what they did and if I would be the right sort of candidate to apply. What I did know was that I wanted to help support the school and was keen to get involved, to understand more of what goes on and to try to make a positive impact. Following a short interview process, I was offered the position and started

The role of the Local Governors Board (LGB) is to provide strategic guidance and advice to the Senior Leadership Team on policy, school plans and processes. This happens through a series of meetings with school teams and the Education Trust where policies and plans are reviewed, critiqued and where possible alternative ideas are offered to support and enhance. In this process a level of third-party auditing also takes place to act as that 'second pair of eyes' for the school leadership team.

However, the most value comes from the opportunity for governors to speak with students, acting as another voice for pupils directly into the leadership and management of the school. I have been hugely impressed when talking with pupils about their thoughts, experiences and hopes around school life. Their unique insight to the work put into the school is invaluable and what I like most is how they can offer solutions and ideas to challenges which we, as adults, may not have thought of.

It is during Pupil Voice sessions that the feelings of pride, ownership and belonging really come out from those we speak with. It is representing these views and thoughts during both LGB meetings but also Link roles where we as Governors can make a real difference. Being able to use a first-hand example provided to me during Pupil Voice to highlight how a process or policy could be improved is invaluable. What is also rewarding is when an idea that pupils have suggested has been taken forward and an aspect of school life can be changed in a positive way as a result of the sharing of ideas at all levels.

Although only eight months into the role, I feel every meeting and every visit is a learning experience and broadens me personally. Having not come from an education background and my profession being as far from secondary education as you can imagine, I have been pleasantly surprised by how much my broader experience adds to the wider meetings and discussions, and how much I am able to take back into my profession too.

I am still at the beginning of my Governor's journey, but I would recommend it to anyone who feels they want to positively affect the school and those who attend. You will be surprised with what you take away from this rewarding role.

-Jamie Walker, School Governor and Quality of Education Link Role



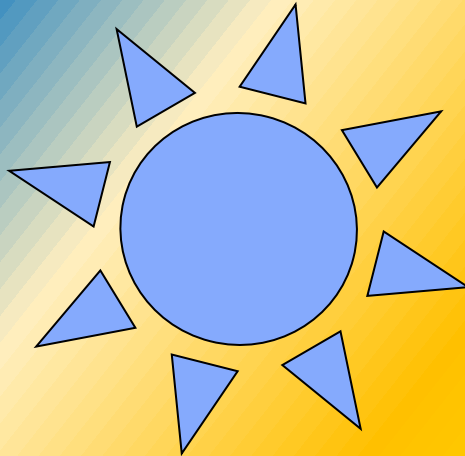


Headteacher's Breakfast



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:

MAY



Student	Form
Ella B.	10A
Lance C.	10P
Samantha D-C	10F
Hannah G.	10H
Marlie D.	10H
Jack E.	10H
Darcy C.	10F
Lily B-O-C.	10A

JUNE

Student	Form
Violet M.	7N
Sophie W.	7N
Zoe A.	7N
Jonty L.	7P
Oliver R.	7F
Mia B.	7K
Holly O.	7P
Jay Birkett	7N

Nathan J.	8H
Maisie E-G.	8P
Stefan F.	8P
Louisa N.	8P
Alvin L.	8P
Izzy A.	8K
Hannah W.	8A
Elin I.	8A
George E.	8N
Louie C.	8A
Leo T.	8H

Cecilie G.	9F
Maisie J.	9P
Matthew B.	9P
Tilly H.	9N
Eve B.	9N
Sophie A.	9N
Charlie B.	9P
Gabby P.	9P
Edward A.	9K
Olivia R.	9A
Isla W.	9F
Freddie B.	9H
Haruki H.	9K
Belle R.	9H
Lewis B-H.	9K
Joshua M.	9H
Cali E.	9F

JULY

Student	Form
Matthew C.	10P
Kate P.	10N
Emily S.	10P
Hannah G.	10H
Kaitlyn L.	10K
Alanna D.	10F
Ella S.	10K

Bryn R.	7N
Alina M.	7H
Eva B.	7A
Eleanor B.	7A
Elissa I.	7F
Ellie A.	7F
Jonty L.	7P
Mia B.	7K
Holly O.	7P
Eleanor H.	7H
Leo S.	7P
Vivi T.	7A
Sophia R.	7F
Violet M.	7N
Archie W.	7N
Mayir B.	7A



Sonic the Hedgehog



Looking Back ...

The first week of May was National Hedgehog Week in the UK, and here at Priory we celebrated with a special guest star. Sonic was a juvenile hedgehog who got lost and wandered onto our playing fields on Tuesday 3rd. He was rescued by Mrs Crampton from being mistaken for a football, and then brought into Student Support for an afternoon nap. Hedgehogs are naturally nocturnal, and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society recommend that any hedgehogs out during the day be treated as a concern. So, it was then the turn of Miss Revans to take Sonic on a road trip down to Cuan Wildlife Rescue Centre in Much Wenlock.

Well done to all the students for being such a wonderful help in the rescue efforts. We were very impressed with your level headedness and willingness to lend a hand.

If you're interested in helping out your local hedgehog population, you could leave out dishes of water, build a log pile for them to forage and shelter in, and put fences around any ponds. More tips are available on the Preservation Society website at www.britishhedgehogs.co.uk



Duke of Edinburgh

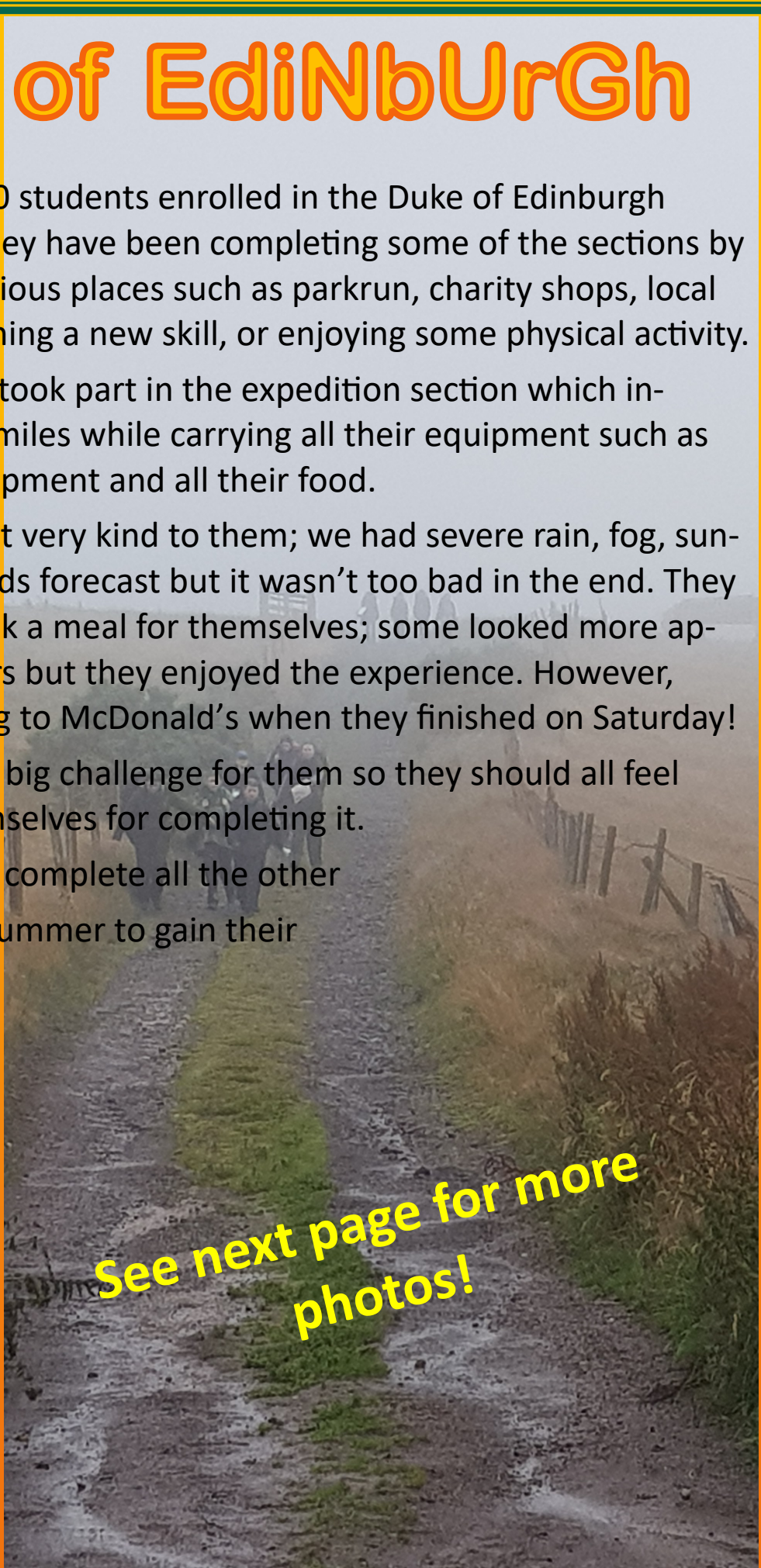
We have 66 Year 10 students enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. They have been completing some of the sections by volunteering at various places such as parkrun, charity shops, local youth groups, learning a new skill, or enjoying some physical activity.

48 of the students took part in the expedition section which involved walking 15 miles while carrying all their equipment such as tents, cooking equipment and all their food.

The weather wasn't very kind to them; we had severe rain, fog, sunshine and high winds forecast but it wasn't too bad in the end. They all managed to cook a meal for themselves; some looked more appetising than others but they enjoyed the experience. However, many were heading to McDonald's when they finished on Saturday!

The expedition is a big challenge for them so they should all feel very proud of themselves for completing it.

Hopefully they will complete all the other sections over the summer to gain their Bronze DoE award.



See next page for more photos!

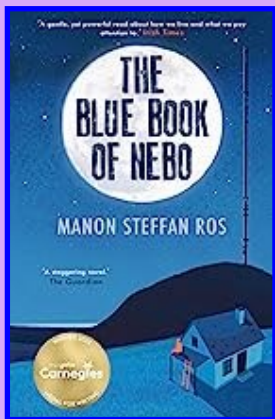
Duke of Edinburgh





The Yoto Carnegie Book Prize

We had a special after-school book club this term, to celebrate the Yoto Carnegie Book Prize winner. Also in attendance was Priory alumni and local author Judy Arlett. The Yoto Carnegies are the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people. The Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. We looked at each book shortlisted and voted for our overall favourite. Whilst the official winner was declared *The Blue Book of Nebo* by Manon Steffan Ros, our book club opted instead for *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* by Louise Finch. Both come highly recommended and are available in the school library to borrow now, alongside all the other shortlisted titles!



The Blue Book of Nebo

Dylan was six when The End came, back in 2018: when the electricity went off for good, and the normal 21st-century world he knew disappeared. Now 14, he and his mam have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales by learning new skills and returning to old ways of living. However, despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan has to take on adult responsibilities. And they each have their own secrets ...

The Eternal Return of Clara Hart

Spence and Anthony have been friends for years, but it's only when he witnesses a classmate die in what looks like a tragic accident at a house party that a flicker in the fabric of time helps Spence 'see' Anthony for the first time. When Spence wakes up to the same day again and sees Clara, the girl who died, alive and well, it's clear he's been granted a second chance. And a third. And a fourth...



Judy Arlett with Mily Mabbet, who is wearing a vintage Priory scarf!)





Pupil Librarians

We are currently putting together a new team of pupil librarians for the next academic year. We follow the School Library Association pupil librarian programme and this gives those involved an opportunity to take on responsibility, meet like-minded types across different year groups and make a valuable contribution to the running of the library. Our chosen top pupil librarians for this Summer term are Lucy and Erin (both Year 8). They will be rewarded with a book prize of their choice. Every librarian also consumes many biscuits and earns HLAs through the year as reward for their hard work and time!

Book Face Competition

Year 7 recently participated in *Priory Reads*, a summer week-long sponsored read to boost reading time *and* raise money for the school charity total and new school library books. To celebrate we ran a school *Book Face* competition where a photo is taken strategically lining up a face or body alongside a book cover, so that there appears a melding of life and art. The overall winners were the trio of Finnley, Ava and Eve and all in 7P. They are celebrating with a trip to Pizza Express using their chosen gift voucher of choice!

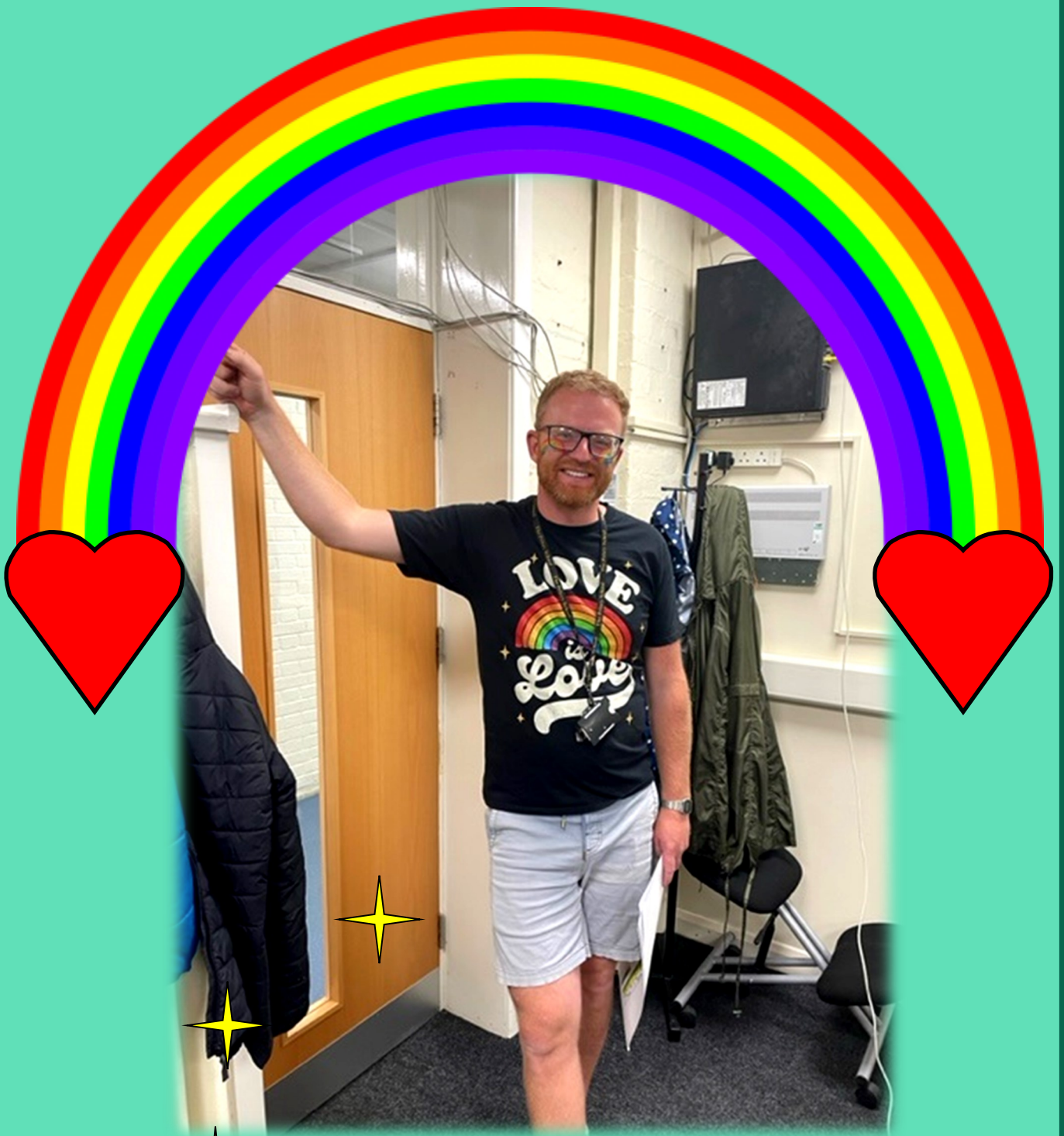


Reading Champions

In the library every Tuesday lunch, some of our older reading champions are offering their services to provide extra reading help. If anyone is struggling reading, finds it challenging and would like some extra adult free support, this drop in option is available. Tuesday lunches are normally very quiet, so younger pupils can pop in and be welcomed by a reading champion without worrying about their peers watching or judging. Just 10-15 minutes of regular reading with a champion could boost confidence and make a difference. This will continue into the next academic year.



PRIDE Day



Mr Tudor



PRIDE Bake Sale



Nightingale House raised over £100 by selling their baked goods and bracelets today! Thank you to all who contributed; making and buying or supplying. Well done, The Priory.



School Caretaker



What does a school caretaker do? Empty the bins

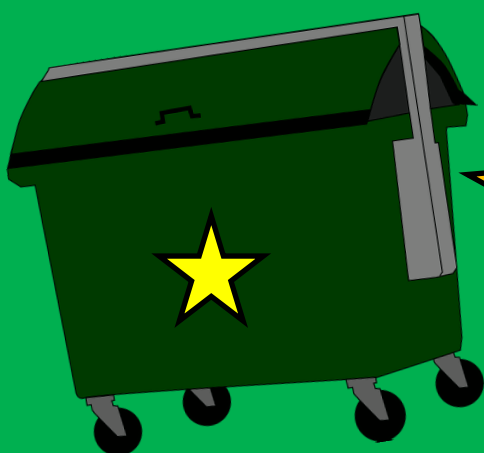
While I guess not particularly exciting, the Site Team (caretakers) actually have a responsible and important role to play in keeping the school running safely. Most of our work goes unnoticed, but without us, the school would not open!

We ensure that the school is as safe and secure as we can keep it. This includes making sure that all of the fire fighting equipment is fit for purpose, emergency lighting works, fire escapes are clear, and fire doors working. We monitor water temperature and keep records to ensure legionella is kept at bay.

We take deliveries and ensure site visitors comply with our safety protocols. We stack chairs, we unstack chairs, and we set up rooms for the various events and meetings within the school calendar. The compliance documentation demands are a daily responsibility and we have a legal obligation to maintain records accurately.

Often in life it is the unseen work that keeps us safe, so be assured that the site team is looking after you all.

-Site Manager



Oh, it's much
more than
emptying
me!

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE DAY

Shrewsbury Colleges Group Science & Technology Challenge Day was held at Shrewsbury Sixth Form College on Monday 10th July 2023.



Students completed three challenges throughout the day before the judging took place, followed by a presentation. What a great day!

Rounders Round Up!



What a great season all Rounders teams have had this year, starting with the Year 10s, who have seen their ultimate rounders season off in style. They have remained unbeaten this season with some stand out performances from Sophie Ball and Maddi Hawkins. They were crowned North Shropshire champions during a tournament at Oswestry School. A fantastic achievement and effort from the whole team!

Year 9 have had a similar success, losing just to The Marches in their North Shropshire tournament. Great performances from all, but Liv Roll's dynamic fielding skills and Mya Orme's sharp reactions at backstop are worthy of a mention. As too, is Orlagh Markey's batting ability. Well done all!



Year 8 club has been very well attended and we have been able to field almost two full teams. They came a worthy second in their North Shropshire tournament. Bethan Crowther demonstrating versatility in the field, whilst Manon Closs and Amelie Raisin were smashing balls left, right and centre. Poppy Smith has also had an excellent season.

What a team the Year 7s are shaping up to be. Again, the club has been very well attended, making it so hard to pick a team. Like the Year 10s, they too have yet to lose a game. A formidable triangle between Beth Kirkbright (bowler), Rowen Evans (backstop) and Alice Deacon (1st post), has left many teams gasping for air. Heidi has been very dynamic out field, whilst Ana Russel, Tilly Lloyd and Violet Meakin have hit some amazing rounders. The team were crowned both North Shropshire and Shrewsbury District tournament winners. The future is most definitely bright for this team!

District Netball



Due to the weather before Easter, the Year 8 and 9 Shrewsbury District tournaments had to be played in the summer term. With The Priory being hosts to both tournaments, the pressure was on. Both teams played brilliantly and did the school proud, taking both titles at Year 8 and Year 9. A massive well done to all the girls that played. Also, a big thank you to Year 10 students Maddi Hawkins, Ruby Hodgson and Caitlin Pountney for their help with the running of the tournaments.



4th July Lunch



Enrichment Week — *Paris*



The Year 8 visit to Paris during Enrichment Week was FANTASTIQUE!! A total of 108 students and 13 staff travelled down, across the English Channel, during the night of Sun 25/Mon 26 and arrived in France to glorious sunshine that lasted all week. Our first stop was at **Vimy Ridge** — a memorial to so many Canadian people who lost their lives in France during the First World War. Our students were able to visit some of the trenches from WW1 and listened with due respect to some young Canadians who described why this battle is so important to Canadians today.

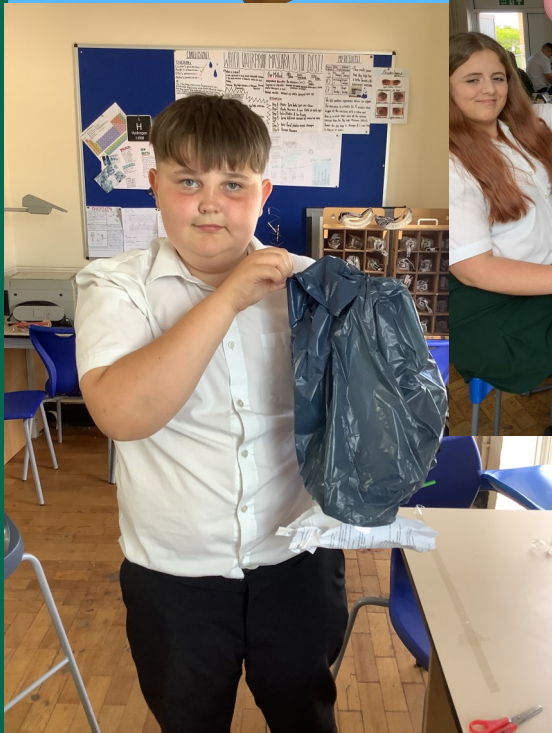
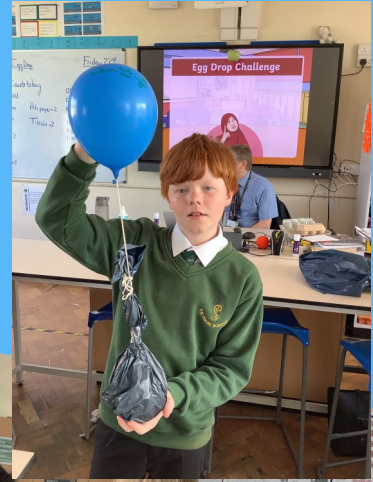
Once we'd checked in to our accommodation, the first thing we did was go for a swim; well deserved after such a long journey! Over the following days, we did more swimming, went to a French market, a cheese farm and the amazing Theme Park called **Parc Astérix**. This was one of the favourite activities on the trip — students loved the freedom at the theme park and the chance to experience nerve-wracking rides and a show at the end of the day.

On Thursday, we visited the glorious city of Paris; we went up the **Eiffel Tower**, along the Seine on a boat ride and we saw other famous attractions such as the **Louvre**, the **Champs-Élysées** and the **Trocadéro**.

A great many thanks to all the staff who accompanied the students on this visit and to the students for representing the school so well.

-Mrs Talbot

Enrichment Week – *Science*



District Golf Tournament — Shrewsbury Golf Club — 20th June

On a sunny day in June, the newly formed Priory Golf Team headed to Shrewsbury Golf Club, for the first district golf competition. Students submitted their handicaps, and were placed into a 3-ball partnership, before embarking on the course. Students performed excellently on the day, and all conducted themselves with superb etiquette and professionalism.

Golf Squad: Charle B, Annabel B, Will F, Tom R, Teddie S, Olly J, Harrison H-B, Luke R, and Jack H



House Athletics

In a day of sun and high spirits, the flagship house sports event was fiercely competed in throughout the day.

The day started off with the field events.

After break, all students and the house banners came onto the field, as students competed in the standing long jump, 8-person relay and 12-minute run.

In the afternoon, the relays took place, with big points on the line for all houses.

The final House athletics champions 2023 were Parks, taking the prestigious accolade off their sky-blue rivals, King.



Student SPOTLIGHT

*Lucy
N.*



Lucy Newell is playing for England again!

A HUGE congratulations to Lucy Newell, who is representing England once again. She played on Sunday 14th May against Poland, helping England to a 2-1 win in their opening match in the Euro Finals.

We are so proud of Lucy and her achievements in school football as well as her superb achievements for her club and country, and we felt privileged when she presented us with a signed match worn shirt.



Student Support

Do you have a second-hand Priory uniform you no longer need? If so, these can be dropped off at *School Shop Direct* in Harlescott.



The second hand uniform can then be purchased by those who need it from the *Severn Hospice Shop* in Harlescott, where the money will go to the charity!



SHREWSBURY

SUMMER HAF EVENTS 2023

AUG 01

SUNDORNE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE
ROAR MARTIAL ARTS
SESSIONS 2:30pm-5pm

AUG 02

MEOLE BRACE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE WITH
A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES
3pm-5pm

AUG 03

BAYSTON HILL

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE
2:30pm-5pm

AUG 04

FRANKWELL PARK

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE WITH A
FREE BBQ
5:30pm-8pm

For more information email
YouthWorks@shropshire.gov.uk

Summer HAF programmes can act as a vital bridge between one school year to the next, by maintaining a routine for children which can help ease them back into the school environment in the new academic year. Schools have told us that they have seen an improvement in school attendance amongst children who have attended a holiday club because they were given the chance to build their social skills and make new friends in a supportive environment.

Student Support

SHREWSBURY

SUMMER HAF EVENTS 2023

AUG 08

GREENFIELDS

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE
FREE SPORTS ACTIVITIES
WITH EMBRACE 2:30pm-5pm

AUG 09

MEOLE BRACE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE WITH
A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES
3pm-5pm

AUG 10

MONKMOOR MECCY

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE
2:30pm-5pm

AUG 15

TOWN CENTRE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE
2:30pm-5pm

For more information email
YouthWorks@shropshire.gov.uk



SHREWSBURY

SUMMER HAF EVENTS 2020

AUG 16

MEOLE BRACE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE WITH A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

3pm-5pm

AUG 17

SHORNCLIFFE DRIVE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE

2:30pm-5pm

AUG 23

MEOLE BRACE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE WITH A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES

3pm-5pm

AUG 24

HARLESCOTT GRANGE

POP-UP YOUTH SPACE AND FREE BBQ

2:30pm-5pm

For more information email
YouthWorks@shropshire.gov.uk

Student Support



SHREWSBURY

SUMMER HAF EVENTS 2020

ALL SESSIONS ARE FREE AND AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 11+

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL -
YOUTHWORKS@SHROPSHIRE.GOV.UK

Student Support

Futures Focus

A quick update on the careers activities for this half term and what is coming up:

Y10 Mock Interviews

Our annual Mock Interview Day provided valuable experience for all year 10 students who were interviewed by the business community. Interview skills sessions for some students helped them to prepare for their interview whilst the postponed assessment centre (which will take place in September now) is designed to challenge some of our high achievers. Not only did our students look very smart, but the feedback from them and employers was overwhelmingly positive. Many employers commented on how impressed they were with the students and how they conducted themselves during their interviews. Well done, Year 10!

Coming up in the Autumn Term

- Year 11 Thinking Ahead event
- Year 11 transition assemblies from Shrewsbury Colleges Group, William Brookes Sixth Form, North Shropshire College, Shrewsbury Town Foundation, Thomas Adams Sixth Form
- Year 7 Languages Day
- Year 7 Introduction to Kudos

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 pri-info@pri.318education.co.uk





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

We have 184 past students who have now joined our Alumni and we are delighted that 15 of these are students who have just left us in July 2023 !

Many of our Alumni have stated they would like to support the school by either talking to students, attending events, or taking part in activities.

Our sincere thanks go to the below Alumni who have recently offered their time and support to the school.

James McKie – James lives and works in Sweden and has offered to talk to our language and business students. He recently came into school whilst he was back in Shrewsbury and was given a tour while meeting met staff. James stated he had really enjoyed his time back at school and thanked everyone for their time.

Julius Victorino – Julius has offered to take part in our Year 10 mock interviews

Will Coles – Will has offered to talk to our English students and hopes to take part in the Year 9 English @ Work and Careers event in the Autumn Term.

Judy Arliss - Judy is working with students in the school library on a continual basis.



Please click on the link below to view more examples of support from our Alumni!
<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/community/alumni/alumni-presentations-engagement/>

Please click on the link below to view pen portraits of some of our Alumni.
<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/community/alumni/past-students-pen-portraits/>

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 2023-24

Summer Term 2023

Rest of school term: Monday 5th June - Tuesday 25th July 2023

Summer Holidays: Wednesday 26th July - Thursday 31st August 2023

Bank Holiday: Friday 1st September 2023

***PD Day:** Monday 4th September 2023

Autumn Term 2023

School Term: Tuesday 5th September - Thursday 26th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November 2023

School Term: Monday 6th November - Friday 15th December 2023

Christmas Holiday: Monday 18th December - Tuesday 2nd January 2023

***PD Days:** 27th October 2023 & 18th, 19th, 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024

School Term: Wednesday 3rd January - Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024

School Term: Monday 19th February - Friday 22nd March 2024

Easter Holiday: Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

School Term: Monday 8th April - Friday 24th May 2024

May Half Term: Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024

School Term: Monday 3rd June - Friday 19th July 2024

Summer Holidays: Monday 22nd July - Friday 30th August 2024

ALL DATES ARE INCLUSIVE

Any 1pm finishes will be communicated in advance

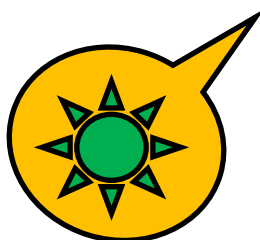
Check
us

OUR SOCIALS

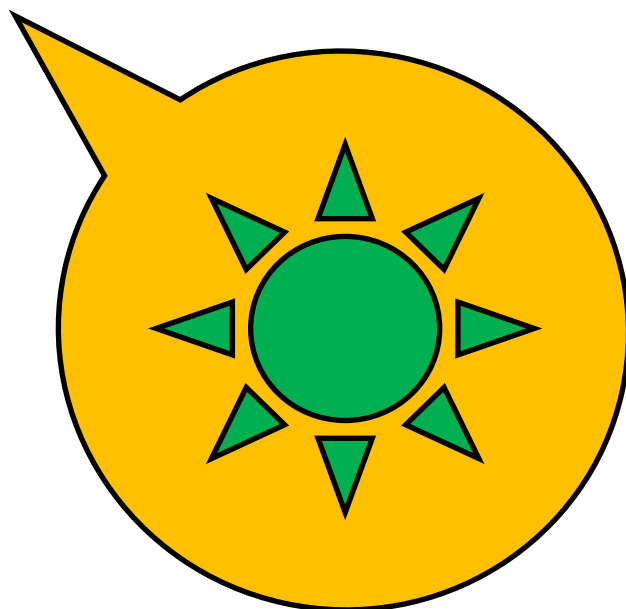
Out!



[facebook.com/PriorySch](https://www.facebook.com/PriorySch)



[@PriorySch](https://twitter.com/PriorySch)



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