

The Priory School

October 2023



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Mrs Alison Pope

Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been a great start to the new academic year. Year 11 and year 8 really stepped up as tour guides for open mornings (with lots of positive feedback from visitors), we've had Active Travel events and a series of Bikeability sessions for Year 7, buddy mentors stepping up to make sure Year 7 feel happy and settled, great participation for House Run and House Music, and School Production rehearsals in full swing. Despite the usual autumn term bugs, whole school attendance is looking positive at 94%, close to our school target of 96%. Just to name a few highlights so far!

Our GCSE results in August 2023 have now been confirmed as the best the school has achieved to date. Our progress measure was the highest in the county. It is important to note that this takes into account pupils achieving grades in relation to their individual progress. In the context of a return to full GCSE content and disruption of the pandemic. This is a huge achievement for our Year 11 leavers who worked incredibly hard and a testament to the way in which staff and school are working to support our young people.

I hope you find this newsletter useful but just a few reminders:

Uniform – thank you, the vast majority are wearing their uniform correctly and look very smart. Jewellery – a specific letter is coming out about this. One pair of stud earrings permitted only, and all jewellery, including studs, to be removed before PE lessons for health and safety reasons. No artificial nails – we had a particularly nasty incident last term where a girl's nailbed was detached due to wearing these.

Social Media – please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates on school life.

Mobile Phones – please remember for safeguarding reasons and to avoid disruption to lessons, we need to be a mobile phone free zone. Pupils can have their phones with them, switched off and in bags. If they need to contact home, they can come to reception. Likewise if you need to contact them, please do so through the main school number.

What is your child studying? – please follow [this link](#). All subjects and curriculum plans are here for you to follow and help your child at home.

Use of Teams to message teachers – a reminder that pupils shouldn't be messaging their class teachers in the evening or weekend unless by prior arrangement. Some staff teach over 500 pupils. The number of messages received by some is becoming unmanageable. Please encourage your child to speak to staff in school. When contacting staff, please use the info@ email address, which is monitored during school hours, not the member of staff's direct email address unless they have shared it with you.

Homework Club/Help – Support Hub is open from 8am every morning for drop ins, and teaching assistants are in the school library from 3-3.45 Monday-Thursday if pupils need help or somewhere to complete their homework.

Parental Feedback form—so that we don't wait for the main parental survey to gather your feedback, could I please ask you to complete this two question MS Form so we can include parental voice in our development as a school:

<https://forms.office.com/e/J1AaYhbp3n>

Many thanks for your ongoing support of school.

Alison Pope

Governor's View

In the last newsletter, Jamie Walker shared his experience of being a new local governor at The Priory School. If you re-read it, Jamie found being a local governor to be a rewarding experience.

As part of the 3-18 Education Trust, there are several layers of governance: members, trustees, and local governors. All have a role in making sure the education provided for all children in the Trust is the best possible. The Priory School's Local Governing Body (LGB) role is to assist the Trust Board by monitoring and understanding the school's performance. The local governors who make up the LGB are committed to the school and its pupils but do not have to be from an educational background. In many ways, not having an educational background has led to alternative ideas and suggestions being put forward to school leaders. Experience in leadership, management or finance often help to contribute to the strategic growth of the school.

We currently have vacancies for local governors. Would you be interested?

Why get involved? One or all of the following may resonate with you:

You care about the education that children receive.

You want to make an important contribution to your local community.

You enjoy a challenging and rewarding role.

You are keen to help all children do better at school.

You want to help to strengthen the link between the school and the local community.

But you may question if you have the time. The commitment is during term time and will be 4 LGB meetings a year, each lasting a maximum of 2 hours, taking place late afternoon/early evening. There will be one less formal meeting per term and a visit to school during the school day once a year.

The Trust offers full induction to the role and ongoing training. Support is there at all times.

If you are interested, please contact our Chair of the LGB, Ian Peterson, at:
ian.peterson@318education.co.uk.

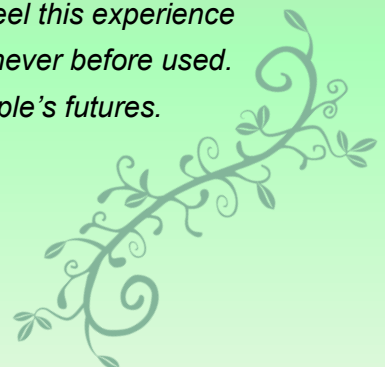
One last thought to leave with you:

"I have enjoyed every minute of being a local governor and feel this experience has taught me a lot about myself and given me skills I have never before used.

The knowledge of how I have contributed to young people's futures.

I will carry with me for life."

-Carole Warner | Governance Professional and Company Secretary





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:



Student Name	Form
Alina S.	9F
Anhelina D.	9F
Chloe W.	9K
Lucy B.	9P
Milly W.	9K
Cam D.	9K
Lara H.	9N
Tom H.	9A
Amelia D.	9K
Ella S.	9A
Alvin L.	9P



A-PLAN SHREWSBURY'S SCHOOL UNIFORM EXCHANGE

Local Insurance Broker A-Plan Shrewsbury are launching a school uniform exchange to support families facing financial pressures this back-to-school season.



Chris Beane, Branch Manager at A-Plan Shrewsbury, said: "With the cost-of-living crisis continuing to bite, affecting energy bills, housing costs and food prices, many families are facing tougher financial pressures. School uniforms are a significant expense each year, but prices have risen considerably. And, when you couple this with kids' growth spurts, moving into a new year or a new school, and the potential for lost property, the cost can quickly add up! We're always looking for ways to support our local community, and the school uniform exchange made perfect sense in the current circumstances. It's an initiative that's free to use, hopefully reducing costs for families, as well as clothing waste. We hope it alleviates some anxiety for parents and provides a useful resource for everyone in Shrewsbury."

Anyone in the local area is welcome to participate in A-Plan's school uniform exchange, whether to donate or pick up items they need. To take part, all you need to do is either visit the branch (8 High Street) between 8:30am and 5pm on weekdays, or 9am and 12pm on Saturdays, or contact us on 01743 455900 or shrewsbury.office@aplan.co.uk to find out more.

Free School Meals

[Click here to check if you are eligible to apply for Free School Meals for your child](#)

[Click here for how to apply for Free School Meals for your child](#)

FAQ: Free School Meals in Relation to Lunch Accounts

When a student has Free School Meals, they are allocated £2.40 per day for this. This amount is credited to their lunch account and does not roll over to the next day if any of that amount is not spent.

The £2.40 covers the lunch deal, but the money itself is not 'reserved' for this. What this means is that if snacks are bought at break time, this will be taken from the £2.40 Free School Meals amount, resulting in there not being enough of that allocated money left to cover a free lunch.

In addition to this, if you put money on your child's lunch account to cover snacks/additional food and they purchase these snacks before lunch, this will be taken from the £2.40 Free School Meals amount and not the money that you've put on the account. This is because any food purchases come off the Free School Meals amount first, before any additional credit you have added.

We hope this helps to clarify the way Free School Meals works in relation to lunch accounts.

World Mental Health Day Competition – 10th October 2023

This year, our school focus was kindness and gratitude! Students were invited to create a piece of poetry, art, or writing based on an act of kindness they had witnessed at school.

Winner – Eleanor Dalgarno

Runners Up – Anna Lysenko, Chloe Davies, and Kate Myers

Kindness At Priory School

WORLD KINDNESS DAY

K IS FOR KIND, LIKE TEACHERS TO ME
I IS FOR IDEAL, SCHOOL FIELDS THAT ARE PERFECT
AND GREAT.
N IS FOR NICE, THE STUDENT SUPPORT HUB THAT IS
ALWAYS PATIENT AND CARING,
D IS FOR DECENT, LOVING AND SHARING,
N IS FOR NOURISHING, THE LESSONS ARE ALWAYS VERY
THOUGHTFUL,
E IS FOR EASY-GOING AND USUALY QUITE GRATEFUL
S IS FOR SYMPATHETIC, LESSONS ARE GENTLE AND GOOD,
S IS FOR SWEET, PRIORY MAKES ME FEEL ALWAYS VERY GOOD



ANNA LYSENKO FOR WORLD KINDNESS DAY

ANNA LYSENKO

World Mental Health Day Competition – 10th October 2023

“I was very grateful for the kindness in the first few weeks of priory, many teachers have asked year 7 students, including me, if we need any help or directions to a certain place. I am also grateful for the support from buddy mentors that have spent a lot of time taking students around the school and helping out. Although starting secondary school can be difficult and challenging, they have helped us through our struggles.”



Kindness at Priory



When I had my broken wrist
I realised Priory School had a twist
Kindness came to me everywhere I went
From pupils to teachers the time they lent
It meant the world to me
Because it allowed me to see
How kind and caring Priory School can be!

By Kate Myers, 8F

World Mental Health Day Competition – 10th October 2023

Acts of
Kindness
At the
Priory
School

Waking up happy
Friday again
School morning passes
Then period it ends
Lunch on her mind
Queues are long
Fish and chips waiting
Hopefully not gone!
Then it's her turn
She fills up her tray
Grabs her lanyard
And leans over to pay
Her face drops
As she looks at the screen
She starts to tremble
When she realises her fate
Having to speak to staff
To fix her overdraft
He stands behind her
In a hurry for his food
But that doesn't stop him
Noticing her mood
He knew she struggles
with social interaction
So he quickly offers
To pay for her food
Relief on her face
It's plain to see
His kind gesture
makes her week
This act of kindness
Not only feeds her
But prevents anxiety
And salvages happiness

By
Eleanor
Dalgaro

★ Oxford University ★

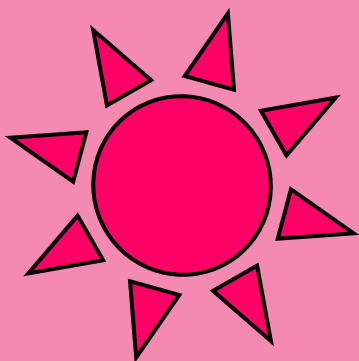
On Friday 20th October, a group of Year 11 Priory students, accompanied by Mrs Talbot and Mrs Willmann, took part in a visit to Oxford.

This visit was a follow-up to a session in Year 10 where the students had met ex-Priory students who are currently studying at Oxbridge.

We met Leonie, Mrs Willmann's friend, who is in her second year at St Peter's College, studying History. She gave us a tour of Oxford and we saw a number of colleges, including Christchurch and Queens as well as the Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera.

We spent the rest of the day at University College, where we had a tour, ate lunch in the Dining Hall, took part in taster sessions of the Philosophy of Science and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and spoke to current students.

It was a really interesting and fun day out and students enjoyed the insight into studying at Oxford — it has given them plenty of food for thought regarding their options for future study and pathways.



★ Vimy Ridge ★

During our recent France trips (Year 9: April 2023 and Year 8: June 2023) we were fortunate to be able to visit the site of the Canadian World War I Memorial at *Vimy Ridge*. We also hope to visit with Year 8 as part of our June 2024 visit. We have recently received correspondence from Rear Admiral Steve Waddell, Deputy Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, who expressed his delight that students from a school in Shrewsbury have visited this memorial and have appreciated its significance to Canada's history.

In French lessons, our students learn about how French is spoken all over the world, including as one of the main languages in Canada. In History lessons, students study the importance of World War I and its impact internationally. Although a difficult visit in some ways, as we faced the magnitude of the consequences of war and how teenagers in particular gave their lives fighting, we all found it very interesting and moving.



As an expression of their appreciation for our visit, The Royal Canadian Navy also sent us some gifts, including caps, modelled by some of the students who went on the visit here!



School Canteen



A snapshot of some of the amazing food on offer in our school. Such a great range of options and always plenty of healthy choices. Our canteen staff work so hard and are rightly so proud of what they create for the students each day!





Bikeability



Below is a photo of our first group of **Level 3 Bikeability** students. Over 3 weeks in October, we had most Year 7s participate in this excellent course and had them confidently cycling to and from school. Thank you to **Learn Cycling** for their amazing sessions!



AcTiVe TrAvEL WeeK

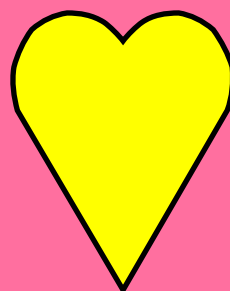


As part of **Active Travel Week**, we welcomed Bernie Bentick to school to talk to the students about the changes that Shropshire Council are making to the roads near our school to make it safer and easier for our students to make sustainable and healthy travel choices.

Animal Club!



We have snail hatchlings in Animal Club – Students can drop in 1-1:15 any lunchtime if they would like to see them and the parents!





Year 10 Cake Sale



A few pictures before the rush as our Y10 Citizenship class set up their cake sale Friday 29th September. Alongside our non-uniform day, they raised over £1,000 for Macmillan Cancer. Amazing achievement, Team Priory!

Languages Day!

Friday 6th of October heralded the celebration of Languages Day.

There was a buzz in school as Year 7 students took part in all kinds of activities ranging from singing to mimes to games, and learnt about different languages, countries, cultures and customs. They were offered taster sessions in various languages including Polish, Portuguese, Japanese, German, Italian, Spanish, and Arabic. Some students also had the opportunity to learn about Non Verbal Communication. The sessions were offered not only by staff from the Priory Languages Department but from students across the whole school. Pupils appreciated the opportunity to extend their horizons and learn key words from other cultures.

The day culminated in further celebration as groups voted the best by their Year 7 House went head to head to give their interpretation and performance of a French play titled 'Bobo le robot' on stage in the Hall. The judges commented on the level of excellence in their dramatic performances and the commitment they had shown to achieve word perfect, superbly pronounced French. Competition was fierce but the winners were Ethan Hanley, Bella Marmaras, Effie Bingham and Elodie Priest from Nightingale House. Congratulations and thanks to all students and staff who participated in Languages Day. It was a fun-packed and exciting day.



Pupil Premium *Coffee Morning*

Thank you to those parents who attended our coffee morning on Thursday 28th September. It was lovely to meet you all, and we really appreciated all the valuable feedback that you provided as to how we can better support you and your children. We have a number of positive actions we will be putting into place moving forward.

We were very happy to hear positive feedback from attendees, following which we have decided to host a further event in January. To ensure more of you who wish to come can do so, we will be moving our timings forwards so the event will start at 8am.



For any parents who would like to speak to a member of our team regarding how we use Pupil Premium funding to support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing the school FAO Elizabeth Robey and Claire Revans. We are available to help your child with practical issues such as equipment and uniform, trips and visits, and also general wellbeing. We can also help signpost to external services in the local area.

We look forward to meeting you in January. Please keep an eye on your emails for further details from us closer to the time.

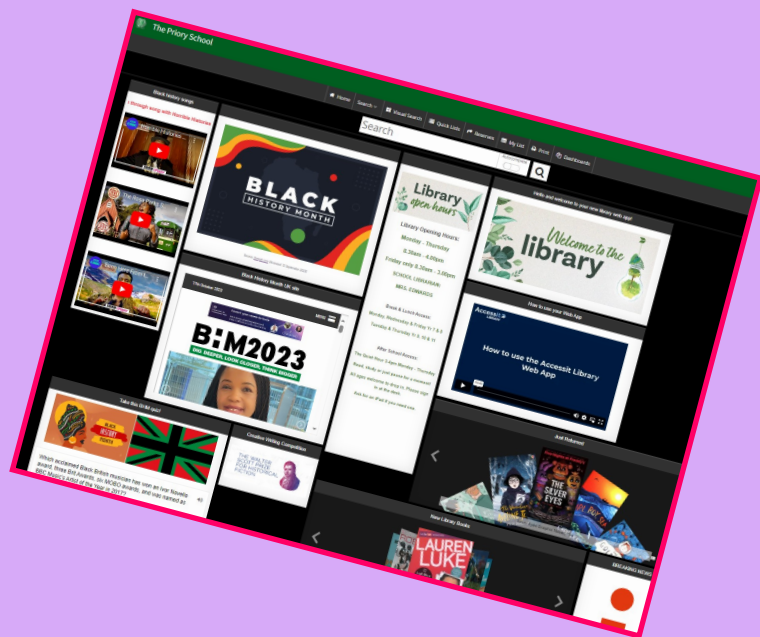


Our school library offers a safe space and an extensive range of books and activities for all students to enhance their reading experience. Here's a rundown of what's currently happening

A busy autumnal start to the academic year with over 600 visitors on average each week, 700+ books issued so far, Year 7 library inductions, National Poetry Day and Black History month. As part of our efforts to encourage more reading at home, we've also launched a new Library Loyalty Check Out Challenge. Pick up a challenge sheet in the library, read more at home and earn house learning awards. It's a rewarding way to bring more reading into our daily routine.

New Reading Pod & Pupil Librarians

The Reading Pod is proving to be very popular! Within this cosy book nook, pupils can relax and listen to audio-books during library lessons or do paired/group reading together. We've also been busy training up a helpful team of pupil librarians. All new members of the library team now have their official badges and have spent their first weeks helping students in the library, keeping the sections tidy and shelving all the book returns. Pupil librarians of the term awards have recently gone to Lucy Nealon 9N (Summer 1), Dan McCloud (Summer 2) and Kai Bourne 9H (Autumn 1). All three have been rewarded with a new book of their choice and a house learning award. We're wrapping up this half-term with a celebration pupil librarian breakfast!



Online Library

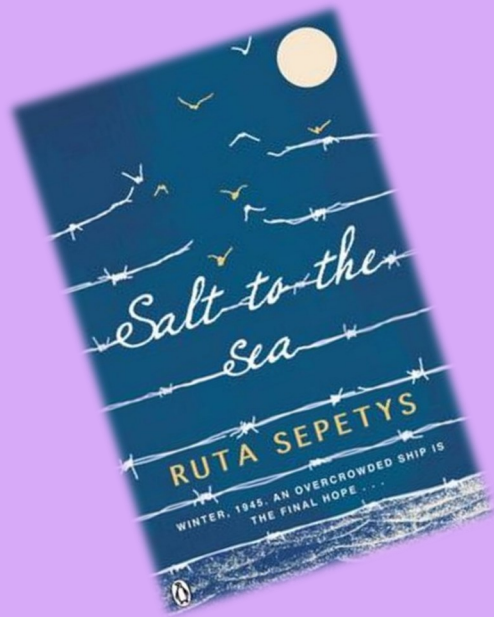
Remember students can browse the school library 24/7 and reserve or renew books online. Use the link here <https://uk.accessit.online/thp05> or use the *Access the School Library* link on the school website. The library homepage is refreshed regularly, and we currently have up Black History links, writing competitions and Halloween activities posted on there. If your child enjoys sharing their thoughts on the books they read, then our Book Review Competition is perfect.

To enter, simply search up a book, click 'write a review' and post on the school library homepage. The best online book review every month wins a £10 gift voucher of choice! September's winner was Maisie Evason-Genn in 9P for her review of *Salt To The Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (on next page). She chose a £10 Amazon voucher.



Salt To The Sea by Ruta Sepetys Book Review

When someone asks me why I love this book, I answer "where do I start?". This book is one of my all-time favourites, making me laugh and cry for a whole hour through the last pages. It is set in 1945 in World War Two, East Prussia and follows the stories of four people evacuating their home countries. Florian is an artist from Prussia escaping some dark secrets. His story is my favourite and I imagine him as strong, brave and good looking. Please tell me if anyone else likes him as well? I think Joanna is a bad-ass nurse who won't take no for an answer and won't let the war sway her moral compass. Emilia is a sweet character whose story is difficult to read, I cried a lot. But is it just me who thinks that Alfred is really annoying?? Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone who loves a gripping heart wrenching book and to anyone who is not afraid to cry a lot and I mean A LOT. These characters meet on an evacuation ship called the Wilhelm Gustloff a military transport ship that sadly went to join the Titanic.



Top Reads

The most popular books in the library this term:

The Sad Ghost Club, Heartstopper and Five Nights at Freddy's series. Followed by Escape Room by Christopher Edge, The Haunting of Aveline Jones by Phil Hickes, Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick, The Catastrophic Friendship Fails of Lottie Brooks by Katie Kirby and as always Anita and Me by Meera Syal!



Diversity Leaders



As diversity leaders, we want to **promote** diversity.

In the summer term, we as a group, came up with a range of ideas to celebrate Diversity Week.

We had activities such as stone painting, flag competitions, and a very successful flamenco dancing class where we saw some amazing dancers! To put a finish to the week, on Friday, we held a cultural fair in the mail hall. This was a very popular event visited by most students and staff. Students made food from all different countries across the world and sold it for charity. It was a great opportunity to try new foods and raise money.

We thought it was a very successful way to celebrate and have had a lot of positive feedback! We are looking forward to continue celebrating diversity at The Priory School.



House RUN



Congratulations to Parks House for winning the 2023 House Run! Another great occasion at The Priory School with a field full of colour, enthusiasm, and excitement from all students and staff.

Netball

Our Year 11 Netball Team faced Meole Brace on Wednesday 27th September after school, a good match, with Priory coming out on top, winning 20-8. Well done to Caitlin Poutney on being chosen as 'player of the match!'



The Year 9 netball team competed in the Shropshire County Netball Tournament on Mon 2nd October. A good team performance, winning two of their matches. Thanks to Shrewsbury High for hosting!



Student SPOTLIGHT



*Iris
Aimer*

During September, Iris Aimer (9N), took part in the Under 15s County Squash Tournament and finished in 2nd place!

Iris has been playing squash for many years now and has dreams of playing in the British Open in years to come. Well done, Iris — a fantastic result

Student SPOTLIGHT

*Manon
Closs*



One of our students, Manon Closs in 9N, has been selected to play in midfield for Shropshire Under 14s Football Team, after two selection trials during September. Manon is a keen sports player who, as well as being a fantastic footballer, also recently crossed the line in First Place in the Year 9 House Run. Well done Manon, from all of us at The Priory!

Student SPOTLIGHT



Harry

M-J

Harry Marston-Jones (8A) has recently taken part in the Regional West Midlands Road Race Relay in Birmingham representing Shrewsbury Athletics.

This event involved a relay of 3 athletes per team, running 1.6km each. Harry and his relay team ran a super race and, from the 47 competing teams from all over the West Midlands, qualified for the Nationals.

The Nationals took place in October and 60 qualifying regional teams came from all over the country. This race was slightly longer with each athlete running 3.88 km and was not an easy course.

However, Harry and his relay team ran another super race. Harry was running the second part of the relay, with his team mate finishing the first lap in fifth position. Harry maintained this strong position and also finished his lap in fifth position, apparently managing to stay ahead of the fastest relay runner (from London) in the country in their age range. Unfortunately, the third member of their relay team was unwell, but showed real team commitment and resilience, not wanting to let his team mates down or have them disqualified, he managed to complete the race, bringing them home in 14th position.

Well done Harry, who did The Priory School proud. It was a tricky route and, despite not having the psychological benefit of knowing the course, are now officially in the top 14 road relay teams in the country!

Student SPOTLIGHT

*Alina
Sakhno
9F*



Alina Sakhno was featured in a Shropshire Star article ([read it here](#)) recently after participating in a cultural event at *The Hive* in Shrewsbury.

“ A full house at The Hive in Shrewsbury, including the town's mayor Becky Wall, witnessed refugees share their musical and culinary talents. Traditional songs and dances were performed, before an array of sweet and savoury dishes were served ... ”



Alina with organiser, Mila Prisyazhna. Photo: Lora Arkhypenko

Student Support

REFERRALS

Children and young people's social prescribing is available for those in school year 7 and above up to age 18, across the whole of Shropshire.

You can refer yourself to Social prescribing by **calling 0345 678 9028 Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm**

and selecting the self-referral to social prescribing option.

Or you can email healthylives@shropshire.gov.uk with the subject "social prescribing self-referral"

Alternatively you can ask for a referral from your school



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT

- GET ACTIVE
- GET OUTDOORS
- GET INSPIRED
- GET CHILLED
- GET CONNECTED
- GET EXPRESSIVE



SOCIAL PRESCRIBING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ADVICE

TIPS

SUPPORT

HELP

healthylives@shropshire.gov.uk

WHAT WE

DO

Social prescribing is a non-medical approach to improving your health and wellbeing, focussing on what matters to you.

Social prescribing is not designed to replace medical support, but getting involved with local groups and activities can help you feel better faster than medicine alone.

Your Healthy Lives advisor may introduce you to a community group, a new activity or a local club. They could help you meet new people, find information or access advice about an issue.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY



"I felt listened to and heard.
I felt valued and respected.
I never felt pressured."

"You have helped me believe in myself more, which is helping my confidence. I really like talking to you, you listen to me."

"I have been able to interact with others better, just from the simple act of smiling at people."

WHO IS

IT FOR ?

- Young people who feel isolated and want support to meet other people
- Young people who feel low or a little anxious and may feel better joining a social group
- Young people who have a health condition which can be supported through community activities
- Young people who need support with support and advice on practical issues such as housing or money
- Young people who need support with their wellbeing and education

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+
In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original ... and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers

...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except ...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'locked chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://iaq.whatsapp.com/107708839582332> | https://iaq.whatsapp.com/36106898189245/?helpref=ho_inav
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>
<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

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Shrewsbury
Town Council



Young Shrewsbury's Youth Clubs are Back!

*September 2023....It's ALL totally **FREE!***

Mon - Grange Juniors 6:30-8:30pm (Y7-10)

Tues - "Youth Café" @ The Hive 4-6pm (Y7-11)

Wed – "Sundorne Youthie" 6:30-8:30pm (Y7-11)

Wed - Pre-Juniors @ The Grange 6-8pm (Y5&6)

**Thurs - Football and Tennis Coaching @ Monkmoor Rec
5-7pm** *(our detached Youth team will be working in the Monkmoor area)*

Young Shrewsbury's Youth Club Sessions include:

1. **Sport** - Football, hockey, rounders, badminton, Pool and table tennis.
2. **Arts & Crafts** - including paper crafts, painting, sand art, Hama Beads, jewellery making and wool craft.
3. **Cookery & Food** - including Pizza, Chocolate Brownies, Toasties, Fruit smoothies and Shortbread.
4. **Music, Film, Performing Arts & Drama**

**Contact the Youth & Community Manager Andy Hall
for more Information 01743 344800 or 07976020819**

andy.hall@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

"Come and Join the fun!"

YOUTH CLUB

5TH SEPT-20TH DEC **2023**

FREE!

MON

GRANGE JUNIORS 6.30-8.30PM
year 7 - year 10

TUE

YOUTH CAFE @ THE HIVE 4-6PM
year 7 - year 10

WED

SUNDORNE YOUTHIE 6.30-8.30PM
year 7 - year 11

WED

GRANGE PRE-JUNIORS 6-8PM
year 5 - year 6

THUR

MONKMOOR FOOTBALL & TENNIS
year 7 - year 10

sports, arts & crafts, music, movies, cookery, performing arts etc

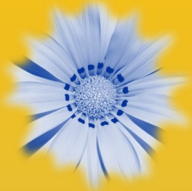


andy 01743 344800 or 07976 020819
andy.hall@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

to book & for
more info.



Shrewsbury
Town Council



Beam

Shropshire
Telford and Wrekin

**The
Children's
Society**

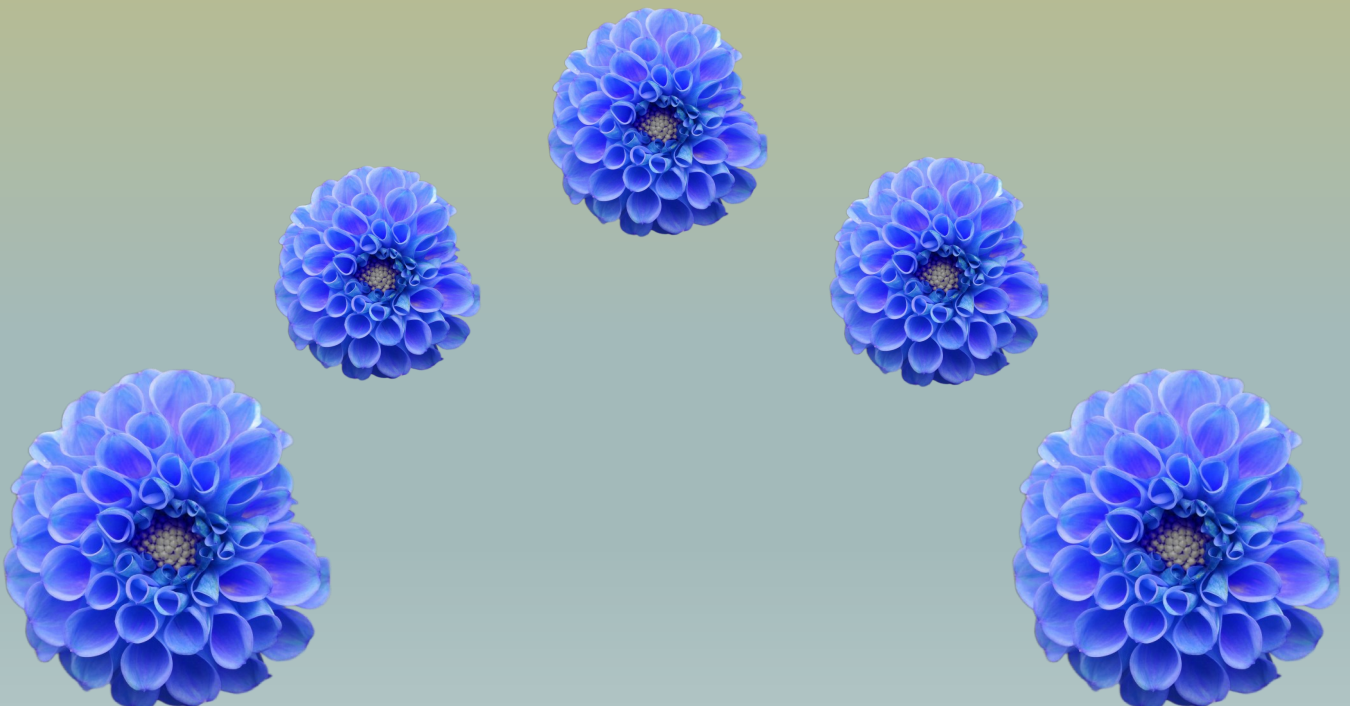
**EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25**

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.



Family Drop-In

Here to help

Free information, advice and support

Come along to:

Sunflower House, Kendal Road,
Shrewsbury, SY1 4ES

Every Tuesday from
9:30 am—12:30pm.



You can meet:

- Early Help Family Worker
- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service
- Autism West Midlands Service (AWM)
- Health Visiting Team
- Parenting Support Team
- Strengthening Families Employment Advisor
- Mental Health Support Team (5-18 years)
- Family Information Service



Supporting families with children aged 0-19 years (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities)

We aim to make it easier for you to ask for help and get support when you need it.



www.shropshire.gov.uk



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be **disposable** (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or **rechargeable** (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction; that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in addressing and reducing smoking and vaping behaviours.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS
CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

The National College

Source: <https://www.bcc.gov.uk/news/health-09101924>



www.thenationalcollege.co.uk



@thenatcollege



/thenationalcollege

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Hear from Chat with

A chance for families of children with disabilities or special additional needs to meet services from education, health and social care. Plus Shropshire Parent and Carer Council.

The theme for Autumn is Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support, Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews.

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help

Mon 13 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
The Centre, Oswestry, SY11 1LW

Mon 20 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
Sunflower House, Shrewsbury, SY1 4E

Fri 1 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Raven House, Market Drayton, TF9 3AH

Thu 14 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Helena Lane Community Centre,
Ludlow, SY8 2NP



Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin



Shropshire
Strengthening
Families





SCHOOL SHOP



The school shop stocks revision guides, flash cards and other materials to aid revision along with general stationery, filled exam pencil cases and scientific calculators. All items are sold at extremely competitive rates.

The shop order form can be found on the school's website in the Useful Forms section in the Parents' menu. Please complete the form and follow the instructions in the box on the front of the form regarding payment and processing your order. Your purchased items should be released within 3 to 4 days following receipt of your order.

Please ensure you only use the current and most up-to-date order form on the website as the stock and prices do vary.

The email address to use is: pri-schoolshop@pri.318education.co.uk



DESIGNER EVENING WEAR

HUGE SAVINGS OFF
THE RRPS

200 GOWNS
MUST GO

ALL
DRESSES
£15-£70
EACH

FIRST COME
FIRST SERVED

20TH OCT TO
5TH NOV ONLY

CASH ONLY
SORRY, NO REFUNDS
OR EXCHANGES

LOWER LEVEL
DARWIN CENTRE
SY1 1PL
07436 809903





ALUMNI UPDATE



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

We are delighted to have 196 past students who have now joined The Priory School Alumni. Twenty five are recent students who left us in July 2023, which is great news!

It is so interesting to see what our students have been doing since they left school. I have listed some examples below. We also have Alumni living all over the world such as in Australia, Sweden, New Zealand and New York!

- * Environmental Consultant
- * Automotive Sector Engineer
- * Chartered Accountant
- * Product Director Media and Entertainment
- * 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
- * Business Manager for a music management company
- * Professional Cricketer Head Coach
- * Veterinarian
- * CEO of a software development company in Belgrade, Serbia
- * Solicitor in criminal and property law
- * Freelance Illustrator
- * Rare Book Librarian
- * Show Groom/Rider
- * Sports (rugby) coach



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 like Computer Science, Drama, English, Geography, and PE.

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/](https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/community/alumni/) We would love to hear from you.

We have a dedicated wall in school where some of our Alumni pen portraits are displayed for students and staff to see. We also have a selection on the web-site.

If you are a member of our Alumni, we would love to hear about your life since you have left school. If you would like to send us a pen portrait, for further details please contact [san- dra.cooper@pri.318education.co.uk](mailto:sandra.cooper@pri.318education.co.uk)

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/](https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/community/alumni/) we would love to hear from you.



Are you ready to inspire the next generation?

Train to Teach with

Salop Teaching Partnership

Our School Led Secondary PGCE programme is delivered in collaboration with the University of Chester from our Lead School The Priory in Shrewsbury

Train to Teach in our partner schools across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin alongside outstanding practitioners



STP - School Led Teacher Training

Contact us to find out more

stp@pri.318education.co.uk

www.salopteachingpartnership.co.uk



University of
Chester





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

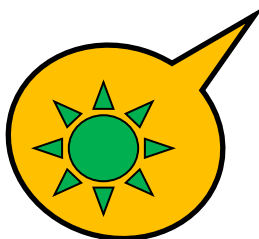
OUR SOCIALS

Out!

[Looking Ahead for Parents/Carers HERE](#)



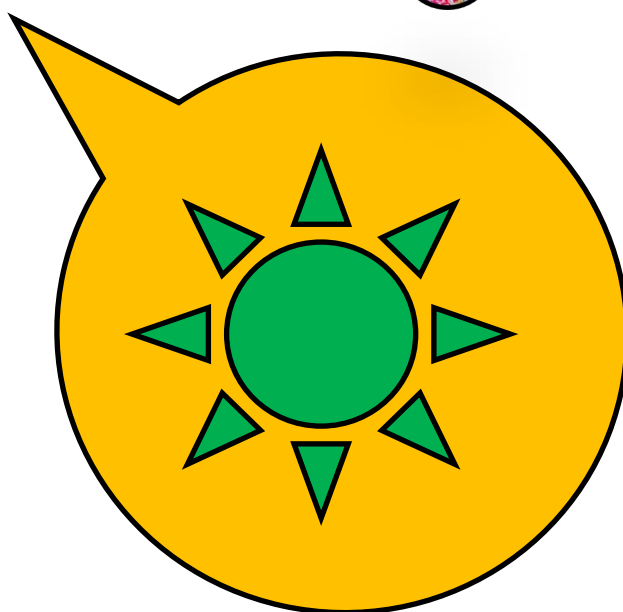
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<https://priory.tpstrust.co.uk/>