



The Priory School

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

01743 284000

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

www.tpstrust.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to the start of the new term. Pupils have arrived back in a very positive frame of mind; behaviour and attitudes have been excellent in lessons and around school, although they are starting to look a little tired already! Thank you for your support around the new arrival time and uniform; punctuality has been good and they are looking very smart.

Just a few updates from me for the start of the academic year:

Lanyards

Every student is given a lanyard and ID card which allows them to open the access controlled doors and move around school. The card is also used to release printing and purchase food from the canteen. The lanyard and card form part of the uniform and it is expected that students bring them into school daily. **As the lanyard is part of our school uniform policy sanctions will apply if they are not worn.** If your child loses or damages their card or lanyard, replacements can be purchased on parentpay. **For Years 8-11 the expectation is that they will bring their lanyard from last year, new ones are not re-issued.**

Attendance

Our attendance for this week has been 96.5%, slightly surpassing our whole school target of 96%. Year 11 and Year 7 are leading the way with 97% attendance, Year 8 96%, Year 10 94% and Year 9 92.9%.

We do not set this target in relation to any external benchmarking or attendance measures. It is simply because it is pupils whose attendance is around this mark achieve their target grades or higher; regardless of their starting points or predictions. The Department for Education places the 90% and below as persistently absent, this is 9 or more days off across the course of the year. It may feel as if your child is not absent often but this can accrue quite quickly.

Our recent exam results demonstrated that those pupils in the 90% or above category performed, on average, one grade higher across their subjects than those pupils below 90%. Even missing one day per week over the course of the academic year can lead to significant learning gaps. However, school is more importantly about social skills, building friendships and participating in our wider holistic offer and helps support pupils' emotional development. Please encourage school attendance and its importance at home.

There are no stipulations on how long a child should remain absent if unwell for any illness and we need to move forward from the pandemic mindset of isolation or staying away from school for too long. This is where we have witnessed more emotional school avoidance settling in, for extended periods of time. Please communicate with us at the earliest stages if you have any concerns; via your child's tutor or Head of House. **We need notification on each day of your child's absence and**

those away from school for 5 days or more will need a safe and well check from our attendance team.

If you are requesting any absence during school time then you will need to complete the school authorised absence form and forward on to Priory Attendance. However, **please note I cannot authorise any holiday during term time and fines may be issued.**

Please see the school website's attendance section for further details [Attendance \(tpstrust.co.uk\)](https://tpstrust.co.uk)

Participation

All pupils have received a school assembly this week, around the importance of participation and enjoying school. I have attached the list of clubs and events for this term. No prior booking or payment is needed for these. We have challenged all pupils to attend at least one club per week and to try something new. We see a significant correlation between those pupils who join in, with those who achieve success in Year 11. House Music is our big event for this term. **Please tell them it doesn't matter if they can't sing – the more the merrier – it's all about joining in and having fun!!** This is an event parents can attend, before the Christmas break and it would be wonderful to see you there with your child on stage.

Collection of pupils during the school day

We would request that, wherever possible, all medical and dental appointments are arranged outside of the school day. Where this is not possible pupils must be collected by a responsible adult or yourselves and we must have prior notification. They will not be permitted to sign out and leave independently. This procedure has been in place since the Spring term of 2024 and is for safeguarding reasons as we have responsibility for their safety during school hours.

Cost of the school minibus

I wrote to you in the summer term around the budget cuts we have faced as a school. We have also had to review the cost of our school minibus. As a school, we attend a wide range of sporting fixtures and wider school trips. We want to maintain this experience for pupils but the cost of running the school minibus has increased over recent months. If your child is taking part in a trip or fixture which involves the use of the minibus there will now be a notification of a £2 charge per trip to pay. For those pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding this charge will not apply. If this charge poses an increased difficulty or barrier to your child attending, please contact school. It has not been an easy decision to reach and has not been taken lightly.

Travel to school

Please encourage your child to cycle or walk to school where this is possible. If you do have to collect or drop off, please do not park opposite a neighbouring property's driveway or in any of the bus stops around school. We have a Year 7 Bikeability course booked for the week beginning 30th September to ensure those cycling to school feel confident and safe.

Nut allergies

We have a number of pupils in school with nut allergies. To ensure we keep them as safe as possible could I please request that you do not send nuts or nut products in your child's packed lunch.

Access to school site

For health and safety reasons, we need to keep vehicle access onto school site to a minimum, especially once lessons have started as pupils have to use all areas of the playground to access classrooms on site.

Please do not drop off or pick up on school site unless your child has mobility issues which we are already aware of. If this applies, you will need to drop off and pick up in the delivery section before the barrier as collecting at the rear of school was causing too much traffic at peak points of the school day.

If you are coming onto school site for any other reason this needs to be by prior appointment, for example a pre-arranged meeting with a member of staff, the school office has contacted you to request you collect your child, or you are collecting your child for a medical appointment which has already been notified to school.

Open Evening

This takes place on Wednesday 25th September and school will close early **at 2pm.**

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to working closely with you over the coming year.

Kind regards

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

Mrs Pope