

March 2020

SCHOOL YEAR 2019/10 NEWSLETTER NO. 4

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It seems as though it was only a short time ago that I wrote to you with my first newsletter of 2020. Since then, the school has been rocked by the tragic death of one of our Year 10 students, Fraser Bennett. I have been incredibly impressed by the way in which our students have handled this devastating event and supported each other. We have been very grateful for the support that the school has received from organisations such as the Samaritans and the Local Authority, as well as from parents and the wider community. Needless to say, our pastoral teams will be keeping a watchful eye on our students – particularly those who were closest to Fraser - in the days, weeks and months ahead to ensure that continuing support is available for those who may find their loss more difficult to come to terms with.

The last half term was also busy with staff and students being involved in Sixth Form Interviews, Entry to Sixth Form and Preparation for GCSEs evening, plus a full programme of sporting fixtures and school trips, including a Sixth Form trip to [New York and Washington](#) during the half-term break. I have also delivered assemblies to all year groups on the dangers of the use of drugs, County Lines and the subsequent risks of becoming involved in criminal behaviour.

The school production is always one of the highlights in our year and [this year's performance of 'Our House'](#) did not disappoint. The set and costumes looked amazing, the singing and dancing by the cast was outstanding, as was the orchestra; the enthusiasm and sheer joy displayed by everyone involved was inspirational. Congratulations to everyone for all their hard work, commitment and dedication over the last few weeks and months. A special mention must be made of all the staff who have supported sales, the backstage, lighting and sound crews, as well as the staff, including senior colleagues who provided front of house support for the performances. Finally, none of this would have happened without the inspirational guidance from our superb Producer and Director, Mrs Cook and our outstanding Musical Director, Mr Bullas. Thanks to everyone who made this such a memorable event.

We are very pleased with the way that Year 9 students have settled in and are looking forward to meeting parents at the forthcoming Year 9 Parents' Evening. It has also been a pleasure

Photos from
'Our House'



to meet so many of you at our recent Parents' Evenings for students in Years 10 and 12. Thank you for the support that you do give to the school. My colleagues greatly appreciate it, and together, we are trying to maximise the potential of every single student.

Students in Year 10 are about to embark on internal examinations. Students, particularly in Years 11 and 13, will be expected to respond to the challenges of the final phases of their GCSE and A-Level courses respectively. Good study habits are vitally important and thorough revision in the lead-up to those final examinations in the summer must take precedence. In Year 9, students will shortly be making their subject choices for study in Year 10 and 11. All these challenges require family support and good communication to ensure that students do not leave important planning, discussion or revision to the last minute. Finally, if your son/daughter seems unduly daunted by the challenges facing them, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff, eg their Form Tutor, Subject Teacher or Head of Year.

Staff Update

Congratulations to Mrs O'Loughlin, who gave birth to a daughter in early February.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs August back to school at the end of her maternity leave.

Mr Kelly is currently away from school, recovering from an operation. He is making good progress and we hope to see him again soon. In the meantime, we have been delighted to welcome back Mr Dowling, who taught at Prince Henry's for 10 years until 2014, to cover for Mr Kelly's absence.

School Uniform

We are very proud of the school uniform worn by our students in the lower school and Sixth Form. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students come to school smartly every day. [The link here takes you to a page on our website detailing our school uniform requirements.](#) Please be aware of the school rules concerning piercings, hair styles, outdoor coats and electronic devices.

Attendance

Our attendance figure currently stands at 95% and compares to 95.8% at the same point last year. Our current Persistent Absence figure against the government threshold of 10%, stands at 8.4% and considerable work is being undertaken by Mrs Barker and the attendance team to support students whose attendance has been impacted for a variety of health or other issues. I cannot emphasise enough the fact that good school attendance significantly correlates to success.



Little Hampton Art Competition



STEM Day



Evesham Nursery Trip



U16 Table Tennis Champions



Sixth Form New York Trip

Homework

Just as a gentle reminder: I have posted copies of the letters sent home to Year 9, 10 and 11 parents at the start of the academic year [regarding homework onto the website in the Parents & Students area](#). Homework reinforces what is learned in class. It goes without saying that if students adopt good working practices at home this inevitably enhances their overall learning and performance. We encourage all parents to support good attitudes to learning at home. Show My Homework is a very useful aid to help parents keep track of the homework that has been set for their children. Students are also expected to record their homework in their school planners and these should be checked and signed on a weekly basis by parents.

DfE Performance Tables

At the end of January, the Department for Education published the examination results for all English schools on their website. These performance tables can be found using these links: [Prince Henry's specific data](#) and for [all secondary schools in Worcestershire](#). Performance tables do provide a clear indication to the progress made by the students in a school, and Prince Henry's features favourably, but they cannot tell the whole story, in terms of the outstanding nurture, support and guidance that many schools provide.

Parents Who Bring Their Children to School by Car

I have been asked by Mr Freeman to remind you about the issues concerning access to the school site at the start and end of the school day and to ask for your co-operation with this important safeguarding matter.

With 14 school buses dropping children off in the morning and picking them up again in the evening, plus staff and Sixth Form students accessing and leaving the school's car parks, parents using any part of Victoria Avenue, the other nearby side roads, or indeed the school car park, to drop children off in the morning and to pick them up in the evening cause serious problems for the bus drivers, local residents and for the school.

On occasions the congestion caused by parents parking in the street or the school car park poses a major problem with traffic becoming jammed and unable to move all the way back to the main road. I would therefore ask you to ensure that if you bring your child to school by car, you drop them off on Greenhill well away from the entrance to Victoria Avenue (but also ensuring that visibility is not blocked for motorists trying to access Greenhill from other side streets). Thank you for your help.

Teaching School: SCITT & Internship Programme

The growth of a school-led system for Initial Teacher Training is providing opportunities for all new entrants to the profession to be trained by practising professionals in outstanding schools, including Prince Henry's SCITT. The SCITT received its endorsement through its recent Ofsted Inspection when they stated: 'The high-quality centre- and school-based training has contributed fully to ensuring the outcomes of trainees are at least good or, for a majority in 2019, outstanding'.

We have already secured a number of trainee teachers for September 2020 across a range of subjects and will be interviewing further applicants during the next few weeks. However, we still have some vacancies for September 2020 across a range of Subjects including Computer Science, MFL, Chemistry, Maths, English, Geography Physical Education to name but a few. For further details visit our SCITT website at: <http://www.princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk/scitt>), and follow us on twitter at: [@PHHS SCITT](#).

We also have regular Train to Teach Open Mornings and further details can be obtained from our Teaching School Administrator, Ros Fenney, by contacting: RFenney@princehenrys.worcs.sch.uk.

For the last four years, Prince Henry's has successfully run a Paid Internship Scheme for potential teachers of Maths and Physics. We are pleased to confirm that we will be offering the same programme towards the end of the Summer Term 2020. The programme is open to undergraduates

in any year group who are currently studying a STEM-related degree such as Maths, Physics or Engineering. Candidates will be paid £1,200 for a four-week placement at Prince Henry's, or one of our partner schools including Pershore, The Chase, South Bromsgrove and The Chantry High Schools. The aim of the programme is to attract new entrants to teaching much earlier in their degrees and to give the interns a real insight into the workings of a school and the day-to-day lives of teachers. For further information, contact Ros Fenney, as above.

Parent View

I am drawing Parent View to your attention because your voice will be essential in terms of the judgement Prince Henry's receives in its next inspection and can help us to achieve another Outstanding outcome. As you know, my colleagues and I are very impressed with the way our students contribute to the school and the vast majority of students we meet and talk to seem very content and happy in their learning. If you are a parent or carer, you simply need your email address and a password to register on the Parent View website at <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>, or by clicking on the Parent View logo on this page. This link will take you straight there. Once your login has been activated it only takes a few minutes to rate Prince Henry's against the 12 questions. You can also look at the views of some of our other parents. My staff and I would be very appreciative for five minutes of your time to kindly complete this survey for us. Thank you for your support with this.



House System

The House system, which involves students across all year groups, is designed to engage students with school life in a range of extra-curricular activities. This year, for the first time, the school held elections for the appointment of the School House Ambassadors, who represent each House on the House Council. Additionally, House Leaders (drawn from the Sixth Form) have been developing the House System further, in conjunction with their Heads of House. Further information is available in the [Students & Parents area of the school website](#).

The current House standings are as follows:

House	Total House Points
Lichfield	12,628
Holland	11,498
Workman	11,400
Deacle	11,251
Burlingham	10,858
TOTAL	57,635



PHHS Interact

Our highly committed [Interact group has had another busy half term](#). They celebrated Valentine's Day by selling roses, cards and cakes. Interact is very busy organising the Spring Variety Show, an evening of fun and entertainment, which will feature performances by a number of our talented students. It is taking place at 7pm on Friday 20th March in the Arts Theatre. Tickets will shortly be on sale via the school website and all proceeds will be going towards our chosen charities for the homeless and environmental projects.



PHHS Interact is also organising a family day out on 29th March at The Walled Gardens, Croome Court, to celebrate the thousands of crocus bulbs planted for World Polio Day. Family tickets will be £5, a huge saving on the usual admission price. Details will be on the school website shortly.

We have recently received a photograph from the school in Sri Lanka which has been able to build a wash block with toilets, washbasins and a drinking water tap, as a result of the funds raised from our non-uniform day during the last academic year. Their new facilities were completed in November 2019.

The group is always looking for new members and the tireless commitment and enthusiasm shown by these students is an absolute credit to the school. Thank you to everyone involved, particularly Mrs Taylor, Mrs Page-Jones, Mrs De Silva Morgan, Mrs Fordham and Mrs Lungley, for all their hard work.



Sports News

There have been some exceptional sporting performances already this year, as well as a full programme of fixtures across a range of sports.

In a fitting tribute to Fraser Bennett, who was a key member of the squad, our [U15 Rugby Team won the Worcester and District Cup Final at Sixways on 27th February](#). Following a minute's silence that was observed by both teams before kick-off, they beat Dyson Perrins 27-7. We were very moved that the Bennett family were able to watch the game before awarding the Fraser Bennett Man of the Match Award to Bartholomew Wilson, who scored a hat trick of tries.

The U14 Rugby team has also reached their respective final in the same competition. The U16 Rugby team finished as runners-up in the North Midlands Cup competition – the first time they had reached the final for twenty years.

Once again, our table tennis teams have enjoyed success. Having won the [County and Regional Championships](#), our U16 Girls are one of four teams to make it to the National Finals, whilst the U16 Boys were crowned County Champions. Beth Pye and Harvey Gough, who won their respective U16 County Championships, have qualified for the English Schools National Finals.

Our Badminton and Tennis teams have also enjoyed success. The U18 Tennis team came runners-up in the Regional Finals after a nail-biting tie-break. Our U14 and U16 Boys' and Girls' teams all won the recent District Championships, with the U14 Girls going on to finish 3rd in the County Championships.

Our runners did extremely well at the recent District Cross Country Championships, with five students winning their respective races. In the County Finals, Megan Davis finished 7th overall, and will now be part of the Hereford & Worcestershire team that will run in the National Finals.

My congratulations go to all these students and we wish those involved all the best for their forthcoming competition events. My thanks also go to staff and parents for their support.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 4th March
Thursday 5th March
Thursday 12th March
16th – 23rd March
Friday 20th March
Tuesday 24th March
1st – 7th April
1st – 5th April
Friday 3rd April
Monday 20th April

Year 9 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Destinations Day
Year 11 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Exams
Interact Spring Variety Show, 7pm, Arts Theatre
Year 13 Parents' Evening
Year 10 Berlin Trip
Year 10 Netherlands Trip
End of term, 3.35pm
Term re-starts (Week 2)

Best wishes,



Dr Tony Evans
Headteacher

