



THE PRIORY ACADEMY
LSST

22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of these first seven weeks of this academic year, I would like to thank you, our parents and carers, for the continued support you show your children and us. It has been an absolute privilege this term to work with the young people here at the Academy; they truly have been inspiring since September. We must congratulate them for their enthusiasm and participation for activities both within and outside of the classroom; always embracing the many opportunities that are presented to them. There has not been a day gone by without a student providing us all with a smile from either an individual success or act of kindness.

It has been lovely to welcome nearly 400 Year 6 families to our Academy this module. Our sincerest thanks to our 6th Form students who supported the tours; we could not have achieved this without you.

After several months working in year group bubbles, it is exciting to once again be able to deliver the curriculum within specialist teaching rooms, meaning that resources and materials are readily on hand to support teaching and learning. This is all to the benefit of the students who have easier, immediate engagement in the lessons and who relish the opportunity to get involved more frequently in the practical aspects of the curriculum.

It has been great to see many of our extra-curricular activities up and running again that could not take place over the last couple of years due to COVID-19. Our library has been full every lunch and every day after school with numerous clubs such as chess club and origami club. In addition, numerous sports clubs are back up and running such as netball, football, rugby and trampoline club with hundreds of students getting involved. On the performance side, casting is close to completion for our upcoming academy show 'Chicago', which we will be showing in February. No doubt it will be another fantastic performance.

It was brilliant to see so many students wear yellow items to support Mental Health Day. Over £500 was raised to support Young Minds. After a close vote, students have decided that this year non-uniform day will be on the 4th February 2022, which is World Cancer Day; all funds raised will support both Macmillan and St Barnabas. Next module we will have events for Children in Need, shoebox collections and our collection for the Lincoln Food bank. Today the first few shoeboxes started their journey to Eastern Europe to make Christmas presents and spread some joy this festive season. Link to Hope sends shoeboxes to people in need, no matter what their religion or race. There is still time to hand one in. Make sure it is handed in to your year office by the 1st November so it can make it there in time for Christmas. Do not forget to fill in the leaflet and attach the £3 transport costs. Thank you to all those who have donated so far.

Module Grades will be issued to all students on Friday 22nd October. Year 11 will receive attainment grades for courses to reflect current attainment. The attainment grades for Year 13 are grades which teachers predict students should achieve at the end of the courses. Year 11 begin a full set of 'mock' examinations on 15th November. A timetable has been emailed to all students. There is an 'Examinations Briefing' on Thursday 11th November at 6pm for all parents, carers and students in Year 11 and

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13; we will make clear the processes we expect to be in place for Summer 2022 examinations. Year 10 will have a mock examination in RE on 29th November and a follow up parent/carer meeting in the spring term to help students prepare for their final examination in RE.

Thank you for your ongoing support with upholding our standards of uniform. If there are any areas of uniform about which you are unsure, please continue to contact the relevant Form Tutor or Pastoral Manager to work through any issues. May I also remind you of the academy approach to mobile phones. To ensure they are not a distraction to learning we stipulate that phones must be switched off and put away from 8.20 until 15.05. During this time, unless a student is directed to use a phone for a specific learning activity by a member of staff, phones must not be used. If a student is found to be using their phone, then it will be confiscated by the member of staff, stored securely and returned to the student at the end of the academy day. If there are repeated occasions where a student has a phone confiscated then we will ask parents/carers to come in to collect the phone and discuss the matter further. If you ever need to contact your child during the academy day, please do so through main reception and if your child needs to contact home during the day, this too should be done through main reception, not through using mobile phones. Many thanks for your continued support with this.

As we enter the darker winter months, please continue to support students in being safe and responsible on their journeys to and from the Academy. Following recent correspondence may we also remind you that with the commencement of the building work converting the Boarding House to teaching accommodation, there is no longer any parking available at the top of Urban Street beyond the green gates. This also means that students should not be picked up or dropped off at the top of Urban Street or the top of Clayton Road. It is important these areas are kept clear.

With the number of Covid cases increasing nationally we have once again been asked to remind all students to remember to take a LFD test twice weekly and to test the day prior to returning to the Academy for the next module. A further distribution of test kits will be distributed after half term.

B. W. Overstreet, an author, poet and psychologist quotes "October is a symphony of performance and change". A statement we have certainly seen reflected across the Academy this term by both our students' successes and participation in activities that are new for them. Therefore, after such a busy term I do hope our students find some time to relax and recharge. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the Academy on Monday 1st November 2021 with the same enthusiasm they have shown this module.

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Hopkinson
Headteacher