

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Dear Parents/Carers

As always, at the end of a term, I wish to update you with news from this term and developments for the Academy as we look ahead into a busy Module 5 and 6 where external examinations play a key role for all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Remember for the most important and up to date news stories please view <https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/> and then the News tab. Alternatively you can use Twitter, @PrioryLSST, or Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/priorylsst>. Besides our news stories, you will also find much more information on the website applicable to our Academy, amongst which are our term dates. Please be aware therefore, that subject to new guidance, all students will return on the same date after the summer break on **Wednesday 4th September 2019**.

Sadly, this term, we have said farewell to four members of staff: Mr Ginty, SSI and Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator; Mrs Mulligan, Teacher of English, Mr Barker, Year 11 Pastoral Learning Mentor and Mrs Piper, Student Reception. We would like to sincerely thank them all for all of their hard work and dedication they have given to the Academy and the support they have shown for our students. Moving forward, Mrs Thompson will lead on the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Miss Danby will take over Mrs Mulligan's English lessons and Mrs Nuttall will support Mrs Mellor and our Year 11 students as Pastoral Learning Mentor. In the Science department Mrs Moss has recently been confirmed in the post of Head of Science. For those taught by Mrs Arden in English you will be aware she commenced her maternity leave in February half term with most of her lessons now being taught by Miss Holmes. Miss Lockett also joined the English Department in January. Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to welcome back Mrs Mattheson, Teacher of Mathematics, Mr and Mrs Mason, Teachers of Science, Mrs Roylance-Smith, Teacher of Art and Mrs Thatcher, Teacher of RE and SLT, who have all returned after either maternity or paternity leave.

The Sixth Form has had a very busy term, with lots of events providing opportunities for our students, as well as some very good news for our Year 13 students regarding university offers. It has been exciting and nerve-wracking in equal measure as offers for all of our students have been arriving on a daily basis. At the time of writing we have eight students who have offers to study at Oxbridge, eight students who have received offers to study Medicine and seven students who have received offers to study Veterinary Medicine. As the journey through UCAS comes to a close for Year 13 and they begin to focus on their upcoming examinations, Year 12 have started preparing for their UCAS applications. This module has seen students have access to an "Employability in STEM" workshop, the UCAS Exhibition held at Lincoln University, university visits to Nottingham, Sheffield, Loughborough and Leicester and a "Street Law" workshop for potential lawyers. In addition to all of these opportunities the Academy hosted our annual Oxbridge Conference on Friday 22nd March, which saw almost 500 students from all over the county receive specific and tailored advice to help support applications to Oxbridge and Medicine/Veterinary Medicine. It is at this time of year that we say thank you to our outgoing team of senior students and it is

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Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 135565



with great delight that I announce the following students have been successful in the application process to replace them: Head Boy - William Ghest; Head Girl - Sophie O'Boyle; Deputy Head Boy - Jack Bell; Deputy Head Girl - Joanna Moomba; Senior Prefects - Jack Foot, Oliver Humphreys, Hayley Pankhurst and Yasmin Rickaby. I am confident they will do an excellent job in supporting staff to uphold our Academy values. As well as the formal A level examinations beginning for Year 13 in Module 5, there is also the annual examination period for Year 12. These examinations are being held in the first full week after Easter (w/b 29th April).

Our Fundraising and Community Team (FACT) have continued to have much success this module. On Tuesday evenings they have run our Masterclass Café raising over £400 for Teenage Cancer Research. They did a lot of work to help run and organise our Comic Relief Event 'Teachers do Something Funny for Money'. During the event students donated what they could afford throughout the week and in return their teachers completed a series of tasks. The more students raised, the more challenging and amusing the tasks became. We had 'lip sync' battles, 'Fortnite' dances, rap battles and one teacher dressed as Taylor Swift singing 'Shake it Off'! Students got to witness two sets of 'Bush Tucker' trials with teachers eating locusts, scorpions and drinking vomit fruit smoothies. Some teachers had to eat pancakes in a variety of awkward positions with some awful toppings. Other teachers dressed up in a variety of outfits such as scuba diving gear, a lama outfit and sumo suits having a sumo match. Finally some students got to throw wet sponges at teachers, pour buckets of gunge over their heads and even wax the Assistant Head's legs! This resulted in a fantastic total of over £2,300 raised for Comic Relief. A superb achievement and many thanks to everyone who donated and supported these events. I can also now confirm the final fundraising total in relation to our 25th Anniversary Celebration in October was £5423.67; another amazing achievement to all those involved, and another special mention to Mr Brock for all of his support and coordination.

Details of our Priory Association, the parent / teacher group, can also be found on our website. This year they have donated £400 towards the Year 7 Book Buzz event, which enabled the author Curtis Joblin to pay a visit. They have also held a successful family quiz evening this year and have supported the prize giving event held in December by providing a bar. They recently raised over £415 whilst supporting our academy musical on two nights, which can now be used to support extracurricular events for all students, and they are now in the throes of organising a Lincoln wide cycling event for next year. The Priory Association will always welcome support to assist in their fundraising endeavours and further information can be found on our website under the *Parents* tab.

We are pleased to report on the continued dedication our students have to our House System. The past module has seen a mix of House Competitions and Events. There have been some creative entries to the Library Competitions, particularly the short stories, which just shows that we have some talented writers. We have been running a Staff House Competition with prizes every week where they have to solve a mysterious question each Monday. Who knew staff would be so competitive? We have also run Awareness competitions promoting wellbeing, in line with our academy focus on mental health. The wellbeing posters will be displayed around the Academy and will provide suggestions on how to reduce stress. Another Awareness competition is to design a Cycle Safety poster which will eventually be printed in the daybook for next year. This will make our students more mindful of the hazards involved in cycling to and from school. Towards the end of this module there will be our first Priory Great Escape event for the whole of Year 9, where they will be taken off timetable to crack a code through a combination of physical activities and a range of question rounds. As well as this, the run up to Easter sees our House Eggstravaganza with a range of events every day such as an Egg Hunt and Easter Kahoots. Thank you to

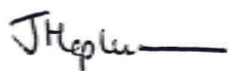
our House Ambassadors and House Captains for their ideas and help promoting and running these events. In terms of House Points Castille currently lead the way in first place, Alexandria are in second place although Sempringham are only a few points behind them in third and Avalon are in fourth place but could still easily catch those above them with a couple of good modules, especially with key events such as Sports Day to come.

Here at the Academy we have high expectations of student uniform and we thank parents and carers for their continued support to help us maintain our high standards of uniform. Please could we draw particular attention to our ruling on piercings and that in Years 7-11 there should only be one plain silver or gold stud in the lower lobe of the ear. No other piercings are permitted and we ask that parents support us in this so we can be consistent in ensuring that there are no students in Years 7-11 with any additional piercings. If students are found to have any additional piercings they will be asked to remove the item and if this becomes a pattern the items will be confiscated. Claiming that the piercing has just been done and so will heal up if taken out is not an acceptable reason to permit the piercing – it should not have been done in the first place. May we also remind parents and carers that hair should not be cut any shorter than a grade 2. Further to this the uniform code states that trousers should be straight, classic style – no stretch fabrics and they should not be cropped (there should be no gap between the bottom of the trouser and the shoe). Many thanks for your continued support in upholding our high standards of uniform.

As explained previously our refurbishment plans continue. We currently have five full classrooms complete and look forward to watching the continued improvements of both our Mathematics and Language facilities over the coming months. We thank you and our students for their ongoing patience with any disturbance that this causes.

With a full and always eventful Module 3 and 4 now complete may I finally take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your ongoing support, and wish you all a very enjoyable and peaceful Easter break. In addition to looking forward to welcoming all of the students back safely on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 we do hope to see our Year 11 and 13 students over the next two weeks as they access a number of revision sessions that are being held by staff here at the Academy.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Hopkinson
Headteacher