

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 head into Module 3. 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>.

Today, all students will have been issued with their usual module grade stickers in their daybooks with parents and carers of Year 11 students also receiving the results of the mock examinations taken earlier this term. As in previous terms, we would encourage you to discuss these and acknowledge them in your child's daybook prior to them writing their targets on the first day back next term.

This year's UCAS entries are almost in, 160 students have now sent off their applications and some are in receipt of excellent offers from their first choice. Mrs Sharpe and Mr Milner are working hard to get the final applications away before the 15th January 2019 deadline.

Tuesday evening saw the new Senior Prize Giving event take place, with Year 13 leavers returning to the Academy to receive their awards with festive nibbles, a live jazz band and with family and friends in attendance. It was a delight to see so many alumni return after their first semester at university.

This module our students have been very charitable and supportive of those in need. Children in Need Day raised an incredible amount of just over £2,400, Christmas Jumper Day raised over £800 for Save the Children and as part of our Vote 100 celebrations over £350 was raised for Lincolnshire Rape Crisis. Not only have our students raised funds for great causes, they have also given items to those who need them. Our students sent over 40 shoeboxes of goods to Eastern Europe to families who cannot afford gifts for Christmas, over 900 items have been given to a local foodbank and the students have put together gift boxes for patients on the Male Acute Mental Health Ward in Lincoln after a request from one of their nurses. A fantastic effort by FACT (our Fundraising and Community Team) who have lead these events and activities. We are also pleased to announce students have decided that the international charity they will support this year is Aquabox and the local/national charity they will support is the Teenage Cancer Trust. There will be fundraising throughout the year to support these two charities.

At the end of Module 2 Castille are well in front in the battle for the House Cup with 13,969 points, Avalon are second with 11,753 points, Sempringham in third with 11,270 points and Alexandria in fourth with 10,899 points. Those students who have now passed 50 house points were rewarded during our celebration assemblies. The celebration assemblies also saw students rewarded by their Heads of Year for showing our academy values of: Respect; Resilience; Innovation; Aspiration and Inspiration. The Courage and Courtesy Award went to two Year 12 students who came to the aid of a young man involved in a road accident and were fantastic in their support of him and those upset by what they had seen. And finally as part of the celebration assemblies students got to see old pictures of their teachers which we know many of them enjoyed, especially Mr Dinnie's school photo!

One Friday in November twelve teams pitted their wits against each other to try and win first place at the Priory Association Quiz night, a now regular feature in their fundraising calendar. Teams enjoyed cheese, drinks and nibbles whilst wrestling with questions ranging across the entire curriculum, albeit very loosely based on school subjects. At the end of the evening the senior team managed a fifth place, narrowly beaten by Mr Perry and his family, who in turn conceded third place to the Maths team, not on their usual winning streak! The victors this time were visitors to the Academy, which of course the home teams would insist was the plan all along! The evening raised over £300, a sum for example, which The Priory Association have donated in the past to pay for Rock Challenge transport, Bookbuzz author visits, athletics vests and final touches for the proms. 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. Meanwhile they supported our Senior Prizegiving on Tuesday and have already started planning next year's Summer Ball provisionally scheduled for July 13th 2019 at the Hilton, building on last year's phenomenal success.

Unfortunately, this week, we sadly say goodbye to Miss Redgrave. Miss Redgrave has worked at the Academy since 2009 starting as a dance teacher before being promoted a number of times to Head of House, Head of Year and more recently to a Senior Leader in Education within the Senior Leadership Team. I know she will be sadly missed by students, parents, carers and her peers but I know you will join me in wishing her well as she moves to pastures new in London. From January, Miss Scarratt, will be teaching dance and Mr Nuttall will take over as Safeguarding Lead across the Academy. Earlier this term, Dr. Craig retired due to ill health and his wife, Mrs Craig, who works within the Learning Strategies department, is also leaving this week. I am sure you would join me in thanking them both for their services to the Academy over the past few years.

As ever we strive to keep our students safe not only in the Academy but on their journeys to and from the Academy and continue to ask for your support in this. Following a small number of incidents over the last few weeks please can we ask for you to be increasingly vigilant with the upkeep and safety of any bicycles that are used to come to the Academy. It is important that this mode of transport used by so many is fit for purpose and that all bicycles are roadworthy. The following link provides useful advice and guidance on this:

<https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/cycling-guide/guide-routine-cycle-safety-service-checks>

Please can we also ask for your continued support in working with students on ensuring they act responsibly and safely on their way to and from the Academy on all forms of transport.

Now we are in the depths of winter please ensure students are dressed appropriately for the winter weather and continue to adhere to our uniform code:

<https://www.priorylsst.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=51>

Particularly at this time of year can I remind you that coats, hats, gloves and scarves must be plain navy or black and there should not be any fur trims on coats. Thank you for your continued support in upholding our high standards of uniform.

In the unlikely event that adverse weather causes the Academy to close, we will of course let you know as soon as possible. We will aim to put out information via Lincs FM and Lincolnshire County Council and by announcements on Twitter, Facebook, In Touch and the Academy website as soon as we possibly can.

I am pleased to announce that our refurbishment plan of the old part of the site will commence on the 3rd January 2019. The plan aims to refurbish all of the Mathematics and MFL rooms, toilets and corridors in the area near to the Old Hall. Work will commence on one or two classrooms at a time with the majority of the work being completed within the summer holidays. As always, we are working closely with the contractors to ensure any disturbance is kept to a minimal. The aim is to develop teaching spaces that match those evident in other parts of the Academy. It will of course be a busy time with additional traffic on site and we would ask you to take extra care when dropping off your children in the mornings and picking them up again in the evenings.

With a full and always eventful Module 2 now complete may I finally take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I do look forward to welcoming all of the students back safely on Monday 7th January 2019.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Hopkinson
Headteacher