



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for this academic year.

I have been overwhelmed over the last two terms with all of the amazing things that take place in our school on a daily basis. Every day, I will walk around the academy making sure I visit students and staff. Whether it is lessons in DT, English, maths or science, PCSA students are intelligent, creative and thirsty for learning.

Furthermore, I am very glad to see how well our Year 7 students have settled into our daily routines and systems. Last week in assembly, they all looked amazing in terms of their uniform standards and their conduct. Please communicate with us and especially Miss Dodson, our Head of Year 7, if you have any questions or need our support. We will be happy to help you. Obviously, this invitation extends to all of our parents and carers. We would love to hear from you and your feedback. This will help us improve.

Our curriculum, with its 9 Learning Cycles, is now fully embedded and has become school culture. Our students recognise the language and they are very much involved with shaping the school's teaching and learning with their feedback. We are committed in creating active learners for life.

Our Year 11s are now fully into their preparation for their exams. Going to lessons and looking at the work they are producing I am very confident that the summer of 2023 will be one of success and celebration. However, we will leave "no stone unturned" into making sure that all students are working on full capacity and potential. We have 1:1 and "Prep for Success" for all curriculum areas offering sessions before and after school.

Within the next two weeks, we will publish details on our website with our plans for Easter School so parent and carers are aware of these arrangements in advance.

PCSA has a plethora of a hidden curriculum. Every afternoon, hundreds of our students are taking part in enrichment activities. Last week I saw a group of students working with Mrs. Pye in Science practising their pottery skills. The atmosphere was fantastic. PE, Art, Drama, DT, Humanities, Music; there are wonderful activities on offer every day. There is more information on this on our website.

As always, the conduct and behaviour of our students is exemplary and this is something that we are proud of but also committed at PCSA. Please remind our students on expectations in terms of uniform and the no mobile phone policy in school.

My last message is about students' safety. I am delighted that many students are coming to school using their bikes on a daily basis. We had to extend our current bike shed in order to increase its capacity. However, the great majority of them have no helmets. Please support the school on our initiative in using helmets and make sure all students can travel safely.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss your children's progress and attainment.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our PCSA parents and carers for your support to our school.

Best Wishes

Angelos Markoutsas, Principal
angelos.markoutsas@pcsa.org.uk






Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

Thank you for your unrelenting support this past calendar year. It's been another very busy but successful year and I'm extremely pleased with the way all our academies are developing. The environment within our schools is constantly improving, as is our practice. This is abundantly clear when I walk around the schools and see the enjoyment and engagement in classrooms. There is so much going on and it is clear that things are definitely returning to normal.

We currently have 8 academies across 9 sites, plus our 4 Little Learners Nursery provisions. I was thrilled to be able to officially open the brand new purpose built Little Learners Nursery site at Castle Batch Primary School Academy recently, having moved there from PCSA at the end of the Summer. This is another excellent provision and demonstrates our continued commitment for our very youngest children and indeed our communities. The Little Learners Nursery provision is really strong across our schools with fantastic work with play, outdoor learning and our early years education. It is a really solid foundation for the future. If you know of local people who need nursery places please be aware, we also have a Little Learners Nursery at St Anne's West Wick and at East & West Huntspill Primary Academies. Please do contact us for places and for further information.

6th Form @ TKASA – the extension to the 6th Form building has been completed and has added to the already strong post 16 provision. With the increase in numbers choosing to study at TKASA 6th Form the building had to be expanded to accommodate our students.

Our A level results have been outstanding for a number of years, with many of our students progressing to top universities and higher level apprenticeships. Please do contact Doug Radnidge dradnidge@tkasa.org.uk (Head of 6th Form) if you would like a tour of the facilities or to find out more information.

Charity/Community is hugely important to us - Our Trust-wide Charity of the Year for 2022-23 is the Foodbank, with our Somerset schools supporting the Burnham & Highbridge centre and our Weston schools supporting the centre there. I am delighted to say that a recent non-uniform day across all our academies raised a total of £4,547.72 (as well as a vast amount of food donations) for this great charity and for 'Children In Need'. Thank you for your great support.

We offer a wide, varied and aspirational curriculum and have a fantastic extra circular offer - Our Trust will always be more than just exam results. You will see many of these great activities within the next few pages. To keep up with all our news please do follow our schools on Twitter – we have lots of 'news and views' and we also have our excellent website - <https://goodnewspost.co.uk/>. Here you will find all the great things we have been involved with from September to December.

Again – thank you for all your support.

Nathan Jenkins
CEO



The Priory Learning Trust is an educational charity. Our purpose is to advance education for public benefit. TPLT will facilitate knowledge building for all through professional development, with a determination to improve curriculum and pedagogy.

STUDENTS FIRST - **CHERISHING STAFF** - **SERVING COMMUNITIES**

STUDENTS FIRST:

The mission of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) is to develop happy, confident and successful young people. Our underpinning values are respect for each other, creating an environment for successful learning and giving everyone the tools to maximise their potential. Our primary focus is providing great student outcomes whilst also thinking about the holistic welfare of our students.



CHERISHING STAFF:

TPLT is committed to social equality and the principles of fair access and opportunity. The priority is local families and we will retain a local focus. TPLT values its employees. It is committed to staff development and to fair and transparent dealings with all employees. Our employees are precious and they must be deployed for maximum gain for our students and their welfare.



SERVING COMMUNITIES:

TPLT intends to wisely grow its family of schools. There will be measured growth as we must maintain outstanding outcomes. Growth, therefore, will be intentionally designed. TPLT will extend business services to support great teaching and learning. All our academies will deliver a 'world class' modular curriculum that is relevant, dynamic, forward-looking and balanced.



THE PRIORY LEARNING TRUST

Our reporters have been meeting regularly and turn out an average of 5 stories at every session! You will find them on the Good News Post online. In a bid to do more joined up working across The Priory Learning Trust, the PCSA team met virtually with The King Alfred's School Academy to share top tips on learning.

The Jill Dando News team had a stand-out interview with Charlie from the Weston Mercury who shared some tricks of the trade with them!



Jill Dando News reporters across two schools have been sharing their top good news story writing tips

November 30, 2022 / The Editor

By Jill Dando News Jill Dando News reporters across two schools have been sharing their top...

Our reporters have got much more confident in covering key school events – here is our Journalist of the Year, Amy Hughes, covering the amazing EDUCATE public speaking event with Year 11.



The young journalists enjoy covering a variety of stories: from our Charity of the Year, Foodbank, to Remembrance Sunday to the latest eco developments in school. A particular joy has been following the journey of their teacher who recently helped build a nursery and start a 'Send a Book' campaign in Malawi: students wrote several stories which resulted in it being picked up by the BBC.



Our Sarah is in Malawi opening a library and nursery!

October 21, 2022 / The Editor

By Colby and Kieran, age 13, PCSA, Jill Dando News English teacher Sarah O' Gorman is...

We're ending the winter term off with some festive fun: a Christmas News Special at Castle Batch Primary School Academy. We wanted to team up with our neighbouring primary school so that young journalists can gather together and share research and writing skills and produce some jolly news – with bells on!



Miss S O'Gorman
Teacher of English
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Mr S Dean
TPLT Jill Dando News Centre
shane.dean@theplt.org.uk



The Priory Eco Committee (PECO) has been recruiting and has now opened its doors to KS3. We have five wonderful volunteers who have joined the committee from Y7 & Y8. We ended the 2021/2022 academic year on a high when we were awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag in our first year. The flag can be seen hanging proudly at the front of the school.

Last year, we achieved many of our objectives. We successfully organised a campaign to introduce biodegradable forks into the cafeteria. This impacted a Trust-wide procurement project for new catering services, the winning bid including sustainability targets and future plans. Another successful Eco project was to support the planting of 300 new trees as a part of our initiative to make school grounds greener and more pleasant. We look forward to seeing these grow in the future. Coinciding with this we also introduced two Schefflera Janine plants to every classroom to improve the classroom environment as well as students' awareness of nature and as part of PCSA character education. We are also proud to have been awarded the Priory Citizen of the Year award for our activities.

This year our aim is to achieve the Eco Schools Green Flag with Merit. We have already begun our work towards this objective by setting up student litter pick teams. These consist of student volunteers who give up one break time a fortnight to go around the school and keep it clean. It is a fantastic volunteering opportunity that is already making a difference to our school environment.



We hope to increase our volunteer base over the course of this academic year.

In addition 5 members of our committee have signed up to take part in the Persil Dirt is Good Changemaker challenge. They attended a training day at the Environmental Education Project's Ecolab and are now recruiting KS3 students to take part in the project. Information is being released in the new year.

We look forward to introducing and supporting more exciting projects this academic year and hope to increase student interest in their school's sustainability agenda and really make a difference to PCSA school life.



Wow and Wow again! What a fantastic year group I have!

At the start of the year I introduced the year group to our school values of Aspiration ~ Integrity ~ Respect. I have been humbled by the acts of kindness and resilience shown by these young people and their determination to uphold these values both in and out of school.

The outstanding transition they have made from primary school to secondary school is a testament to this generations courage to make not only themselves better but to make the world a better place.

It has been a pleasure to hear students excited about being part of our community and parents/carers actively supporting the school. There are many successes both in and out of school. Many of our students have shown great maturity seeking opportunities to extend learning by attending Period 6, and representing the school.

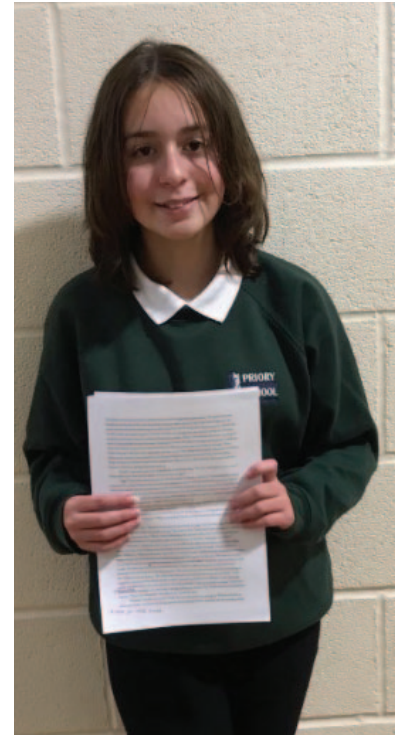
7B6 Mrs Callander & Mrs Gunningham's tutees have had some great successes; they won the best tutor board, Jack Nevay won the league with his football team, Emily White has written a whole film script, Jerlyn Jones has taken part in two netball tournaments and won, Roza Gizan makes crystal creations for toddlers in her spare time and Amelie Panes - came 3rd in a dog agility competition.

This year I have been overwhelmed with the thoughtfulness many of the year group have shown others, the empathy felt and the feeling of consideration and warmth. Students have not only openly helped, but been brave, building fierce and firm friendships.

I am incredibly proud of all of our students, and being witness to the determination to succeed from the year group. With their continued positive mindset, I am sure we will see a kinder world where Aspiration ~ Integrity ~ Respect become second nature and success is strived for in every area.

We are also looking forward to running our annual Year 7 interview challenge in the summer where students will produce their first CV, explore careers and have their first job interview with Miss Silmon, Mr Wilmot and 'A' level students from King Alfred Sixth Form. The activity is enormous fun and is a great way for students to learn more about the world of work and we can learn more about our students!

Annabel Livesey has written the most incredible short story - it is a period story with characters based around real life authors.



My final note, as I say in assembly is always be kind, and be the change you want to see in the world.

Miss Dodson
Head of Year 7
lee.dodson@pcsa.org.uk





Year 8 have had an excellent start to the school year. Already they have shown a significant shift in their presence as a year group and are keen to grow. During the first part of this year, the students have been focusing on the key value of 'respect'. They have shown a strong desire to enact these values and respect can readily be seen in their exemplary conduct during assemblies.

This year has seen the introduction of tutor rewards. During the week, tutors are always on the look out for students who consistently display our values. This has led to over 100 tutor and Head of Year certificates being awarded across the first two terms and has helped to capture some of that incredible Priory energy amongst the school community. Well done Year 8! If you have not yet received an award, keep on going and I am sure your efforts will be recognised soon!

Within the year group, there have been incredible examples of individual efforts so far. A massive well done goes out to Lucy Hawkes, Samantha Korb, Nikole Howell, Gracie Thorne and Violet White who are all sitting on top of the student positive leaderboard (each with over 400 points!). But it isn't just about the numbers. There are a range of students who have also made significant and noted progress. Well done to Joshua Lovell, Miley Hill, Stav Petrou, Joshua Perry and Gino John.

One of the fantastic things about PCSA is taking a walk around the school site during the day. Dropping in to lessons you will be able to see our students fully engaged and keen to produce high quality work! Above left is an example of our Year 8s keen to show off their



creations from creative design.

On top of this, students are also keen to show respect to our school ground and can often be seen 'mucking in' in various ways. Well done to the Year 8s who have worked with the Priory Eco Committee to make sure that our school shines (above right).

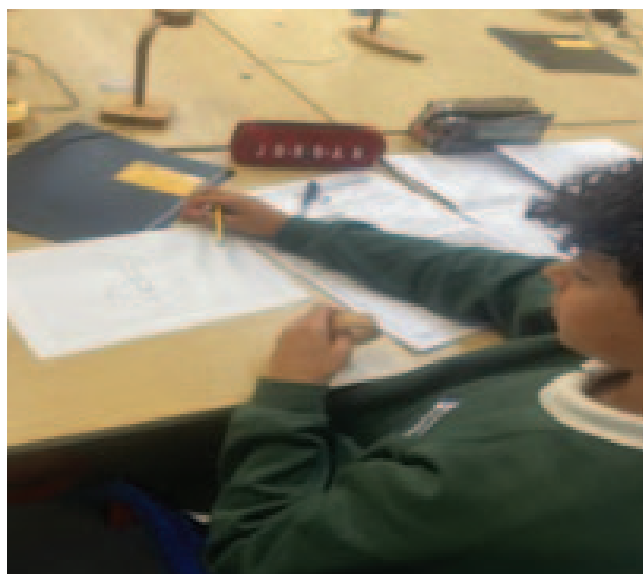
Our Year 8 boys have also been a credit to us when representing us in local fixtures. The PE team were particularly impressed by the boys with special mention to Brad Newport, Austin Philips, Charlie Davis, Archy Allen and Tom Massey.

Finally, this term has seen several important speakers attend PCSA in order to deliver sensitive and important messages. As Head of Year, I have been incredibly impressed at the way our students have responded to and engaged with the content, showing respect and curiosity. This was particularly true during a difficult assembly on drug gangs and was evidenced by our students making the local news.

As we move forwards into 2023, this is a particularly important part of the key stage. Our students in Year 8 should now be in a position where they can build upon their success in learning cycle 1 and strive towards improving for learning cycle 2. Now is the time to focus on the learning and to lay the foundations for future success. Well done Year 8.

Mr. Green
Head of Year 8
luke.green@pcsa.org.uk





Year 9 has had a successful start back to school, and there have been a huge number of PCSA values being demonstrated.

The students have engaged in the learning and have been triumphant at numerous sporting events.

Many have enjoyed the treat of a hot chocolate on a Friday, and an overwhelming number of students have received a Head of Year certificate.

It has been a privilege to welcome the students back and celebrate their successes and I look forward to seeing the students achieve further as the year goes by.

In February the students will be choosing their options, so it is a good idea for them to start asking questions around the many options that PCSA have to offer.

Well done Year 9, I am very proud and honoured to be part of your Priory journey.

Mrs V Bush
Head of Year 9
vicky.bush@pcsa.org.uk



It has been a fantastic start to the academic year for Year 10 and a pleasure to see them treating the start of KS4 and GCSEs with the maturity and hard work required for success. The amount of positive rewards issued to the year group has dramatically increased compared to the same period last year and this is reflected in the anecdotal comments I hear from their teachers on a daily basis sharing examples of great learning.

Our assemblies this term have had a particular focus on promoting the PCSA core values of aspiration, integrity and respect. This has involved guest speakers visiting the school to give real life examples of how adhering to these core beliefs can help enrich our lives. I was particularly impressed with the proactive response we had when visited by a representative from the Weston-Super-Mare Foodbank. As a result 242 value postcards have been sent home to Year 10 students which is a PCSA record for a year group.

Year 10 is a very formative time in school. In addition to the traditional timetable of classes, students will be stepping out of school into college and the workplace.

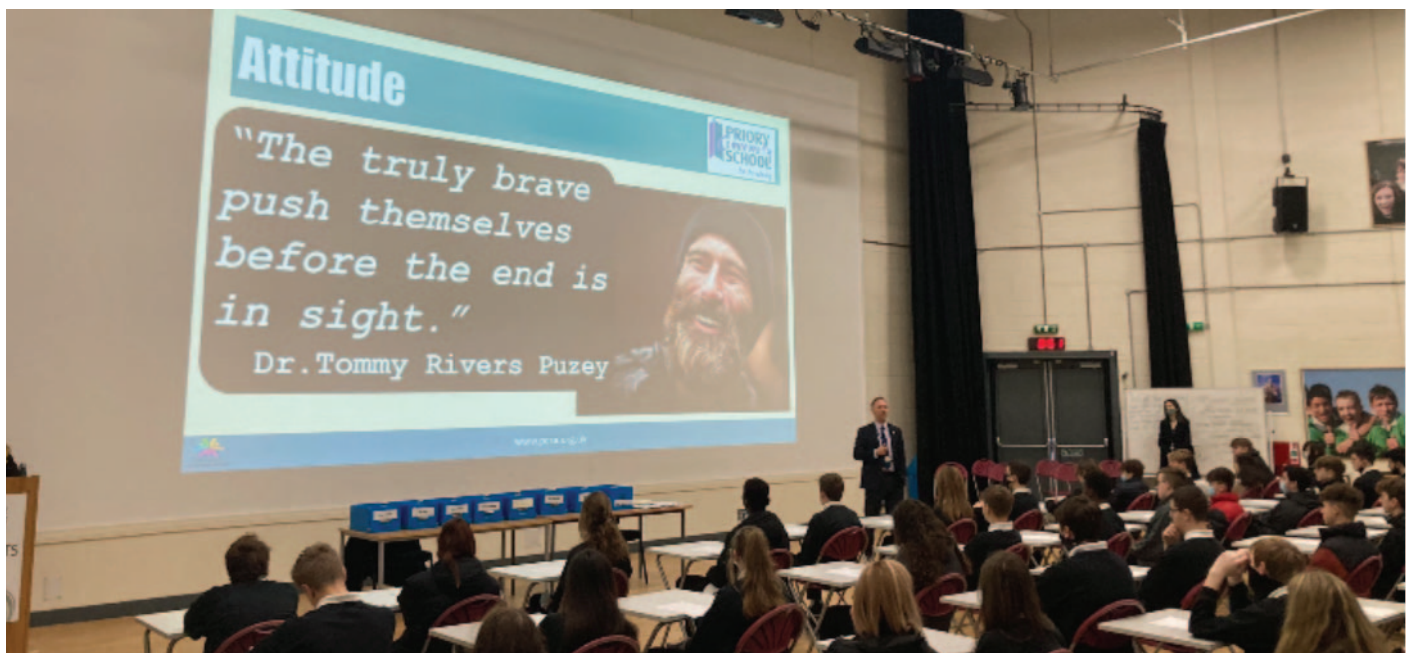
Work Experience Week in May will be for many, the most impactful experience while in school. All 330 students will move into the workplace for 4 days and build valuable skills. The most challenging part of the process is sourcing a placement as it takes bravery and resilience to approach employers. Our students always rise to the occasion and we are confident that 2023 will be no different. Spare work experience forms are available in the careers office and online - <https://pcsa.org.uk/careers-3>

Students will also participate in a Weston College Taster Day later in the year to help them explore their options beyond school. Details on this will follow in the Spring, but in the meantime students can also register on these great activities being hosted in February-

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/event/half-term-workshops-year-10-11s>



Mr. I Shopland
Assistant Principal & KS4 Pastoral Lead
ian.shopland@pcsa.org.uk



Year 11 have enjoyed a hugely positive start to the school year and have returned to Priory determined to do their best and eager to impress as they continue with their GCSE courses.

During the start of the year, we have been focussing on planning Year 11's next steps. Miss Silmon and Mr Wilmot have said to me how impressed they have been with the majority of the year group being proactive in applying for future courses, whether it be in college or sixth form. For those students who have yet to decide on their next steps please do not hesitate to contact me or the Careers Team for advice.

Students have continued their lessons with determination and eagerness with many successes, with the majority of students accumulating a considerable amount of achievement points. Particular recognition must go to the following students who have gained the most achievement points to date for their hard work and positive attitude to learning. All these students are excellent role models for the rest of the year group.

Kieran Morgan	11A1
Leo Chivers	11A1
Lexi Cooper	11A4
Ellen Fisher	11A3
Hannah Fowler	11A4
Devon Chamberlain	11B2
Jacob Dale	11B1
Harvey Sanders	11B3
Mia Fisher	11B6
Hallie Soverall	11B6

I would also like to highlight Tutor Group 11A3 as the tutor group who have accumulated 4103 positives. Congratulations 11A3 both Miss Reeves and I are delighted by this accomplishment.

To ensure that students know where to start with their revision and for you to help them get started we have put together a Year 11 Revision Starter Pack. This was handed out to parents/carers earlier in the year at the Year 11 Information Evening. We hope that you found the evening helpful and the contents of this pack useful and a good starting point to encourage students to take ownership of their learning.

Prep for Success sessions have started for our Year 11 students. We've had a great turnout so far and hope that this continues for the rest of the year. This is open to all Year 11 students. We look forward to seeing them at future sessions.

Please contact us if you have any queries regarding the above. We are always happy to speak with you in person, on the telephone or via email.

Miss A Rees,
Head of Year 11
abigail.rees@pcsa.org.uk

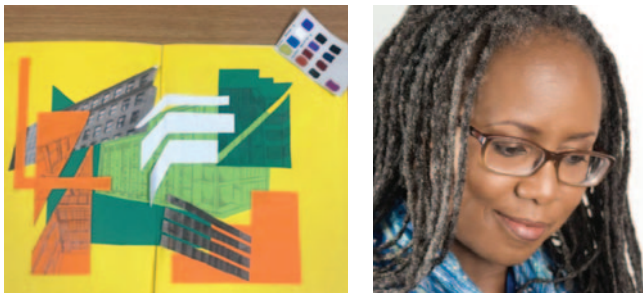


ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Our wonderful Year 7 art students have been learning about the artist Frida Kahlo and how she used portraiture and symbolism in her work. They have applied these skills to the current project and are producing some wonderful pieces of work demonstrating this.



Year 8 are studying the urban landscape and specifically the artist Lynette Jackson, this project includes experimenting with collage/mixed media and learning the important skills of drawing to scale, creating a composition and colour theory.



Year 9 students have been developing important skills during this cycle creating a composition that relates to the 'The Day of the Dead' symbolism and learning about Mexican culture.



MUSIC & DRAMA

We are currently rehearsing for the 'Creative Winter Showcase' where our talented creative students will be hosting an evening performance for their friends and family, this will also include a small art and photography exhibition.

We are hoping to record this event so that we can share PCSAs musical talent in a screening at a local care home.

Grease is the word....

Auditions have now taken place for the 2023 school show, where we saw some amazing talent. The cast list has now been organised and we are very excited to start rehearsals after the Christmas holidays.

The show will take place the week commencing 10th of July 2023 – Save the dates!

The Year 11 drama exams are about to take place – our students have been working extremely hard to prepare for these and we are very proud of their achievements so far. Good luck Y11



Our creative students recently went to see a production of Blood Brothers at the Wales Millennium Centre which has helped them enormously with their own performance skills. They were very inspired by this show and will be able to use this knowledge in future school productions. Our students thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were a credit to the school.



Mr. J Stanley
Central Leader for the Creative Arts
james.stanley@pcsa.org.uk



**Constructing
The Built
Environment**

Year 10 have made a great start to the new Construction course. In Cycle 1 they have been learning new joinery skills by practising creating a range of woodworking joints including a range of frame joints used in construction.



A range of savoury and sweet treats were made including cut turkey and cranberry sandwiches, festive sausage rolls, honey glazed sausages, salmon and cream cheese blinis, cheese and pickle pinwheels, crudites and dips, vol au vents. As well as mince pies, and chocolate Christmas yule log cakes.

The students absolutely loved this activity, worked hard to keep to the deadline and demonstrated an excellent work ethic. The atmosphere was fun and relaxed with excellent team spirit shown.

If you like what we are doing in DT. Why not keep up to date by following us on Twitter.



Food Technology

Over the summer our food rooms were extensively re-modelled and refurbished, creating a modern teaching environment with enhanced AV provision and an improved layout for practical lessons.

Our students have really enjoyed getting used to the new rooms and the increased space when involved in practical cooking.

Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students provided a Christmas buffet for local care home residents.

On Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th December, our Hospitality and Catering students used their culinary skills to produce a range of tasty treats for local care home residents. The students used the knowledge and skills acquired through the course to prepare, cook and present their menu choices.

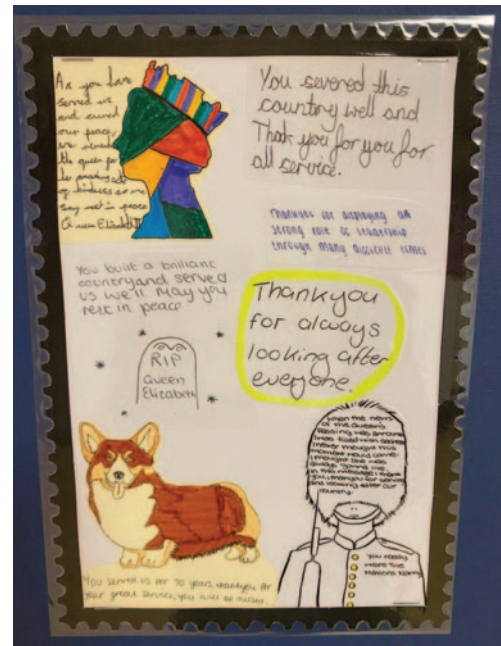


Mr. D Clay
Central Leader for Design and Technology
david.clay@pcsa.org.uk

The Humanities team was really excited to welcome back all of the students (and, of course, say hello to the new Year 7s) at the beginning of the term. Humanities has always been about exploring the important parts of our world and the search for meaning and purpose. This year, however, the Humanities team has put a greater emphasis on wider representation across the curriculum. This has included, for example, a case study into the Windrush generation as part of the Year 7 Geography curriculum. Many students expressed great shock and sadness at “the discrimination and racism,” faced by people arriving from the Commonwealth countries to help rebuild the country and work for the NHS after World War II. This, they agreed, does not fit in with Priory’s value of respect.

Meanwhile, in History, students were excited to look into a wide range of topics. One student said “we can make History more representative by looking at other groups.” As part of a topic on Medieval Monarchs, students investigated the influence and role of Empress Matilda and Eleanor of Aquitaine, consider the impact they had on society, as well as the challenges they faced due to their gender. Many Priory students were surprised and impressed with the new level of depth they acquired, with one saying, “I like studying Queens because we used to only learn about Kings in primary school.”

However, it seemed no sooner than the term had begun when tragedy struck, with the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, a stalwart and ever-present force for the entire living generation. To ensure that everyone had the opportunity to pay their respects to the late Queen, all students had a lesson on the life of the Queen and the legacy that she left behind. Then every student had a chance to write a reflection on the meaning and importance of the Queen to their lives, to the country, and to people around the world. These reflections were then used to help put together a memorial board in the Humanities corridor, which acts as a tribute to a figure who has such an important role in the history of our country and served as an inspiration to people across the globe.



GCSE Religious Studies is now an optional subject for all students, and features a wide range of knowledge. Head of Religious Education Liz Collins has said that the GCSE course continues to build upon the significant knowledge students have been learning from Years 7-9, but allows students to go deeper with complex issues in our complex world. Investigating both Christianity and Hinduism gives students the ability to compare significantly different religious traditions and how they affect the lives of believers, the wider society and key social issues. This helps to prepare the students at Priory to reflect on their own views whilst being ready to engage in our globalised world as they move on to the next stage.

Beyond the classroom, some of Humanities’ most exciting clubs are back, including the Debate club. However, there are also new club offerings, to inspire the students at Priory to engage deeper with ideas, such as Mr Gray’s Philosophy Club. Students taking part in this club have had the opportunity to consider some of the deepest questions that have been debated by philosophers for centuries - and give their own unique perspective. For example, the students have considered what it means to know the ‘truth’: can you have ‘wrong’ or ‘lucky’ knowledge? Are Elon Musk and Neil deGrasse Tyson right to suggest that we could be living in a simulation? We may not get to the bottom of these questions, but we certainly have a great time learning about what makes a persuasive argument.

Meanwhile, the Humanities Prep for Success revision sessions for Year 11 have been off to a flyer with great attendance for Geography, History and Sociology. Many students are taking advantage of these sessions which are tailored to their needs at particular times of Year 11, setting themselves up for success in the summer exams.. However, if any students have missed out so far they do not need to fret as more sessions will return following the Christmas break.

Christmas and the New Year is certainly a time for taking stock and reflecting on the previous year, but Humanities will not be sitting still. This term the subjects within the Humanities will be announcing details on some new local trips coming up soon – so stay tuned.

Mr. M Gray
Central Leader for Humanities
matthew.gray@pcsa.org.uk



New courses launched – On top of ever-popular courses such as Geography, History and Sociology, two brand new GCSE options courses have launched this year: Citizenship and Religious Studies. Mr Hames, who teaches the Citizenship course, has said “our Year 10 cohort has really enjoyed learning about life in Modern Britain through studying topics such as democracy, rule of law, freedom of the press and pressure groups. It gives them the opportunity to discuss contemporary issues from a Citizenship framework, as well as to consider their roles and responsibilities. understanding our role as active citizens and the rights we enjoy can help us understand the challenges facing society and the various responses we are seeing, such as the context of public sector strikes or the debate over what support should be given to the public in difficult economic times.”

KS3

KS3 have all been focusing on new cycles of learning: The Tempest in Year 7, Much Ado About Nothing in Year 8 and Macbeth in Year 9. Students are particularly enjoying all the lies, cunning and deceit that Shakespeare has crafted for Macbeth.

4) "I have noticed my writing improving in other lessons."

not at all 1 2 3 4 5 my writing has greatly improved

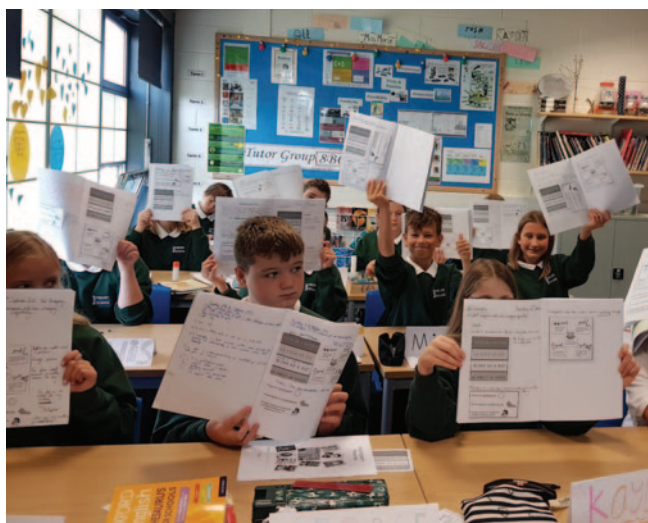
Just Write is our regular writing focus where students practise their writing styles and play around with different genres of writing. The Student Feedback we received from students is that it is positively impacting in other lessons too:

Please email Tara.Morse@pcsa.org.uk if your child would like to be part of our Student Review Board for KS3 English. We are looking for creative types who have an opinion on what we read and learn during our time in KS3. We want to create a fresh and dynamic curriculum that the students are invigorated by; a curriculum that they have choice and agency in. Thank you in advance.

Year 7 have been looking at autobiographical writing as a genre. We study how writers write and then we emulate. From the looks of the autobiographies we have received, their writing has been significantly improved by adding hyperbole, ACOMPASS techniques and by using Tip Top to correctly paragraph. Please ask your child to explain these acronyms – it will give them another chance to show off their learning!



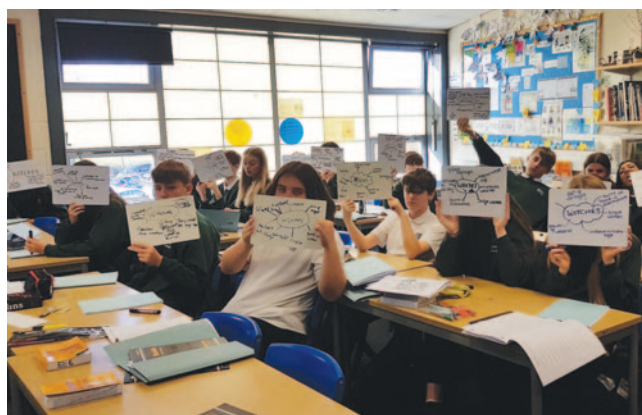
A KS3 student demonstrating a love for theatre.



KS3 - Y7 - celebrating the differences between a simile and a metaphor.

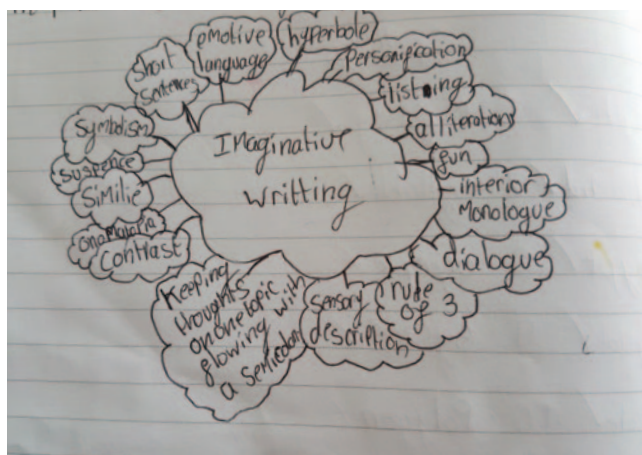
Meanwhile, Year 8 have been examining how Shakespeare uses language to convey meaning. Beatrice and Benedick's 'merry war' has led to many interesting discussions around how Shakespeare uses literary devices to highlight details about each character in a 'Show Don't Tell' way – an important skill the students need to develop for preparation for future success in KS4.

Finally, Year 9 have been delving into the scheming and treaty in Macbeth. Collectively, we enter the world of Shakespeare and ask ourselves important questions of what makes us human. Critical enquiry gets the students to engage with questions you may not want to ask yourself: Would you kill a friend for power and glory? In examining the treacherous actions of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, the students subtly examine his language and become more ready for Shakespeare at GCSE. Currently we are studying Romeo and Juliet should you wish to get ahead.



9A4 working hard on contextual factors in Macbeth.

This year in particular I have been forwarded many exemplar writings from KS3 students and teachers. All forms of storytelling, playwriting, concrete poems, short stories and even a novel! Many superb KS3 writings that demonstrate progress and industry from our brilliant KS3 cohort! Thank you for supporting your child at home with their weekly digital homework, too. As a faculty we feel privileged to teach such kind and teachable students.



KS3 mind-map on what imaginative writing might contain.

Thank you for your support.
Kindest regards,
Miss Morse. KS3 Lead.

KS4

KS4 students have thrown themselves back in to their studies since they have returned in September and they have had many opportunities to show our key values: aspiration, integrity and respect.

Our Year 11s have been motivated by their aspirations and risen to their first challenge of the year and sat their PPEs in November on Non-fiction Reading and Writing and their Literature study of Romeo and Juliet and A Christmas Carol. We are really pleased with how they have responded to this challenge and it has helped them set their revision targets for the coming months as we move our focus to Blood Brothers. Year 11s have also been busily preparing their speeches for their Speaking and Listening presentations on a topic that interests them. So many interesting topics covered this year, from wage equality in sport to whether electric cars are the future of transport. Public speaking is such a vital skill for our students to build confidence in and we can't wait for their final presentations in the last week of term. Hopefully you at home have had a chance to listen to them too.

In Year 10, we have been reading Dickens's A Christmas Carol charting Scrooge's road to redemption. Students have really excelled in their study of the text this year, exploring what Dickens is trying to teach his readers, both then and today.

Happy New Year from Team English.

Mr. P Dodd
Central Leader for English
philip.dodd@pcsa.org.uk

My WW1 Poem!!!

With the stains on show,
and with the poppies to still grow,
dead bodies there in the field,
and people lying in the trench

Nobody wants to fight anymore,
some shooting themselves,
Nobody wants to fight anymore,
so someone just let them all go!



When ready, Wilfred returned to fight in France where he was killed by German machine gun fire - aged 25 - a week before the war ended. His mother received a telegram informing her of his death on Armistice day, as the church bells in Shrewsbury were ringing out in celebration.

His poems were about the horror of war from personal experience whilst serving in the British army in France.

ANTHEM FOR DOMINED YOUTH

What passing-bells for these who die as cattle? — Only the monstrous anger of the guns. Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle Can patter that throbbing minute. The new-born serve for them no prayers nor bells, Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs — Till on the bannings 'banes' we read our heads And finger walking for their bones and sinews. Their comrades march the beat to spare them all? Not in the hands of boys, but in their eyes Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-will. The pallor of girls' brows shall be their pall; Their dresses the lacerations of patient wounds, And each alive shall be a church, a shrine, to those

'Poems' was edited by Wilfred Owen's friend and mentor Siegfried Sassoon with the assistance of Edith Sitwell and first published in 1920. It includes many of Wilfred's best poems, such as 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' and 'Dulce et decorum est'.

DULCE ET DECORUM EST

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks, Knock-kneed, crawling like bags, we creak through sludge And towards our distant toil began to drag. Men marched asleep. Many had lost their brains But limped on, blood-shed. All went lame, all blind; Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoarse C of truck, counterpane, 'Trench-stones' that dropped behind.

Casualties? Casualty-bags! — An agony of tramping, Fitting the clumsy helmet's just in time. But someone still was yelling out and stumbling, And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime? — Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light, As under a green sea, I saw him drowning. In all my dreams, before my helpless sight, He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dream you would pace Behind the wagon that we flung him in, And watch the white eyes writhing in his face, His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin; If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs, Obscene as cancer, bitter as the end? — Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues, My friend, you would surely tell with such high zest To children under the sun some desperate glory, The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est Pro patria mori!

© October 1917; March 1918

POEMS BY WILFRED OWEN WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY SIEGFRIED SASSOON

IN 1989 an association was set up to celebrate his life and poetry.

Wilfred Owen 18 March 1893 - 4 November 1918

Wilfred Owen was an English WW1 poet and soldier. He was born in Shropshire and started writing his own poems as a teenager. Wilfred couldn't afford university, so instead he worked as an assistant to a vicar; then moved to France to become an English teacher.

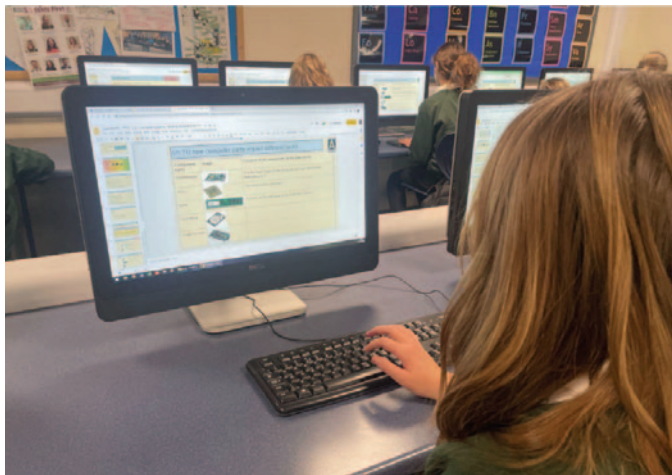
Whilst in France, war broke out, and he decided to travel back to England and join the army - as an officer.

Unfortunately, in 1917, Wilfred was hit by an explosion where his best friend had been killed.

Wilfred then suffered from shell shock, and he was sent to Craiglockhart War hospital (Edinburgh) to recover. Noticing his passion for poetry, Wilfred's doctor told him to write poems as some of his therapy. In hospital, he met a fellow poet named Siegfried Sassoon who helped him with his poems.

Only 5 poems were published in Wilfred's lifetime - 5 in the Nation and 2 that appeared anonymously in the Hydra a journal that he had edited in 1917 as a patient in hospital.

Computer Science, ICT & Business Faculty



Computer Systems - Year 7

After their first cycle of refreshing their knowledge of e-safety the Year 7 students have started to learn about computer systems. In this topic they will develop their understanding of computer components and how they interact with each other. They have really enjoyed looking inside a computer system and seeing the components up close. The students will also be learning the basic structure of binary numbers and how this is related to computer data.

Later on in the cycle they will be learning the fundamental principles of data manipulation using spreadsheet software and will be able to use Microsoft Excel to manage and organise data effectively which may help them in their future careers.



App Development/Thunkable – Year 8

After learning the fundamental concepts of computer networks the Year 8 students are very excited to learn about app development and programming using block programming. During this cycle they will learn the fundamental principles of designing and building apps. They will also be learning computer science principles of decomposition and abstraction which are excellent problem solving skills for life.

Year 10 & 11 P6 Activities

Year 10 students have been planning and programming their 'Text based adventure games' using python, these have varied from 'Escaping dungeons' to 'Haunted Houses'. They also worked on creating programmable Christmas lights. The freedom offered to the students during the P6 enrichment sessions allows the students to develop their computing skills in whatever direction they choose.



IT Skills for Life - Year 9

Moving forward from the Python programming topic that the Year 9 students engaged in and enjoyed last cycle they have begun to learn and understand the types of software used in the business environment. Students have been given an opportunity to hone their presentation skills by creating an interactive quiz on a topic of their choosing using skills such as hyperlinks and embedding sound and video.



Our Friday after school club has been producing weekly champions from a range of retro gaming environments.

**Mr. M Hodder - Central leader of Computing,
ICT & Business faculty (Interim)**
mark.hodder@pcsa.org.uk

The academic year has started very positively and both students and staff have settled into a routine and working hard to grow our languages skills. At KS3, students have been reinforcing their languages understanding and continuing to build on their knowledge off vocabulary using booklets and spending time learning vocabulary on Memrise.



We are asking students to upload screenshots showing their progress on the online platform and we enjoy seeing students taking pride in these and sending pictures featuring pets as sent by Imogen in Year 11 (along with a close up of the actual screenshot of course!!)



Students in KS4 started the year very efficiently with Year 11 students doing their speaking PPE exams in October, followed by other skills in November. Revision and exam preparation is going well with good attendance at Prep for Success sessions and P0/P6 as well.



Every Tuesday is mindfulness in the LGU faculty and Ms Douesnard and Mrs Boll have been enjoying some lovely sessions in P6 after school. From biscuit decorating, to drawing by number and puzzle making, students and teachers found a great way to start the week and ensure we all stay calm and focused.



This year again, we asked students to create some Christmas cards to show a tradition from a different country and we had some great entries.

Mrs. C Parsons
 Central Leader for LGU
christelle.parsons@pcsa.org.uk

Team Updates

This year has seen the maths faculty continue to grow and I have the pleasure of introducing two new members of the team, Mr Holyday and Mr Yafi. Mr Yafi has now joined permanently after covering Miss Harding for maternity cover. Miss Harding has now returned to us after the birth of her son.



Mr Holyday

Having grown up in Weston and leaving school in 2015, I always knew I wanted to become a teacher. I have great memories of brilliant teachers, who had a genuine passion for their subject and I wanted to provide this for the next generation. I studied Sports Biomechanical Sciences at the University of Exeter and my love for mathematics began to flourish. Seeing real world applications, in another environment I love engaged me no end, from calculating joint angles with trigonometry to rearranging and calculating with complex formulae!

Upon graduation, I enrolled in the TPLT School Direct programme and I was lucky enough to be placed here at PCSA, as well as a short time at WCSA. The training year was a great opportunity, and I learnt a great deal from experienced teachers at both schools. I'm looking forward to my career in teaching here at PCSA, inspiring the next generations of mathematicians.



Mr Yafi

I have worked in Marketing Communication in a wide variety of posts for a number of years in many international markets before returning permanently to the UK and decided to embark on a career in Education. I completed my Secondary Maths PGCE at the University of Gloucestershire. Working in industry made me realise the untapped potential of young people going into business who were lacking a strong grounding in mathematics, and as a result had a slower career progression. Apart from the pleasure I get from teaching Maths, I wanted to give back to the community and promote the love of mathematics in young minds and demonstrate to them that Maths touches every single part of their life.

Home Learning

All year groups now hand their home learning in on the same day; Monday is Year 8 B-side and Year 7 A-side, Tuesday is Year 9, 11 and Year 7 B-side and Year 8 A-side and Thursday is Year 10.

Year 7, 8 and 9 now complete their home learning on Sparx. This is staggered from the class learning and so enables students to practise their maths and memory. Students are expected to complete their home learning to 100% and tasks are provided for consolidation and times tables. In addition, there are Google quizzes to complete throughout the cycle to help consolidate learning.

Remember you will get an email to let you know if your child is not completing their home learning to 100%.



Maths. Reimagined.

www.sparx.co.uk



Year 10 and Year 11 continue to use Hegarty Maths, 2 tasks per week, but is supplemented with

Google quizzes throughout the cycle and Method Maths papers to complete. The benefit of using Method Maths is that it focuses on exam technique and completing past papers.

Year 11 also get their Friday 20 minute work out in maths which is given out and handed in during their Friday assembly.

Extra Help

We have one after school session on a Wednesday which is a home learning club to help support students with any issues they might have. Students are welcome to come along for as long as they need within the 3-4pm session.



Enrichment Opportunities

On Wednesday students can also investigate more about maths rather than simply doing their home learning. Come along to find out what projects we are doing this year. Last year included making a model of the school and Mathsmaster.

Digital Champions

Well done to the following students who are our top learners on the maths digital offerings. Congratulations to these students who will receive a certificate and will earn their house many house points. As a whole 70% of our KS3 students are completing their Sparx to 100% which is a great achievement. KS4 have completed a whopping nearly 100,000 questions since September and have spent nearly 3000 hours of independent learning.

Sparx Champion Year 7 – Adele Mason

Sparx Champion Year 8 – David Khella

Sparx Champion Year 9 – Ashton Ridler

Hegarty Maths Champion – Year 10 – Tom Ashcroft

Hegarty Maths Champion – Year 11 – Samuel Elms

Student of the Cycle

Every cycle each teacher in the maths faculty nominates one student who has been outstanding throughout the cycle. Below is the list for cycle 1 and the teacher who nominated them. Congratulations to all the students, you will be getting a certificate and as well contributing to your house with many house points.

Zoe Lynch	Sophie Robertson
Libby Hadley	Tiffany Richardson
Imogen Williams	Ethan Smith
Matthew Chaffey	Bradley Reynolds
Henry Jones	Samuil Vasilev
Devon Chamberlain	

Mrs. L Kerrison
Central Leader for Maths
lois.kerrison@pcsa.org.uk



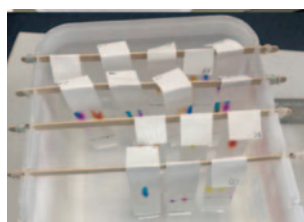
SCIENCE

What a busy term in Science, which began with an exciting Open Evening full of bangs, flames and some interesting smells! As a new member of staff and new Head of Science I have been blown away by Priory Students and their efforts in and around lessons. Read on to see some of the highlights from Science this term.

Mrs Roberts

KS3 - Mrs Contreras

The scientists of the future have been problem solving in their lessons. It has been a hive of activity with students using skills and reasoning to solve a complex array of problems. This year has enabled our KS3 students to be immersed in our brand new curriculum by applying their acquired knowledge to real life contexts.



Year 7 have been exploring Forces and Cell Structure.

Year 8 have deepened their understanding of Tissues and Organs and Chemical Changes.

Year 9 have been exploring how we see and the impact humans have on Biodiversity.

Child Development - Mrs Bush:



Wow ! What a fantastic start we have had to our brand new option for Year 10 students. I have been nothing but amazed by the hard work and commitment the students have shown particularly with their attitude to coursework so early on in the course. We have looked at mapping a nursery, careers within childcare providers, gross and fine motor skills alongside sleeping, travelling and feeding equipment. The highlight has to be having had the opportunity to be "hands-on" with the interactive babies. The majority of the two classes have now had the opportunity to take the babies home for a weekend stay – Some with varying success !! I must say a massive thank you to Miss Stanley for all of her hard work making sure the classes have all the equipment ready for lessons, especially those of an interactive nature!

Next term we'll be looking at feeding, bathing and how children develop through play. We have a visit to a nursery in the pipeline.

Overall, I believe the students have embraced their new child development course and the classroom atmosphere is amazing . They have approached the course with a ready to learn attitude and I am very proud of their hard work so far.

KS4 - Mrs Gunningham

Team Science are very proud of our Year 11 students, who have worked hard in the build up to their first series of PPEs. Many students have worked tirelessly in and out of lessons as well as attending Science Prep for Success sessions to enhance their skills. In depth analysis of results has allowed us to identify key areas of strength and areas that require further work as we move through the year. Students should continue with their independent work outside the classroom and continue to attend Prep for Success sessions every other Tuesday evening. Year 11 students can purchase revision guides from our technicians at any time. Additionally, there are a multitude of free online resources such as Tassomai, Seneca Learning, GCSE pod and many excellent YouTube channels such as Cognito and Free Science Lessons. There has been a buzz throughout Science lessons with Class Practicals taking place on a regular basis allowing students to develop those critical practical skills. Year 10 classes have learnt about communicable diseases such as HIV, the thalidomide scandal

LGBTQ+ - Mrs Carthew

Fantastic first term with LGBTQ+ Club, turn out is excellent with different sessions run. These included how to tie a tie, The Stonewall Riots and designing our pride Christmas tree. Pupils have also begun an S7 LGBTQ+ display board.



Science Club - Mrs Kyriakou

Through participation in our science club and the activities involved, the students not only benefit individually by learning science in general but can collect data and information, organise and test ideas and apply this knowledge to solve scientific problems. The potential scientific breakthrough that may change the world may not be too far away!! We will be launching in the new year with some exciting hands on Science. Come and join us on Tuesdays after school in S13.



Mrs. K Roberts,
Central Leader for Science
kelly.roberts@pcsa.org.uk

Year 7 Rugby (Mr Allcoat)

The Year 7 boys rugby team have been on a journey of improvement since joining PCSA in September. With around 20 boys regularly attending rugby enrichment every Thursday, they have been able to work closely on their skills and prepare for several games and festivals. It has been great to see so many young boys enjoy their rugby and we will continue with this development after Christmas until the Easter holidays. A massive thank you to Mr Spencer from the Humanities Department who has been working closely with this group in preparing them for their fixtures and tournaments. Best of luck for the rest of the season!



Year 7 Netball (Miss Gadd)

The Year 7 netball squads have been so committed this year even when the weather has not permitted. We have been inside training on our skills. This has really shown and not only were the A Team unbeaten in all their games they also won the North Somerset Schools Netball Tournament this term. The B team is also a very strong side and they finished 3rd in their tournament of 8 schools. This is a really positive start to school sport for this year group and although netball will still continue. We would love to see some of these students and anyone else that is interested in our hockey team after Christmas.



Year 8 Rugby (Mr Allcoat)

Year 8 rugby enrichment is by far the most attended rugby club that we have had in recent years. As you can see, we have nearly 30 boys who attend most Thursdays who are rugby enthusiasts and work incredibly hard as a group to build on their skills. The captaincy responsibilities have been shared between Tom M, Archy A, Coby L and Wes B who have all been great leaders putting their own spin on things. This group did very well at their North Somerset tournament competing with some traditionally strong rugby schools and winning a large proportion of their games. It is exciting to see where this group are heading. If they stay together from Year 9 onwards, they will have a very strong 15 a side squad! Again, another thanks to Mr Spencer for giving up his time and working closely to develop these boys into fantastic players!



Year 8 Football (Mr Clark)

These boys had a tough start to the year, getting knocked out of the cup in the first round to a very strong team who will likely go quite far. However, they regrouped and have put in some much better performances since then. They are always a pleasure to coach, their attitude is fantastic and I believe this is a team that will improve throughout their time as Priory, as they get bigger and stronger.

Year 8 Netball (Miss Gadd)

The Year 8 netball teams are full of dedication and enthusiasm. Regardless of the weather conditions, these students are eager to train and participate in netball. An A and B team filled generously with students, often with 11 players representing in one team! We had many fixtures and tournaments allowing our students to showcase their talents, a highlight being the A team 6-5 victory at St Kath's. The tournament saw both the A and B team work hard to secure a few wins, many draws and the odd loss, with all students leaving in high spirits. Well done to everyone in the Year 8 Netball teams we are proud to have you representing PCSA.



Year 9 Rugby (Mr Holyday)



The Year 9 rugby team have continued their good work from last year and have progressed no end. Numbers have been growing each week, with many boys completely new to the sport. These new members have been supported well by more experienced players, who often play for their local clubs. Enjoyment has been at the forefront for Year 9 rugby, with the boys coming up against tough opponents. Despite this, they have competed well, beating Worle and drawing to Hans Price in recent matches. Stand out players in these matches include Aaron T, Alfie C, Oscar C and Harrison P. Rugby enrichment will continue into the new year as the boys look to develop further. They have a great opportunity to challenge local schools as they progress towards Year 10.

Year 9 Football (Mr Allcoat)

The Year 9 football boys have had a mixed start to their season. Whilst being knocked out of the national cup by a very strong Millfield side, they have managed to progress into the 3rd round of the Somerset Cup. The highlight of the season so far has to be the 0-0 draw with Crispin School, only to win 4-3 on penalties with some fantastic saves by Ollie in goal! Every Thursday, we have an amazing 35-40 Year 9 students that attend football enrichment. This means after Christmas, we will be looking to arrange A, B and C team 11 a side fixtures in order to give all of the boys an opportunity to represent the school. Well done boys and keep working hard!



Year 9 Netball (Miss Gadd)

The Year 9 netball team has had more numbers this year than any year and we have managed to put out a consistent A and B team. They have had a range of fixtures and results and entered the tournament in high spirits. The A team fought well but a few wins and draws led to them finishing 7th out of a massive 12 teams that entered. However, the B team finished runners up in their smaller tournament against 6 other schools. Really well worked this season and we hope it continues.



Year 10 Football (Mr Coombs)

Our Year 10 team started the year well with lots of new faces training and we booked in an enjoyable away trip to Millfield. The boys were excited to experience the facilities and were kindly invited to a meal after by their gaffer! After excitement levels were at boiling point after seeing a certain Romeo Beckham training it was difficult to then focus on the match at hand. The boys started really brightly but conceded an early goal against the run of play. Millfield then went 2-0 up although Priory having the better of possession. Kieron W had a host of chances and managed to convert one to half the deficit before Millfield extended their lead back to two goals. After changing the formation the boys pulled one back towards the end of the game through Dylan P but couldn't manage to level the game. Man of the match was the excellent Jake K.

Our first English schools cup game was drawn away to Writhlington and after a great start and hitting the woodwork the boys conceded some soft goals and were 3-0 down in no time. After changing our shape to deal with the Writhlington attack we started to put our own stamp on the game with Clayton P in particular causing all sorts of issues in the opponent's final third. Callum G and Harley T-B were solid in the middle of the park and we managed to get a goal back through Clayton. As we started to chase the game further, we left ourselves more and more open at the back, finally losing the game 6-1.

In the Somerset Cup we welcomed Heathfield to PCSA and competed in a highly competitive game. Priory took the lead after the Heathfield goalkeeper fumbled the ball from a Callum G freekick which was bundled in by Clayton P. Heathfield equalised almost immediately to level the scores. Heathfield then managed to stretch their lead to 2-1 after some confusion at the back. After half time we then equalised through Kieron W after a good save from their keeper. Heathfield then scored two quick goals to put them two goals up. Priory showed great character to get a goal back through Callum but didn't quite manage to nick a goal at the death to take the tie to penalties. Man of the match was Troy Y for his continued positivity and encouragement of his team mates.

Year 11 Football (Mr Clark)

What a run these boys have been on this year. They have always been a fantastic group of footballers, but availability and commitment has sometimes meant that they have not been at full strength. This year, we have been able to put out a full strength team each game. This has resulted in an amazing cup run. Currently, in the last 32 teams out of 640 teams that have entered across the country.



This is the furthest any of our footballing teams have been in this competition and it really is a fantastic achievement.

Year 11 Rugby (Mr Allcoat)

As a PE department, we were pleasantly surprised when a group of Year 11 boys approached us in September about creating a Year 11 rugby team. With the normal Year 11 exams and GCSE pressures, this isn't usually the case. However, this group attended P6 regularly and competed very well in the North Somerset festival. With tough games against Kings of Wessex and Churchill, they managed to be more attacking and score against Backwell and Nailsea. During the final week of term 2, they played Worle in what was the final taste of rugby in a PCSA jersey!



Indoor Athletics/Cross Country (Mr Clark)

Our indoor athletics teams were superb this year. In Year 7 and 8, we entered a boys and girls team for both year groups. Our 7 boys finished joint first and all other teams finished second out of 6 schools. We are looking forward to the next round of the competition and hoping one of the teams can make it to the national stages!

Well done also to all of our Cross Country runners who braved the conditions at Backwell School. Jacob F being the standout as he made it through to the next round of competition.





U14 Girls Football (Mrs Spence)

Our Year 8 and Year 9 footballers have had a fantastic start to the year. They really work well as a team and are 100% committed to both matches and training.

Our first game was a trip to Filton in Bristol where we played a strong Abbeywood School. The team have played together since they were in Year 7 and many play in clubs outside of school. It has been great to welcome some new members this year and introduce more students to the game. Although their English Schools Cup came to an end in the third round against The Kings of Wessex in November, they are very much still in the Somerset Cup. Their future is looking bright.



U14 English Schools Cup-

Round 1- Priory	5	v	2	Abbeywood School
Round 2- Priory	1	v	0	Oasis Academy Brightstowe
Round 3- Priory	2	v	4	Kings of Wessex

U12 Girls Football (Mrs Spence)

Numbers at training have been fantastic even when the weather has prevented us from training outside. The team were so excited to travel to Churchill Academy for a mini North Somerset friendly tournament. We look forward to organising some fixtures in the New Year and we will certainly be entering this strong team into the Somerset Cup and English Schools Competition for September 2023.



LC1 House Matches

Tweddle came out victorious in the first round of house matches in the 2022/23 season. With rugby house matches for the majority of the boys and netball for the girls.

The team spirit and school values were on full display and it was great to see every student from Year 7 – Year 10 take part in such a positive manner.

We are looking forward to the football house matches for both boys and girls that are due to take place in LC2.9 at the end of January.

**LC1 PE
HOUSE MATCHES**

TWEDDLE = 11,900

DALEY = 10,500

HOLMES = 10,500

HOY = 9,600

Mr. C Coombs
Central Leader for PE
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Mr. T Allcoat
Teacher of PE
tom.allcoat@pcsa.org.uk



Library

Immediately from the very start of September it was clear that our new Year 7 students were avid readers and breaktime in the library is really busy. Our tables and chairs are full of students reading and using the computers and it makes for such a lovely atmosphere.

Already this year we have issued over 300 books and we have had lots of requests and recommendations from our students for new books.

We have frequently been asked for books featuring LGBTQIA+ characters and story lines which were, until recently, very unrepresented within our reading material. During September we have made it our first task to source and buy some really engaging books for both our upper school and lower school students and they are now on prominent display in the library



During Term 2 we held our first ever Book Swap which was a huge success. Students from Years 7 and 8 were invited to bring in a pre-loved book from home and swap it for a token. Then on Monday 5th December we opened up the library to all students that had brought in a book and they were able to choose a book that was new to them from the books donated by other students. This is such a brilliant way for our students to have access different titles and of course environmentally friendly too. Later on in the year we will be running this for Years 9,10 and 11 and we will be having a staff Book Swap too.

Another initiative we run to encourage our students to return any books they borrow and take out a different title is our weekly Library



raffle. Each time a student returns their book we give them a raffle ticket (up to two per week) and on a Monday morning all the raffle tickets are put into a pot and the winning ticket is drawn. The winner is then invited into the library to choose a brand new book that is theirs to keep and below you will see some of our past winners proudly showing off their prizes.

As always you can follow us on Twitter

Mrs. R Watts
Learning Resources Leader
rachel.watts@pcsa.org.uk



It has been a great term for careers events and activities.

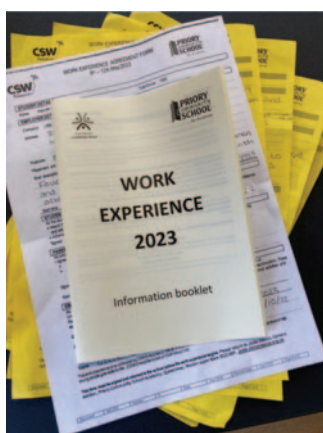
We met with Year 11 students to talk about their progression plans beyond PCSA. Lots of open evenings were hosted by local colleges and 6th forms.

We ran our 10 and 11 information sessions for families here at PCSA and updated our online careers convention – click the link below or scan the QR Code to have a look!

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b6808d075f9eecd1c7ed3d8/t/633c098c30944a0593bfe1f0/1664878996249/TPLT+Virtual+Careers+Convention+2022.pdf>



We also began to meet with Year 10 students to help them plan their Work Experience Week later in the school year.



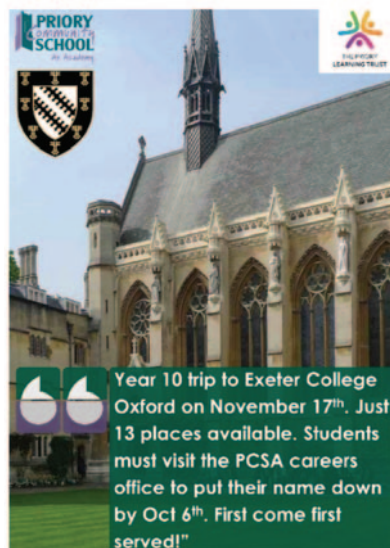
The team from the SEE Monster visited school to promote bio diversity and sustainable transport solutions. A group of Year 8 students enjoyed finding wildlife on our doorstep.



We hosted a brief visit from Cambridge University during half term. Staff talked to our students about life at one of the world's most prestigious universities and what to do now to build your skills.



12 Year 10 students also took a quick visit to Oxford University to have a look around.



The Army and Royal Navy dropped in to school to meet students and talk about life in the armed forces.



Singer/songwriter Becca Kate called into PCSA to meet students, play a few tunes and talk about her career in the music industry.



Thursday afternoon tutor time continued for all year groups with a focus on careers. It is a great to see 1500 students taking part in weekly activities and discussions around different career pathways....especially during green careers week.



Our annual tradition of student hero awards and a Christmas themed book launch also continued in the last week of term. We celebrated students acts of kindness at home, school and the community. We also celebrated our student authors, poets and illustrators as they achieved top 5 bestseller status for the 7th year running!

This term, we will really ramp up work experience planning for Year 10 students, continue to support Year 11 students with progression planning and we will spend time with Year 9 students while making their options choices.

Mr. Wilmot
Director of Careers
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Miss Silmon
Careers Advisor
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Every student's Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) has been at the forefront for most tutor time discussions. Each year group has had a separate focus this term making sure that the discussion has been age appropriate and useful for our students personal development. We aim to provide all of our students with the toolbox and personal skills in order to succeed, not only when at Priory but also beyond 16 years of age.

Term 1 and 2 topics

Year 7	E-safety and healthy friendships
Year 8	Body image and resilience
Year 9	Achieving with good mental wellbeing and healthy relationships
Year 10	Financial Awareness and healthy sexual relationships
Year 11	Money, economy and impacts upon me and online sexual harassment

We would also like to give a massive thank you to all of our guest speakers who delivered to our students during week 9 of learning cycle 1. Rhys from Escapline, Atomic Rhubarb drama production and Leon and Moses from St Giles Trust were all extremely inspiring. The feedback from students and staff who attended these assemblies was very positive. We hope our students are more aware of ever growing issues such as knife crime and child exploitation.



Citizenship

Citizenship and character education plays a fundamental role within the tutor programme at PCSA, as well as playing a significant part of the wider curriculum and culture. Our core values as a school are aspiration, integrity and respect and these form the basis of all discussions around learning and conduct. We celebrate students who showcase values in and around school with praise postcards and our new 'Wonder wall' in the main school courtyard.

Our KS4 students now have a bonus hour every two weeks with tutors where they discuss the things that shape them as young people. During tutor time students have been focussing on current affairs, understanding citizenship themes through the prism of real live events, that are relevant to the students today.

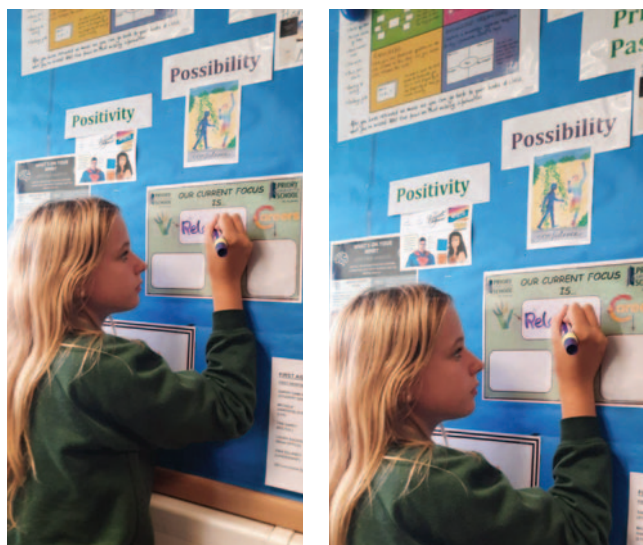
Each year group has also had a specific Citizenship focused session this cycle. These were as follows:

Year 7	British Citizenship
Year 8	Sexuality and Homophobia
Year 9	Criminal Justice
Year 10	How Democracy Works
Year 11	Our Environment

Each of these specifically designed sessions provoked thoughtful discussions amongst the students on these important topics, a key aim of Citizenship provision at PCSA. We're very pleased that Citizenship Studies is now offered to students as an optional GCSE. A course like no other, it offers a deeper dive into values and ethics to widen knowledge and to bring about change. Lessons are planned and delivered to develop key processes such as critical thinking, enquiry, advocacy and representation, taking informed and responsible action.

Mr. T Allcoat
Teacher of PE and PSHE Co-ordinator
tom.allcoat@pcsa.org.uk

Miss S O'Gorman
Teacher of English and Citizenship Co-ordinator
sarah.o'gorman@pcsa.org.uk



News from Support to Learn

Hello! As always we have had been incredibly busy few months in Support to Learn. In September we welcomed our brilliant new Year 7s and quickly screened them to check if they would need some support in lessons. Since then we have been supporting Year 11s in their PPEs, particularly those with access arrangements. If you have any concerns at all about any student's ability to access the lessons or exams please contact Miss Smith.

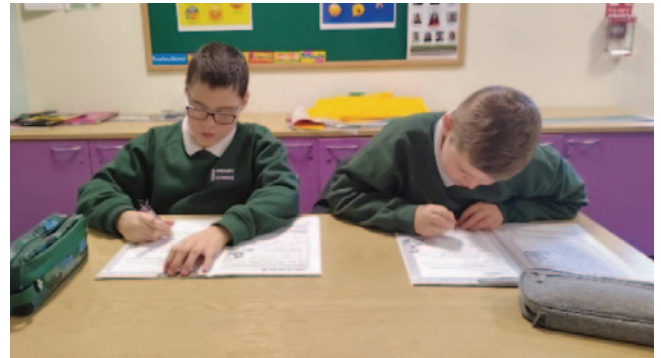


In Year 9 intervention students read Charlie and the Chocolate Factory in Cycle 1, and are now using Cycle 2 to develop advanced English skills. They have been perfecting their AFORREST techniques for persuasive writing tasks, as well as completing independent research tasks on the computers and creating character profiles.

Miss L Smith
Assistant Principal and SENDCO
lisa.smith@pcsa.org.uk

In Year 7 some of our students have started phonics and spelling intervention during the mornings. This uses Fresh Start from Read Write Inc. The aim is to rapidly improve literacy skills that they can use in all their other lessons

In Year 8 intervention they have just finished reading Fantastic Mr Fox which they all enjoyed, and are now moving onto a Sheep Pig. This is a new and interesting one for them as they have not seen or heard of the book. We have been enjoying using a mixture of writing in our books, as well as using computers to complete our work. They have been creating newspaper articles, stories and letters. It has been really helpful to improve their independent research skills and general literacy skills.







SCHOOL UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Footwear that we allow at PCSA



- School shoes should be ALL BLACK (no white or coloured logos)

Footwear that is not permitted at PCSA



- Shoes should be polishable and must not be made of fabric, suede or canvas.

Trousers, shorts and skirts allowed at PCSA



- Trousers should be plain black and tailored
- Skirts should be knee length, plain black and tailored
- Knee length tailored black shorts are allowed

Trousers shorts and skirts not permitted at PCSA



- Denim, jeans or jegging style trousers including jeggings or other trousers with stud detailing should not be worn
- Leggings or Harem pants should not be worn
- Mini skirts, skirts with slits or high waisted skirts should not be worn

Earrings and Jewellery



- One stud in each ear lobe may be worn.
- Students may wear a watch.
- ✗ No other piercing is permitted. If a student comes to school with any other piercing, they must be taken out immediately.
- ✗ No other jewellery should be worn.



False or acrylic nails



- False or acrylic nails must not be worn. Students with such nails must remove them.



Clothing in 'School Uniform' departments in shops may not be compatible with PCSA expectations. To avoid purchasing incorrect clothing, please follow the PCSA uniform policy only

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 7, 8 AND 9)

- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →

- ← ✗ No extreme hairstyles or non-natural hair colours
- ← ✗ No extreme make up
- ← ✗ No facial piercings, one stud earring only
- ← ✗ Collar out
- ← ✗ Sleeves rolled down and t-shirt tucked in
- ← ✗ No skirts above knee, leggings, short trousers or chinos/denim/stretchy material
- ← ✗ Black shoes, no trainers

KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 10 AND 11)

- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →
- ✓ →

- ← ✗ No extreme hairstyles or non-natural hair colours
- ← ✗ No extreme make up
- ← ✗ No facial piercings, one stud earring only
- ← ✗ Collar out
- ← ✗ Sleeves rolled down and t-shirt tucked in
- ← ✗ No skirts above knee, leggings, short trousers or chinos/denim/stretchy material
- ← ✗ Black shoes, no trainers

TEACHER TRAINING

If you are looking to train as a teacher, The Priory Learning Trust offers an alternative to traditional university-based teacher training at both primary and secondary level. With our School Direct teacher training programme you train in two schools in the Weston and Burnham area, learning on the job, while

working towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).



If you'd like to find out more please contact
Denise Hurr, Head of Training School via email: tsa@theplt.org.uk

2023

JANUARY 2023						
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AUGUST 2023						
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NOVEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/2023

TERM 3	Starts	Tuesday 3 January 2023
	Ends	Friday 10 February 2023
TERM 4	Starts	Monday 20 February 2023
	Ends	Friday 31 March 2023
TERM 5	Starts	Monday 17 April 2023
	Ends	Friday 26 May 2023
TERM 6	Starts	Monday 5 June 2023
	Ends	Friday 21 July 2023

ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

TERM 1	Starts	Monday 4th September 2023
	Ends	Friday 13th October 2023
TERM 2	Starts	Monday 30th October 2023
	Ends	Wednesday 20th December 2023

	Term Days		Holidays
	INSET Days		Bank Holidays

