

September 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers

 @PrioryCSA

**Welcome back** to the new school year at PCSA. I hope everyone has had a great summer break. This initial letter is intended to highlight some key developments and celebrate our **superb exams results** 2017. Well done to all our great Year 10s and Year 11s.

This year has seen the development of The Spencer Science Centre. It is a truly inspirational space to study and possibly the best science centre in any school in the country. Seeing the focus of our young people at the start of this year in science has been fantastic. It boasts 12 amazing science labs and an outdoor classroom with hydroponic walls. Truly wonderful.

### **STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2017-18**

There is a prefect team of 50 this year with our Head Boy being **Oskar Boyce** and Head Girl **Megan Hatch**. Deputy Heads of School are: **Ella Minty** and **Lewis Westcott**. My congratulations to them and their families for an exciting and challenging year ahead.

### **USEFUL and the KEY CONTACTS 2017-18 – more contacts are on our website**

Principal – [Jane.Mcbride@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Mcbride@pcsa.org.uk)

Head of Upper School & Year 11 – [Kirsty.Aaron@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Kirsty.Aaron@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of Lower School & Year 8 – [Gemma.Roberts@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Gemma.Roberts@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of Year 9 – [Caroline.Rowlands@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.Rowlands@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of Year 10 – [Callum.Thompson@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Callum.Thompson@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of Year 7 – [Lee.Dodson@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Lee.Dodson@pcsa.org.uk)

Head of Maths – [Lois.Kerrison@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Lois.Kerrison@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of English – [Phil.Dodd@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Phil.Dodd@pcsa.org.uk)  
Head of Science – [Rosie.Callendar@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Rosie.Callendar@pcsa.org.uk)

We love to hear and celebrate our students and their families' successes via social media on Facebook and Twitter. Please can I be clear that if you have any issues do contact the school via phone or e-mail rather than on social media. This way we can deal with matters promptly and effectively. Please do e-mail me directly and I will ensure that your e-mails are directed to the appropriate person who will be happy to help.

### **PLACES at PCSA**

We are expanding and could admit a few more students into **Year 10**. Please contact the school if you wish to have a **Year 10** place or you know another family who would like a Year 10 place – all other year groups are full at present with waiting lists.

### **CALENDAR 2017-18**

Our school calendar for 2017 – 18 is enclosed here, this gives you all major school dates. Please keep it handy.

We have the annual 'Target Setting Day' on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**. This will be in the form of individual appointments in the day and will not be a school day for the students.

### **HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME**

We would again ask parents to avoid taking any holidays in term time. We are well aware of the difference in costs of holidays in term time (this is a national issue and should be dealt with) but we will not authorise holidays in the school term without a really exceptional reason. However, I am delighted to reinforce that in order to support you on this we have decided to have a two-week holiday in October instead of the traditional one week. I hope many of you are able to take advantage of cheaper holidays as a result. We thank you all for your support of the school on this issue. If you have any concerns or issues around attendance please do not hesitate to contact

### **Period 6**

Please encourage students to join our clubs and activities - a P6 leaflet is enclosed here. There is so much on offer at PCSA and we want our students to not only to succeed with exams ... but also to enjoy their school life and develop their friendship groups and character. We also encourage our students to take part in The Edge. This is a programme which is monitored during tutor time and is designed to focus on employability skills. The scheme will focus on the following key attributes:

- Leadership
- Organisation
- Initiative
- Resilience
- Communication

There are a variety of approved activities that students can undertake for each of the key attributes, the number of activities that need to be completed varies depending on the level. We anticipate that each level will take between one and three years to complete. The completion of each of these levels leads to a recognised qualification from NCFE. Our school Edge Leader is Miss Gadd who can be contacted via e-mail on [courtney.gadd@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:courtney.gadd@pcsa.org.uk). During target Setting Day in January your child's tutor will be happy to share their progress.

Thank you for supporting the school and please, as always, feel free to contact me at any time. I will ensure you will get a very prompt reply.

My very best wishes,



Jane McBride – BA (Hons) MSc NPQH  
Principal – PCSA  
[Jane.mcbride@pcsa.org.uk](mailto:Jane.mcbride@pcsa.org.uk)

