

# Priory School - Head of School's Newsletter

Priory School Newsletter

Issue No. 2 – October 2018 – Karen Clinton



We have had an excellent start to this academic year – our students have settled well and are working hard.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Family Information Evenings during Week 2.

Copies of the presentations are available on the school website.

## *Initial GCSE Results*

Unvalidated Performance data

The DfE will release the unvalidated headline data for the summer GCSE results on Thursday 11 October. Priory School had excellent outcomes data with very high numbers achieving a standard pass (grade 4+ in Maths and English) and also for a strong pass (grade 5+ in Maths and English).

## *Lewes Exhibition Fund*

Grants to support local students

Lewes Exhibition Fund is a Charitable Trust which enables students up to the age of 25 years, who are resident in Lewes or within 5 miles of the Law Courts at Lewes, to apply for financial assistance towards their education. Grants are generally in the region of £200-£400. Governors meet four times per year with the next two meetings being October and December.

Application forms for the scheme may be obtained from Mr N C Walsh, Clerk to the Governors, Lewes Exhibition Fund, Town Hall, High Street, Lewes, BN7 2QS.

## *Post 16 Options Evening*

Thursday 4 October: 6pm – 7.30pm

We will be hosting a wide range of post 16 providers in the Main Hall on **Thursday 4 October**. This event is highly relevant to both Year 10 and Year 11 students. There will be an opportunity to speak to representatives from a wide range of organisations. Student and parents can learn about entry requirements, course provision and career progression. Please try to attend if you can!

## Family Reading

I would like to introduce a new family item to the newsletter around reading as a family.

Reading as a family leads to success. When young people read more than just their classroom texts, research clearly shows that they generally do well in school. First of all, the extra reading expands their vocabularies. It also shows them how different writers put down their thoughts leading to better writing skills. Young people who read more serious literary works gain skills in handling complex ideas. The more they read, the more information they pick up, leading to a solid core of knowledge that is useful in a wide variety of classes. A good example of this is the teenager who having read biographies has a better understanding of prominent people studied in history classes.

By reading shared books, fiction and non-fiction, parents are expressing a clear interest in their children - it is a really valuable and enjoyable way of 'staying in touch' through the teenage years.

Recommendations for October:



<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poems/change-poems/>

## Lewes Schools' INSET day – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Joint INSET day for all Lewes schools

On Tuesday 6 November, schools across the town will come together to develop our partnership working. The day will enable all staff to hear about the work undertaken by the Lewes Co-operative Learning Partnership including research undertaken into future partnership models. School staff will engage in a range of workshops which will develop existing and future partnership work. Key aims of the day will be to inform staff of the changing educational landscape, to consider responses to the challenges we face and to enhance ways we can work together to improve the quality of education for the children/young people in our schools; this will include the work undertaken exploring a local Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).

As part of the process of seeking to continually improve, Priory School governors have been researching a wide range of partnership options. We have been part of a group which has visited a range of Multi-Academy Trusts and have committed some significant time to reviewing the vision and values of different MATs. This has included consideration of the key documentation (Articles of Association and Scheme of Delegation) as well as the structures and costs of the central services which support effective MATs.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Reducing time out of school

As was explained on the Family Information Evenings, Priory School has a whole school attendance level which is below the national average. We are striving to achieve at least 96% whole school attendance (which would bring us in line with the national average). Last year, we fell short of our target and we are determined to work together to increase school attendance. As of the beginning of week 3, the figure stood at 95.23% - we must work hard together to prevent this figure falling.

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?					
90 days	80 days	78 days	63 days	61 days	43 days
100%	95%	94%	86%	85%	75%
Good		Worrying		Serious Concern	
					
Only 1-2 day missed per term		Between 3-8 days missed per term		More than 9 days missed per term	

## Mobile Phones in School

Policy and Procedure

Please can you remind your son/daughter that mobile phones should be switched off and out of sight during the school day. We do not allow phones out at break or lunchtime as this helps reduce cyber bullying and the accessing of inappropriate material.

Please support us with this policy and do not text or phone your son/daughter during the school day. If you need to contact the school, please do so via the House or Main School line (or email). If a student needs to contact home, he or she should go to the House Office to do so.

If a student has a mobile out during the day, it is likely to be confiscated (please refer to the Phone Confiscation Procedure on the website).

## Changing your contact details

Please ensure you use the correct means to inform us

Sometimes contact details change and it is important to update the school of any changes; unfortunately, we are unable to accept change of contact details via email or telephone, please may we ask that you inform us one of three ways.

- completing the Change of Contact Details form (available on the school website or from Reception);
- sending in a signed letter;
- writing in your child's planner.

Without receiving this, we are unable to change any details.

## Dates for your Diary

For your diary

1. **Post 16 Options Evening (Year 11 and 10)** – Thursday 4 October (6pm)
2. **Senior Citizens Tea party** – Friday 5 October
3. **Year 11 DoE expedition** – Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 October
4. **Chinese cultural visit** – Friday 12 October
5. **Year 11 Geography Field work** – w/c 15 October
6. **Churchill College Cambridge Talk** – Tuesday 16 October 4.30pm

7. **Year 7 Fish and Chips Evening** – Thursday 18 October 6.00pm
8. **Last Day Term 1** – Friday 19 October 3.15pm

## *October Half-term opportunities*

Press Play Films is running 4 days of animation workshops this October half term (Oct 22nd to 25th) in Lewes. There are exciting days planned including Lego animating, claymation and drawn animation techniques. Workshops cater for children up to 15 years old and help them to produce professional type animations each day. For more information please contact [lara@pressplayfilms.co.uk](mailto:lara@pressplayfilms.co.uk) or call Lara on 07977 593 857. For photos and reviews of previous workshops see [www.pressplayfilms.co.uk](http://www.pressplayfilms.co.uk)

## *Further Information*

Contact us

Should you want to comment on articles in the newsletter please contact: [info@priory.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:info@priory.e-sussex.sch.uk)