

Priory School Headteacher's Newsletter

Priory School Newsletter

Issue No. 16– August 2018 – Tony Smith



At the end of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support and encouragement you have given us at Priory School.

All of us who work at the school, aspire to provide the best possible education for our students and we were delighted this has been recognised by OFSTED when they visited in May.

Please do make a note of the events at the start of the new academic year, especially the **Family Information Evenings**, when important information about the year ahead will be shared.

In the meantime, I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer.

Goodbye to Priory Staff

Staff Leaving us

As is normal at the end of an academic year a number of staff are leaving us to enjoy ventures new. We are grateful to all of our staff who show great dedication and commitment to making Priory an excellent school. This year we are saying goodbye to:

Mr Paul Trudgian – Head of Water House
Mr Martin Baker – Curriculum Leader for Science
Mr Reece Woolmore – English Teacher
Miss Rachel Mayfield – Science Teacher
Mrs Rosie Morgan – RS Teacher

Ms Stephanie Chalmers – Office Manager and PA to the Headteacher
Mrs Louise Rogers – IT Technician
Mr Tom Miller – Cover Supervisor
Mr Nahian Syed – Teaching Assistant

Changing staff roles

New roles for September

We have made a number of changes to roles in the school for next academic year:

Mrs Karen Clinton – Head of School
Mr Paul Holt – seconded to the Senior Leadership Team
Mr Oliver Holbrook - seconded to the Senior Leadership Team
Mrs Carla Towey – Head of Water House
Mr Tristan Roberts – Curriculum Leader for Maths (maternity cover)

New Governors

3 new recruits

We have three new governors who have been recruited to support our key strategic work so we are delighted to welcome:

- David Conway (Co-opted)
- Martin Penrose (Co-opted)
- Ken Caplan (Associate Governor)

We look forward to the expertise they will bring to our team.

Behaviour for Learning Policy and Procedures

Changes for the new academic year

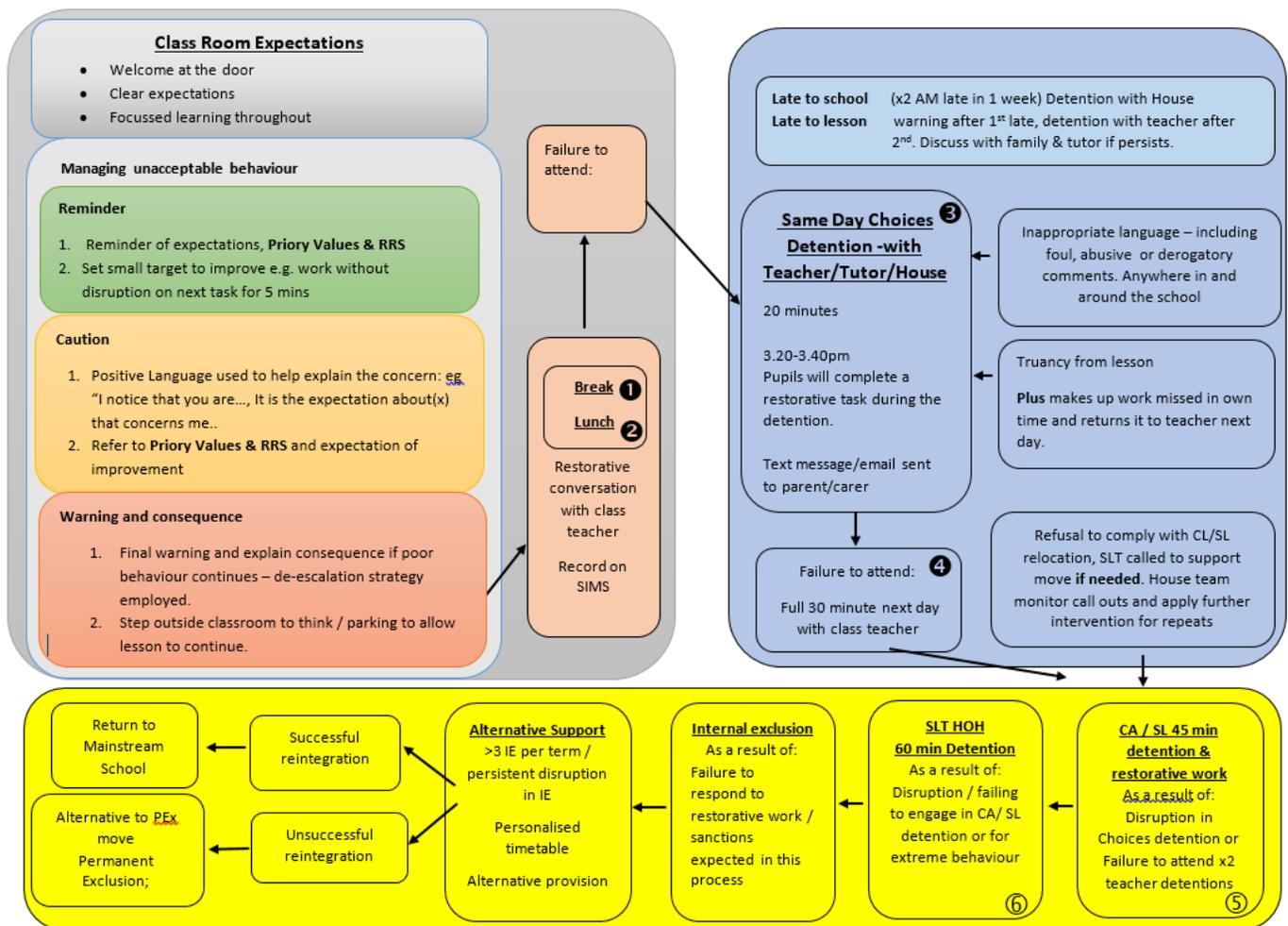


In line with our Star Values, we strive to maintain a positive school ethos in which mutual respect, consideration and high standards of personal conduct are the norm. We have high expectations of one another, and encourage and reward, effort, achievement and aspiration.

For some time now, we have been using restorative meetings as a means of listening, supporting and guiding young people when things aren't going well. Both students and staff find these meetings are key to getting back on track, re-establishing understanding of one another and, most importantly, rebuilding positive supportive relationships.

At Priory, restorative meetings take many forms, for example; peer to peer conversations when relationships break down, or teacher to student relationships when classroom issues arise. They can be anything from an informal chat at the end of a lesson, calendared meeting chaired by a trusted adult or a student speaking with their teacher.

Evidence shows that to be most effective, the immediacy of these meetings is imperative. As part of our 'Better Together' drive this year, we have made changes to the restorative process in order to ensure meetings take place as soon as possible after an issue. By introducing more opportunities for these meetings to take place, we hope to resolve any concerns before they escalate. Please see the flowchart that we will be using below.



Please note the addition of the same day detention, for when a student has not attended a requested restorative meeting. This will be logged on our computer system and an email will be generated to alert families. Students will also be encouraged to let their families know they will be leaving school a little later that day.



Student Success

Judo joy for Ellie

Ellie Kearley-Whitmore fought at the Kent International Open Tournament 2018 and after some fantastic fights came away with the gold medal in her age/weight group and so is Kent International Champion (for the second year running). This event hosts around 700+ players from across the UK & Europe – huge congratulations to Ellie.

Midsummer Festival in Blois

Starfish Youth Music

Lola Britten-Hepper and Rosa Yates represented Starfish Youth Music (and Priory School) at the midsummer festival on 21 June 2018 in Blois (Lewes' twin town). The summer festival is an annual event and a youth band from Lewes is invited to perform on the youth stage. We are delighted to have been represented!

Year 5 STEM workshop

Robot Revolution

Priory hosted students from Southover, Wallands and Western Road on the 21 June. The students had a fascinating time learning about the many facets of science, maths and engineering. We were all impressed with their design skills and creativity! Thank you to Mr Baker for the planning and organisation of the day.

Sports Awards Evening

Tuesday 3 July

Congratulations to all the nominees and awards winners at the annual Sports Awards Evening. We are pleased to see the huge numbers of students who play an active part in sport at the school. We know how important physical activity is in developing stronger mental health and resilience. We are also grateful to the Chapel Trustees for the sponsorship of awards.

The range of opportunities presented to our students is vast and I am truly grateful to the staff for their commitment and dedication.

Key Stage 3 Awards Event

Wednesday 11 July

Thank you to everyone who attended the Key Stage 3 Awards Event. It is heartening to see such a large number of nominees which reflects the commitment and dedication of the vast majority of students at Priory School. The evening allowed us to showcase a small range of different talents as well as recognise the hard work and commitment of so many young people. Congratulations to all the students involved and well done to the award winners.

Languages Enrichment Day

Sussex University

Some of our Year 9 students were recently invited to Sussex University where they spent a whole day on campus and got a taste of what it would be like to study a modern foreign language at degree level. They took part in a variety of workshops including British Sign Language, Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese and several European languages.

Our students confidently delivered a series of mini lectures ranging from French fashion to Spanish tourism, the German car industry and China's Silk Road (including a demonstration of Kung Fu!). A great day full of culture that left us inspired by the opportunities that speaking another language in a rapidly growing global economy can provide.



Speaker For Schools

Emma Tucker

On Friday 6 July, Year 10 students were given the opportunity to listen to Emma Tucker (Deputy Editor of The Times newspaper) who spoke about the world of journalism and 'fake news'. Emma is a former student of Priory School, so it was a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear from someone who once sat where they are now. The students asked a range of interesting questions at the conclusion of the presentation.



Family Information Evenings

Important Information Evenings at the start of term

We will be sharing important information for families (parents and students) on the following evenings in September:

- Year 7 Evening – Monday **10 September** 6-7pm (followed by the Year 7 Parents' Instrumental Evening at 7.30pm)
- Year 8 Evening – Wednesday **12 September** 5-6pm
- Year 9 Evening – Tuesday **11 September** 5-6pm
- Year 10 Evening - Wednesday **12 September** 6-7pm
- Year 11 Evening – Tuesday **11 September** 6-7pm

Please make every effort to attend.

Online Safety Guide for Doki Doki

National Online Safety (NOS)

Doki Doki Literature Club; a visual novel game with suicide themes and a psychological horror plot, advised by its makers as 'not suitable for children'. The game is believed to have been downloaded more than two million times in the first four months and has come under scrutiny in the UK media after a father said he felt the game had 'dragged his son in' and contributed to his death in Greater Manchester in early 2018. Police and the coroner investigating the 15-year-old's death have urged parents to be vigilant and called the game a 'risk to children and young people' Please take time to read the guide which can be accessed here:

<https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1014516601281007616>

Online Safety Guide for Minecraft

National Online Safety (NOS)

Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who can use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. The risks that parents need to be aware of with this game include cyberbullying, "griefing", online grooming and susceptibility to viruses and malware.

NOS have produced a guide that aims to give parents practical tips on how to ensure this game can be enjoyed safely.

Please take time to read the guide which can be accessed here: <https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1011992663002963969>



Charity Fundraising

Throughout the year the students and teachers have organised a number of fundraising opportunities to raise money for MacMillan Support. These have included a tombola, a photo booth, a bake sale, car wash, karaoke, valentine gifts, walk challenge, pen sales, ice lolly sales, coffee morning and a staff team running Brighton 10k.

In total this year we have raised.... **£7,150**

Dates for your Diary

For your diary

1. **Year 6 Parents Meet the Tutor** – Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 July
2. **Last Day of Term** – Friday 20 July: **School finishes at 12.15 pm**
3. **GCSE Result Day** – Thursday 23 August
4. **INSET Day** – Monday 3 September
5. **First Day for Y7** – Tuesday 4 September
6. **First Day for Y8 to 11** – Wednesday 5 September
7. **Year 7 Family Information Evening** –Monday 10 September 6pm
8. **Year 9 Family Information Evening** –Tuesday 11 September 5pm
9. **Year 11 Family Information Evening** –Tuesday 11 September 6pm
10. **Year 8 Family Information Evening** –Wednesday 12 September 5pm
11. **Year 10 Family Information Evening** –Wednesday 12 September 6pm

Further Information

Contact us

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

Holiday Activities

Creative Writing

There is a Creative Writing Workshop at Ditchling Museum on Thursday 16 August from 11am to 3pm. To learn more visit: <http://www.ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk/product/creative-story-writing-beth-miller-thursday-16-august/>