

# Priory School, Lewes Newsletter

Issue 1: September 2020



## WELCOME BACK

We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students to Priory and welcome back all other year groups after such a long period of lockdown.

I want to extend my congratulations to everyone for the resilience shown during the long periods of 'home education'.

As with all crises, there are lessons to be learned and we need to spend time, reflecting on what was successful and what we can do better in a similar situation in the future.

Given the complexity of the controls we have made clear our expectations of students when in school (via an assembly and tutor time sessions). It is imperative we have **exemplary behaviour** at all times.

With the cancellation of GCSE examinations and the requirement for Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) we now know how important it is to work hard at all times to ensure students have a robust and reliable set of evidence, which can be used when making assessment decisions.

We will be reiterating the importance of working hard on all aspects of school work to ensure each student has a strong portfolio of evidence for the future.



## WELL DONE YEAR 11

On Thursday 20 August, Year 11 came to school to collect their GCSE grades.

This was a unique year as there were no examinations and the grades awarded were the result of detailed assessment by staff.



We know what a challenging and unusual year this has been and are proud of the way the students remained focused and committed to their learning, as a result the vast majority achieved the grades required to progress to their post -16 option of choice.



## NEW STAFF

As we start the new academic year I am pleased to welcome a number of staff who are joining our 'Priory Community'

I am sure you will also make our new staff welcome:

### Teaching Staff

Amelia Thurley – English

Molly-Ann Navey – Humanities

Teresa Russell – Lead Teacher, Autism

Gill Checkley – Science

Thomas Smith – Science

Janice Dorish – Maths

Doreen Wallace – Maths

Poppy Sansom – PE

Alice Brooke-Smith – Alternative Provision

Isobel McCall – Drama

Alice Seager – Dance & Drama

Ruth Gottlieb – Music

Karin Jaschke – MFL

### Non Teaching Staff

Alison Standen – Learning Resources Manager/Librarian

Victoria Coyle – HLTA (for Autism Facility)

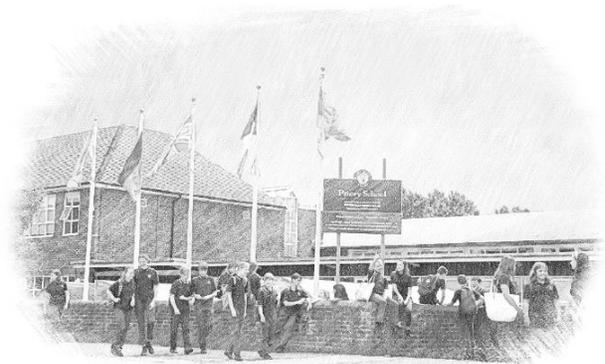
Martina Moss - TA

Milclei Bizaio Martins – TA

Geraldine Fory – TA

Lucy Springett – TA

Matthew Andrews - Arts & Photography Technician





# AUTISM FACILITY

***Despite the lockdown the building of the Autism Facility has continued and we are on target to occupy the building in January 2021.***

In May, work commenced on the building of the Autism Facility. The building is located next to the Music Block and will eventually have capacity for a maximum of 12 students.



We are also pleased to have appointed Mrs Teresa Russell as the Lead Teacher for the Facility as well as Mrs Victoria Coyle who will be the Lead Teaching Assistant for Autism.

When finished, the building will include a classroom, a room for group work, sensory room and a multi-purpose room.

Currently we have temporary accommodation in the Southover Building of East Sussex College Group and have commenced our provision for the first cohort of students.



*“Support staff are here when you need them. If I wasn’t here I wouldn’t be in school at all.”*



**Exterior View**

1:1.62



# REORGANISATION OF ROLES

Earlier in the year I wrote to inform you that we have reorganised our Senior Leadership roles.

I am returning to my role as Headteacher and Mrs Clinton (Behaviour and Personal Development) and Mr Ashworth (Teaching and Learning, Curriculum & Assessment) are the Deputy Headteachers.

The team consists of six Assistant Headteachers:

Mrs Cowlin – Teaching and Learning (English, Humanities, Languages and PE subjects)

Mrs Steven – Teaching and Learning (Science, Technology, Maths and Arts subjects)

Mr Holt – Curriculum and Staffing

Mrs Twilley – Inclusion and Alternative Provision

Mrs Sahota-Lyons – Pastoral and Disadvantaged (including line management of the 4 Houses)

Miss Howells - Safeguarding

We are retaining the House System and the Houses will be headed by a 'House Head'.

The four House Heads are:

Air: Mrs Brown/Mrs Allsobrook/Mrs Badham

Earth: Mrs Sheffield

Fire: Mrs Plant

Water: Mrs Coppard

Please liaise directly with the House Head and/or Form Tutor with regard to issues about personal development and wellbeing.



## COVID-19 CONTROLS

We have had a relatively smooth start to the school year despite the enormity of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Throughout the summer we have refined and amended the risk assessment as the guidance has changed.

We have updated our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) as well as writing a contingency plan, recovery plan and developing protocols.

The key documents can be found on the school website: <https://www.priory.e-sussex.sch.uk/1239/covid-19>

There are a significant number of changes and these have been explained to the students as they have returned. The **key points** to note are:

1. Face coverings should be worn in corridors and other inside communal areas (but not in classrooms once seated). Please do bring a sterilized bag to keep the face covering in when not in use. It might be an idea to bring a spare face covering, in case one is misplaced during the day.
2. The school has a 'one-way' system to reduce crossing in corridors. (marked with arrows on the floor).
3. Hand sanitisers have been placed in all classrooms.
4. We have three lunch breaks and two morning breaks during which students stay in their year group bubble.
5. The break and lunchtime areas are 'zoned' for each year group.
6. There is a staggered end to the school day (Year 7 leave first at 3.05pm).
7. The school continues to encourage social distancing on the premises (students should not touch each other).
8. Visitors to the school are minimized and meetings with external persons are being held by telephone or video conference where possible (contact details are collected from all visitors).
9. Limiting the numbers who can be in the toilet areas at any one time.
10. Parents are advised not to come onto the school premises. If you need to communicate with the school, please do so by email or telephone.

Please note there are only 'essential' after school clubs and activities (e.g. Shakespeare Schools Festival Group) so students **should not remain on site after the end of the school day.**



## FRIENDS OF PRIORY



It is vital that we continue to show our support for Priory by fundraising for the school and, as parents, respond creatively to the current situation when live events are unable to go ahead. All Priory parents and carers are members of the Friends of Priory School and we need your help. We hope you'll be able to join us at our **Friends of Priory School AGM on Wednesday 7 October 2020 from 7pm to 8pm online** via Zoom.

Please book your free AGM place here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/TBB>

Do come along and hear about how together we contribute to making Priory such a thriving, well-equipped school and the many different ways in which you could help – from buying tickets to our events (social distancing permitting), to joining a committee, to serving drinks, to giving a monthly donation.

Becoming involved with Friends of Priory is a great way to get to know other parents, support the teachers and strengthen the school's links with the community.

Everyone is welcome, and we'll do our best to keep the business part of the meeting as brief as possible!

Best wishes  
Friends of Priory  
[friendsofpriory.org](https://www.friendsofpriory.org)



## PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Due to the Covid-19 situation, we are unable to have the traditional Open Evening where prospective parents visit the school and receive a presentation, visit the different subject areas and talk to students and staff.

It is essential we continue to market our school to prospective parents and we aim to hold a virtual event as well as publishing information.

We have commissioned an introductory video which is available to view via our website:

<https://www.priory.e-sussex.sch.uk/391/prospectus>

We have promoted this via Facebook and Twitter but would also appreciate the support of our parents and carers to promote this with friends and others you may know who are seeking school places.

*Priory School  
Lewes*

*Telephone: 01273 476231  
Email: [info@priory.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:info@priory.e-sussex.sch.uk)  
Website: <https://www.priory.e-sussex.sch.uk/>*