



Priory School, Lewes



Newsletter

Issue #11 November 2020

SCHOOL MATTERS

Covid -19

We appreciate the support we have been given from many parents and carers as we work through this very difficult time.

To date we have had to send home 3 'bubbles' due to positive Covid cases, in each case it has been about a quarter of a year group.

We have been working hard to ensure the remote learning provision is high quality and are grateful for the feedback we have received, positive and negative. We do work hard to rectify issues that are brought to our attention.

We also appreciate that there are a significant number of supply and cover lessons at the moment and whilst not trying to make excuses we are also subject to staff issues of self-isolation and illness, so we have little alternative if we are to keep the school open. We are grateful for your understanding in these situations.

There are additional consequences of staff absence and these include our ability to respond to and manage issues that are directed to us. Once again we are working as best we can to respond and address issues, but these are times when our resources are severely stretched. Please be assured we are doing all we can to try to maintain our services.

PARENT FORUM

Thursday 11 Nov

We held our first 'remote' Parent Forum last Thursday. As we are unable to host the session in school it was great to be able to use technology and to be able to interact with the parents who attended.

A wide range of topics were covered including how to improve communication between school and home, promoting mental health and wellbeing, the number of supply teachers in school during the Covid-19 pandemic, bullying, remote learning, tutor time, Covid-19 controls, parents evenings and the school sanctions.

There were 22 parents/families who attended and we are grateful for the feedback we received at the meeting.

The minutes will be posted on the school website once they are finalised (<https://www.priory.e-sussex.sch.uk/1077/parent-forum>)





SCHOOLS SHAKESPEARE FOUNDATION PRODUCTION

Macbeth

On Thursday 19 November a small audience of Priory Staff were treated to the Year 9 Schools Shakespeare Foundation production of Macbeth.

The production had a 'punk' theme with fantastic costumes and live music from the late 1970s. The acting was superb with all students clearly enjoying the opportunity to perform to a live audience.

We are grateful to Ms Dimoglou and Ms McCall for making it happen, the parents who helped with costumes and the students for their enthusiasm, commitment and perseverance!



FRIENDS OF PRIORY

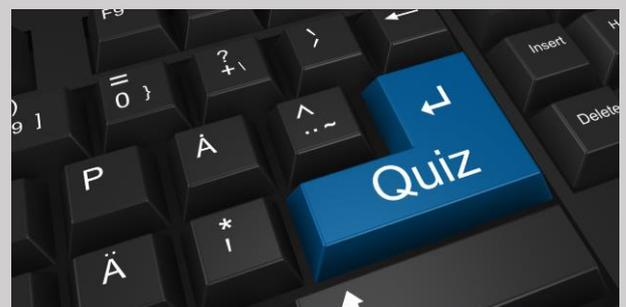
Y7 Parents Social Evening On-Line Quiz

Tuesday 1st Dec 7pm

As new parents have sadly been unable to meet in person this year, Friends of Priory are organising a Social Quiz based on local knowledge of Lewes and the school, with class teams so that parents can meet each other, if only by Zoom – children are also welcome to take part. No prizes but class honour and glory are at stake – please join us!

Please click the link below to sign up for this free event on **Tuesday 1 December at 7pm**, by selecting your child's class tutor group name when booking your ticket so that you can be allocated to the right team.

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WGE>





MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The following resources are available to parents and students to help support health and wellbeing in relation to Covid-19

Open for Parents resources:

Information to support children and families, including links to services and information on Covid-19.

Website: <https://www.openforparents.org.uk/>

Facebook:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/OpenforParents/>

Enquiries email: info@openforparents.org.uk

Other resources:

[YouTube clip](#) from ITV programme "Driving Mum and Dad Mad"

East Sussex [School Health Service](#)

School Health access for children and young people aged 11-19.

- Text your School Nurse – 07507 332473

[Parenting matters online](#) website

[Mediation Plus](#) - mediation service for Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden

LA ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

The County Council is consulting on its proposed admission arrangements for 2022-23 admissions. A link to the consultation can be found at

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/admissions/consultations/arrangements/consultation-2022-23/ .

The admission authorities for Hailsham Community College and Priory School have indicated that they would like to keep their admission criteria in line with those of the County Council and are therefore included in the consultation.

Changes from 21-22 are minimal. There are no proposed changes to the admission criteria. The proposed changes relate to:

- the Published Admission Numbers at Chailey School (secondary) Motcombe Community School (infant), Southover CE School and Wallands CP School (primary);
- date changes to the co-ordinated admission schemes;
- amendment to the pre-defined community area in Newhaven at primary level.

The proposed changes to the School Admissions Code which were consulted on between June and October are due to be laid before parliament in January and come into force in March but it is not anticipated that this will impact these arrangements, although it may require changes in respect of in year admissions.



MEETING WITH LOCAL MPs

On Tuesday 17 November a small group of secondary Heads met with local (East Sussex) MPs. At the meeting we raised the many issues we are currently facing in schools including:

- Cost of supply cover and additional PPE
- The issues around the government insistence to run a full examination season next summer
- Issues of Track and Trace
- Lack of consistent information to schools

The meeting followed a letter sent to MPs on behalf of the worthless campaign. A copy of this letter is included with this newsletter.

CONTACT DETAILS Changing details

Changing your contact details:

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

- completing the Change of Contact Details form (available on the school website);

- sending in a signed letter;

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

Thank you for your understanding.

Priory School
Lewes

Telephone: 01273 476231

Email: info@priory.e-sussex.sch.uk

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



Friends of Priory School, Lewes Online Christmas Market 2020

Fundraising has been particularly difficult this year but now more than ever your support is so important. We can't run our usual Christmas cafe and craft stalls so we are launching an **Online Christmas Market**.

You can support us by selling from one of our 'stalls' or buying from one of our sellers. Head over to our **Facebook** page @**FriendsofPriorySchoolLewes** and join the Christmas Market Group. Also see details on our **Instagram** page @**fop_christmas_market_2020**

Selling

If you would like to sell your product a 'stall' for our Christmas market is £10 per stall (all of that money goes towards Friends of Priory). Please pay via the Paypal link below. Click the link: <https://py.pl/6CKd8HMDmMK>

Once you have paid, create an album in the group. This is your stall and buyers should be directed to the albums. You can also advertise your products on the group wall. Within your album state your prices clearly and any delivery costs. This should be decided directly between the buyers and sellers.

We will be sending out information to all the students' parents and carers as well as advertising on the local Facebook pages too. Please share the group and posts as much as possible.

Buying

Please visit our Facebook group page **Friends of Priory School, Lewes Online Christmas Market**

To browse stalls head to the albums section of this page (located in the grey menu bar to the right hand side - if on a tablet or laptop this may say 'media' instead of albums).

In the albums you will find all of our stallholders' albums for their virtual stalls. Please see info on their albums and individual photos for info about what they have on offer and how to place an order - any questions please PM the stallholders directly using the links they have provided.



Thank you so much for supporting our school

Registered charity number 1085742

