

# PRIORY POST

ENJOY • RESPECT • ACHIEVE

July 2016

## ALL EYES ON THE PRIZEWINNERS



**A**s Portsmouth and the country went to the polling booths, Priory held a night of positivity and celebration at the Annual Prize Giving Evening, held at the Royal Maritime Club.

Over 250 staff, parents, carers and special guests turned out to celebrate the achievements and efforts of 110 of Priory's brightest and best.

Prizes were awarded in each subject to a boy and girl from Years 7 to 10, with an extra selection of Special Award trophies to outstanding achievers in Music, Maths, Sport and Academic Excellence.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Principal of Portsmouth College Steve Frampton who spoke inspirationally on the importance of resilience and determination in succeeding in goals.

Afterwards, he commented: "What a wonderful evening - I felt honoured to share it, and really enjoyed celebrating the young people's success - they are an inspiration for their generation!"

Also present was the Deputy Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayoress of Portsmouth to meet the students and present some of the prizes.



"It was great to see so many children achieving and receiving awards for their excellent work," the Deputy Lord Mayor told the Priory Post.

In-between the sections of award, entertainment was provided by the Expressive Arts Faculty with music, drama and dance presentations.

Headteacher Stewart Vaughan said: "It's so important, in uncertain times for the country, that we recognise our core guiding values and celebrate them in our students. The application of effort, hard work, grit and determination - they've never been so important in securing the future prospects for Priory students."



## IMPORTANT SPRING TERM DATES

**FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER:**

School re-opens for staff only

**MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER:**

School re-opens for Year 7 only

**TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER:**

School re-opens for all students

**TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER:**

Year 11 Careers Fair/  
Post 16 Evening

**WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER:**

HPV Injections for Year 8 Girls

**WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER:**

Year 10 Art Trip to  
Churt Sculpture Park

**THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER:**

Open Evening 6-8pm for  
prospective parents and students

**FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER:**

INSET day (staff training)

**WEDNESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER:**

Year 7/9 Photos

**WEEK 24 OCTOBER:**

Half term

**THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER:**

Certificate Evening

**TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER:**

Dance Marathon

**FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER:**

School closes for  
Christmas Holidays

**TUESDAY 3 JANUARY 2017:**

School reopens



# WELCOME HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

## Dear Parents and Carers

As the sun sets on a busy and hectic year for all at Priory, it is difficult to find the time to pause and pick out a few highlights from the academic year 2015-16 – there are so very many to choose from!

We bid farewell to a delightful Year 11 with the Prom at the Historic Dockyard and I have to confess to being more than a tad nervous at their results this August. No reflection on their commitment but more the uncertainty around exam marking and the further raising of grade boundaries. They have been a wonderful year group and they deserve their success because they simply worked so hard. We look forward to welcoming them back for results day in August.

An increasingly varied and exciting range of trips have taken place this year. Trips

abroad to Lille and Paris; outward bound opportunities with Bushcraft Camp for Year 9 and Cadet Camp; reward trips for all year groups and the Year 10 residential at Portsmouth University. This exhausting array of opportunities concludes with Priory's first ever expedition to Iceland, departing in a few short weeks and even as they prepare for this daunting challenge, other staff are completing their training to lead the launch of Duke of Edinburgh next year. Exciting times!

The Expressive Arts Faculty certainly enjoyed a wonderful year with 'Animal Farm' and the magnificent Dance Show. There has been much to celebrate on the sports pitches with Year 11 football champions and the epic Sports Day on Southsea Common.

These are all wonderful events for our students to enjoy and learn from but what

has impressed me most has been the hard work, commitment and humour from staff and students throughout the year, day in, day out. In the past week we had a visitor from the Department of Education who spent three days at the school, observing students and staff and the normal workings of Priory School life. In conclusion he remarked on his total respect for the "unrelentingly positive attitude" from Priory staff in support of our students, merely reinforcing what I have seen each and every day. They all deserve a well-earned break.

Have a great summer and we welcome the whole school back on Tuesday 6 September and year 7 only on Monday 5 September.

Stewart Vaughan

# PRIORY SPORTS THE COMMON TOUCH

Southsea Common became a carnival of competition on 27th June, when Priory took over the whole area for its annual Sports Day.

In glorious sunshine that lasted the whole day, over 700 students took part in a huge carousel of games, including football, handball, rounders, athletics, ultimate frisbee, tennis, benchball, basketball and even beach dodgeball. The emphasis was on maximum participation, with all students involved in activity for the entire day.

Year 7 Poppy Crown said: "Everyone took part and it was a really fun day with tough competition. I liked the way it was all set out and that it was spread out across all of the common. It was a really great day and I think everyone enjoyed it a lot!"

**Congratulations to Sports Day Champions Ark Royal!**





# YOUNG ACTORS TAKE TO THE STAGE



**Prory's youngest budding actors received their first experience of being on stage, with the Key Stage 3 Drama Club's first public performance of the year.**

Led by Miss Gapes, the students performed a variety of different short comedy scripts and sketches for young people to an audience of 45 parents, grandparents and supportive friends and peers.

Stage fright and nerves were present but students did fantastically, especially considering it was the first time some had performed to a

public audience. The Drama department was incredibly proud of the commitment and hard-working attitude they put into rehearsals and performance - professionals in the making!

Year 7 Lola Rees-Whelan said: *"I really enjoyed it because I felt like all my rehearsals paid off as I performed confidently."*

Year 7 Anna Jones agreed: *"I felt proud of what I had done. It was a new experience for me as there weren't many performance opportunities at my primary school."*

## HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE PARENT FORUM

**The Priory Parent Forum was formed this year to allow parents and carers to have a direct input in the operation of the school.**

The forum has held four meetings since its creation in January and offers parents the opportunity to engage with Priory School in a structured capacity. Parents and a representative of the school meet half-termly to share ideas in an informal but positive way, to develop the school/parent relationship and increase outreach to all

parents. The Parent Forum to date has had a direct influence on school policies around homework, academic cycle reporting, our website redevelopment and communications policy.

Current members of the parent forum came forward via questionnaires at our various parent evening events, but if you are interested in joining us, you are welcome to get in touch via email at [parentforum@priorysouthsea.org](mailto:parentforum@priorysouthsea.org).

# GOVERNORS' SPOTLIGHT



*Governors gather to peruse the Easter Priory Post issue.*

**Welcome to three new governors who've joined the Local Governing Board this year! Pippa Saunders works at the University of Portsmouth and Nikki Roberts brings considerable experience of corporate governance through her work with NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups. The third new governor Amelia Gould works for BAE Systems and has experience as a STEM ambassador (with a focus on encouraging girls to take up science and technical subjects). Over a year ago, the Local Governing Board agreed to broaden the experience and skills which governors can share for the benefit of Priory School and we feel we've successfully achieved this with these new appointments.**

Another of our longstanding governors, Mick Wade, has completed a very thorough survey of the acoustics in the upper hall and made recommendations to the Headteacher about how this could be improved in due course.

The Local Governing Board continues to monitor improvements at the school, and provide constructive challenge to the Head and the Senior Leadership Team. We have seen much more focus on gathering feedback from parents, students and staff, and these messages are being taken in consideration as the new School Improvement Plan is being prepared for 2016-17.

As governors we know that this year has seen a huge investment of time and energy from the whole school community, with the support of the Bohunt Educational Trust, to achieve improvement in GCSE results for our current Year 11s. We would like to thank Mr. Vaughan for all his hard work during this first year as Headteacher and the whole staff team for their enthusiasm and dedication.

*Carolyn Barber*  
Chair, Priory Local Governing Board



# PRIORY STUDENTS GET TO GRIPS WITH THE EU QUESTION



**“Should we stay or should we go?” was among the crucial questions raised by Priory School students when Portsmouth South MP Flick Drummond visited for a special EU Referendum Q&A session.**

Over 40 students from ages 11 to 16 had asked to join the session, and spent an hour grilling Mrs Drummond MP over a range of issues concerning the vote.

Some of the topics covered included the possible impact of remaining and leaving on immigration, employment, education, terrorism, the future of Portsmouth, deforestation and even Boris Johnson!

Senior Assistant Headteacher Gary Green said: *“The range and depth of some of the questions from students was absolutely astounding. Many had really done their research and came with prepared questions.”*

*“There was a lot of different opinions in the room,”* said Year 8 student Wikitoria Lasocka, *“Mrs Drummond MP did a really good job of answering all the points really carefully, fairly and clearly.”*

Another student, Scarlett Thomas added: *“She put forward a good case for remaining but I was also really impressed with how she put both sides of the argument across, which allowed us to make up our own minds.”*

Mrs Drummond MP was clearly impressed by the rigour of the students’ arguments. She told the group: *“Priory students always ask the best questions, that’s why I always enjoy coming here. I urge you all to keep it up!”*

Speaking about the event, Headteacher Stewart Vaughan commented: *“This is another example of the excellent opportunities we strive to provide our students at Priory School.”*



From left: Wikitoria Lasocka, Faras Seibou, Flick Drummond MP, Byron Homer, Scarlett Thomas

# DEBATING CHAMBER

## AT PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

Year 8 group, 8B1 went to the Guildhall Debating Chamber to carry out their debate assessment in grand style. They were met by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Frank Jonas, who gave the class a lovely welcome. Teacher Lorraine Hart said: *"I don't think I have ever heard so many students say 'wow' at the same time as they were led into the wonderful room they would be debating in. I really believe the whole setting gave way to some amazing individual performances on the day."*

The class's debates really were excellent: professional, serious, detailed and very well researched. Pupil Seth Harrison said: *"I don't think you can beat an environment where we are put into a 'real' situation. It really helps with performance."*

8B1 certainly rose to the challenge and made Priory School very proud of them.



# CADETS

## GET READY FOR SUMMER CAMP



**Priory's Cadets have been issued with their new uniforms just in time for their annual camp at the army training base in Crowborough, East Sussex.**

During the week, the Cadets took part in a mixture of army training exercises and fun activities whilst also meeting other cadets from all over the country. They slept mostly in barrack halls but spent one night out in the open (without tents!) on an ambush exercise.

The Cadets have been working towards this summer camp experience for almost a year and are now ready for the challenges

it will bring. During parade on Tuesday 21st June all were awarded their half star badge in recognition of their progress to date.

More of this story to follow in the next issue with cadet stories about their experience at camp.

### CADETS ARE RECRUITING!

**Students going into Year 9 in September 2016 may apply. Please see Mr Blachford or Mr Johnstone for more details.**



# FROM PRIORY TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

**Renowned Physicist visits his former school to take students on a journey through the cosmos.**

Science students at Priory School were held spellbound this week with a special lecture from famous scientist, TV broadcaster and former Priory student Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE.

The celebrated Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Surrey covered astonishing topics such as time travel, alternative universes and space exploration, and took a range of challenging questions from the inquisitive students.

The lecture was part of the school's STEM programme designed to inspire the students to become future innovators and leaders in technology and engineering industries.

Year 10 student Luke Blay said: *"Professor Al-Khalili really inspired me, he was so fascinating. It's awesome that we have Priory School in common."*

*"It has really made me think about studying physics in more depth at university,"* he added.



As Chair in the Public Engagement in Science at the University, Professor Al-Khalili has long been passionate about supporting our next generation of scientists. The lecture was also attended by students from

The Petersfield School and Bohunt School in Liphook, partner schools within Bohunt Education Trust.

Priory Headteacher Stewart Vaughan said: *"Welcoming*

*such a wonderful role model as former Priory student Professor Al Khalili demonstrates to our students that they can achieve outstanding success, whatever their chosen field, through commitment and hard work."*

## WWII VETS BRING MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

Year 10 pupils were very privileged to meet two Portsmouth Veterans Harry Marrington and Baden Singleton who came to talk to students about their varying experiences during their time in the Navy.



# SPORTS REPORT

Here's a run down of some of the recent success and valiant efforts from the PE department

<i>Date:</i> 11th March	<b>Football – Year 11</b>	<i>Event:</i> Portsmouth Schools League	<i>Opponent:</i> Springfield	<i>Result:</i> 2nd Place
<b>Players:</b> Harry Madgwick, Tommy Leigh, Lenny Cole, Dan Singleton, Patryk Kantorski, Said Barwani, Max Davies, Billy Musson, Wes Street, Brendan Eberiri, Jack Chandler, Sam Hatton	A good game against a physical Springfield team. The pitch was difficult to play on and our normal style of possession play was hindered. Having created many chances for Brendan and Jack, Max Davies ended up with a ball to the face and a serious nose bleed ensued. Showing grit and determination, he soldiered on to eventually score the winning goal. Priory dominated most of the match but had to deal with a direct style of play from Springfield. The former striker, now centre back, Lenny Cole had a Man of the Match performance taking charge from the back line. He won every header, every tackle, calmed play down and built from the back. All players contributed well to the game and clear teamwork and group morale played in our favour.			
<i>Date:</i> 26th April	<b>Football – Year 11</b>	<i>Event:</i> Portsmouth Schools League CUP FINAL	<i>Opponent:</i> Mayfield	<i>Result:</i> Priory win 1-1 (penalties 4-3)
<b>Players:</b> Harry Madgwick, Tommy Leigh, Lenny Cole, Dan Singleton, Patryk Kantorski, Max Davies, Billy Musson, Wes Street, Brendan Eberiri, Jack Chandler, Sam Hatton, Tom Bobbik, Harvey Tanner, Mikey Duke	From the start of the game, Priory dominated possession. At first, Mayfield at first were struggling to get the ball and force a meaningful attack. A moment of class from Max Davies to bring the ball down, take on a few players and then cross the ball for Jack Chandler to score made Priory lead 1-0. Mayfield started to get back into the game by utilising the long ball, but Priory dealt with the pressure every time.  A small mistake at the back and a misplaced pass to the keeper allowed Mayfield through on goal to level the game at 1-1. Towards the end of the second half Priory dominated again with all the possession and lots of attacks, however Priory couldn't seem to penetrate the six-man defence. This barrage of attacks continued through all of extra time but no goal was scored. Priory scored the first four penalties (Max Davies, Tommy Leigh, Tom Bobbik, Lenny Cole). After a miss from Mayfield, Dan Singleton stepped up to win the game, but missed his penalty to leave Mayfield a chance of coming back. Fortunately Harry Madgwick saved the final penalty to win the match. Man of the Match was Dan Singleton who played fantastically throughout the game.			
<i>Date:</i> 26th April	<b>Football - Year 9</b>	<i>Event:</i> Portsmouth Schools League CUP FINAL	<i>Opponent:</i> Admiral Lord Nelson	<i>Result:</i> Priory lose, 6-0
<b>Players:</b> Drew Tait, Archie Tanner, Will Cudlip, Harper Ginns, Lewis Singleton, Tyler Sousa, Louie Stone, Reece Breedon, Ifti Khan, Bobby Jones, Sonny Marsh	From the start of the game, Admiral kept the ball very well and pressed Priory hard. It was difficult to retrieve the ball but Priory carried on working extremely hard. Admiral scored just before half time to make it 1-0. Despite this, Priory kept battling trying to forge an attack against Admiral. The second half was much like the first until Admiral found their shooting boots and put a few goals past Drew Tait, who had already made a few great saves. Despite the hard work, Priory fell to a heavy defeat. However spirits were high and all students did themselves and the school proud.			
<i>Date:</i> 21st June	<b>Rounders – Year 7</b>	<i>Event:</i> Portsmouth Schools Rounders Tournament	<i>Opponent:</i> Portsmouth Schools	<i>Result:</i> Team A - 2nd Place Team B – 6th Place
Year 7 Rounders teams A and B	The teams performed brilliantly, competing against other local schools including St. Edmunds, Mayville, Trafalgar, and Portsmouth High. Unfortunately, the B Team did not make it out of the group stages, although the A Team won all of their group matches and progressed into the final against Portsmouth Grammar School. After an incredibly close game, Portsmouth Grammar School just edged it with six rounders to Priory's five and a half rounders. Special mention to Rina whose batting skills were phenomenal and Charlotte for her excellent leadership skills during her first rounders captaincy role.			

Here's a roundup of some of the other sporting achievements by Priory Girls:

- Trampolining - **Team A - British Schools Regional Qualification 2nd place**
- Trampolining - **Team A - British Schools Southern England 4th place**
- Swimming - **Portsmouth Schools Sport Partnership - 5th place (Girls and Boys teams)**

Girls Football - Portsmouth Schools Sport Partnership -

- Yr 10/11 - **1st place**
- Yr 9/10/11 - **1st place**
- Yr 8/9 - **1st place**
- Yr 7/8 - **2nd place**
- Yr 7 - **1st place**

Girls Football - **Chelsea Football Club Tournament - Yr 7/8 - 2nd place**



*Year 9 Portsmouth School League Cup runner-ups.*



*Year 11 Portsmouth School League Cup Winners*



*Year 7 Girls Rounders Team*

# YEAR TEAM MESSAGES

## YEAR 7

The end of the school year has passed so very quickly. It seems like we were just beginning to learn about the world in which we live and a bit about each other, and now, it is time for me to say goodbye to you as you continue to progress in school towards Year 8.

I am extremely proud of Year 7 and all of their achievements this term. I am starting to see signs that the young children who joined us only nine months ago are beginning to mature into wonderful young adults.

I have looked on in with pride as Year 7s have taken part in school trips, organised school projects and represented Priory School excellently in community events.

My particular highlights for this term were seeing Year 7s excited about taking part in their first Priory Sports Day and the passion in which students have raised money for the charity Foodbank project.

Students involved in the Foodbank project have helped raise over £800 for a local charity to support homeless people with finding food aid.

To all the Year 7 students who were selected for an award at Priory Awards Evening congratulations! It was wonderful to see the smiles on parents' faces and pride in all you have achieved throughout the academic year.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break !

Mr Nottage  
Year Leader

## YEAR 8

It feels incredible to be at the end of this academic year when it feels like the blink of an eye ago we were just starting it. The year group have noticeably matured in this short space of time, and in the coming Year 9 I am sure they will continue to evolve into the best cohort the school has seen.

One of the more notable events this term saw an opportunity for 10 Year 8 students to take part in the Pearl Izumi Inter Schools Challenge on the 9th June 2016 in the Guildhall Square. Nelo Paliotta, Aaron Boon, Layton Whitelock, Charley Brasher, Bradley Dempsey, Lewis Croker, Ben Hatherley, Aiden Bone, Tyler Kinsey, and Przemek Muzeja all represented the school in a sterling manner.

Aaron and Nelo write: *"One of the activities was blending a smoothie while riding a bike, peddling as fast as we could with the blender attached to the front wheel."*

*"We had a race using a BMX bike to control the generator powering a Scalextric, and later we went in some police vehicles to see their special features such as cameras that can see blind spots."*

*"The main event was a relay race where the two teams raced against time down and up the track, stopping in a zone until the next person could ride off. We got to ride professional spec bikes which were really fast, but comfortable at the same time. "*

Mr Harding  
Year Leader

## YEAR 9

**This year has been amazing for Year 9 students and we are so proud of them. They have achieved great things, experienced so much and the majority of their hard work is in their own time.**

The Sports Leaders have taken on a great responsibility in helping younger children from Priory Feeder schools in sporting activities across the city including sporting events in the Mountbatten Centre, Junior Sports days, as well as giving up their weekends and holidays to work help out in lessons and games.

We have a team of seven Youth Health Champions who have been involved in a piloted scheme involving Priory School. The

students dedicated their own time to gain an extra qualification and work on projects that focus on health for young people, in particular mental health, delivering assemblies to the rest of the school and taking part in a Portsmouth Launch event involving some very important people, including the Major. Thank you to Debbie Chitty, who guided these students and worked with them to help them gain their qualification. Well done to Elle Stokes, Zoe Vuksanovic, Ben Singh, Jalacey Atkins, Sam Saunders, Elliott Woods and Danny Massingham.

Ms Chadwick  
Year Leader



## YEAR 10

**It is hard to believe that the Year 10s have less than a year left at Priory School!**

This academic year has been a busy one, with students beginning their new GCSE subjects last September as well as thinking about further education possibilities. We have undertaken PPEs, actual GCSE examinations, practised our revision skills and visited local Colleges for Post 16 education inspiration.

Many of our students have had fantastic sporting success outside of school, and I love to celebrate their achievement during our Year 10 assemblies.

We have welcomed our new Prefects to their roles, and announced our 2016/17 Head Boy and Head Girl.

The Year 10s are fast growing up, developing their resilience and showing greater levels of emotional maturity, in readiness for the busy year ahead. As always, I am immensely proud of the year group and look forward to supporting them, and you as parents/carers, through their final year.

I wish the year group a safe, enjoyable, and relaxing summer holiday.



*Priory's Senior Prefects with Head Boy Luke Blay and Head Girl Lauren Hill*

## YEAR 10

### Pre-Public Examinations

Year 10 have been undertaking their pre-public examinations in the Sports Hall this half term. These exams have been completed under GCSE exam conditions, entering the hall in silence as well as handing in their all important mobile phones....proof that they can cope without a mobile phone for at least 90 minutes.

Groups tutors have also been helping Year 10 to prepare for these exams, by offering revision skills during tutor time, as well as providing revision timetables and study cards.

We have been extremely impressed with the vast majority of the year group, many of whom have shown maturity, resilience and more importantly the eagerness to perform well.

Mr Coles (Curriculum Leader for Maths) said: *"I was really impressed with the way in which the year group came into the hall for their Maths exam."*

Mrs Blandford  
Year Leader

# BLUE DAY IN SUPPORT OF THE TOM PRINCE CANCER TRUST

**We are delighted to announce that Priory students and staff helped to raise £758.85 for the Tom Prince Cancer Trust by supporting 'Blue Day 16' on 13 May. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause so close to Priory's heart.**

We also held a ticket-only event for students to watch the England versus Wales Euro match on a big screen in the Tennis Centre, and the proceeds from this amounted to £939.15

To find out more about this important and much-cherished charity, please go to <http://www.tomprince.co.uk>.



# DAY TRIP TO CHERBOURG



What a fantastic day we had! Luckily a smooth crossing on the Normandie Express Fastcat set us up well for the day. The Cité de la Mer was well worth a visit, from the Polaris Submarine to the beautiful jellyfish display via the Titanic Exhibition.

A short stroll into Cherbourg 'in twos' followed, where students had the chance to wander around a typical and attractive



small French town and practise their French, buying a random assortment of goods from footballs to nail varnish and watermelons!

Our students behaved impeccably, never missing a check-in point and made us proud to be Priory staff. We were lucky with the weather and didn't even have a spot of rain. A couple of students found their sea legs on the

return ferry crossing - others did not! Best quote of the day on our approach to the Solent: *"Oh, there's England. That means this day is about to end."*

The MFL department would like to give huge thanks to the staff team of Mrs Russell, Mr Bourton and Mr Nottage who kept us entertained for most of our 16 hours together!