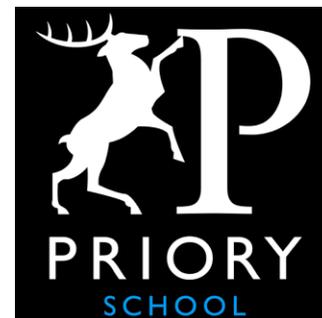


# PRIORY POST



ENJOY • RESPECT • ACHIEVE

December 2015

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



**A**s the Festive Season approaches we can look back over an exceptionally busy term. Open Evening was busy and hugely enjoyable. Year 11 Certificate Evening was fitting recognition for last year's hard work and endeavour but things move so quickly with our current Year 11 having completed their Pre Public Examinations just recently. Their conduct

was impeccable and we look forward to using the feedback from the exams to support them in the build up to their GCSEs next year.

This term alone Priory pupils have been on trips to Venice and Verona; to the Imperial War Museum; to Oxford University; to the Theatre to see "Blood Brothers"; as well as to local museums, Portsmouth University, Portsmouth Football club and Gunwharf Quays. The classroom is of primary importance in education but opportunities to bring learning to life are invaluable and I am indebted to staff who give their time to enable these periods.

Well done as well to everyone involved in our Army Cadet Force, now up and running in Year 9 and to our Expedition

Team who will continue fund-raising for their Iceland Expedition by taking part in the Southsea Santa run on 13 December. Good luck to them and perhaps more importantly to the ageing staff who will be accompanying them on the run!

After just eleven weeks in post there is still much for me to learn about Priory and of course a lot of work to do. What I do know is that the children at Priory are wonderful and the staff talented and committed to do the very best for your children. I am very proud to be Headteacher for such people.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a restful and relaxing holiday period and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. ■

## IMPORTANT SPRING TERM DATES

**MONDAY 4TH JANUARY**  
*INSET Day (school closed)*

**MONDAY 11TH -  
15TH JANUARY**  
*Achievement for All Week*  
*School ends at 2.15pm all week*

**WEDNESDAY  
20TH JANUARY**  
*Year 8 Parents'  
Consultation Evening*

**FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY**  
*Animal Farm*  
*Drama Production*

**MONDAY 15TH -  
FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**  
*Half Term Holiday*

**TUESDAY 16TH -  
FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**  
*Year 9/10 Science Trip  
to France*

**THURSDAY 17TH MARCH**  
*Year 11 Parents'  
Consultation Evening*

**TUESDAY 22ND MARCH**  
*Year 9 Options / Parents'  
Consultation Evening*

AT **PRIORY** SCHOOL

We: **EMBRACE CHALLENGES**  
**PERSIST IN THE FACE OF SETBACKS**  
**CELEBRATE EFFORT**  
**LEARN FROM CRITICISM**  
**DRAW INSPIRATION FROM OTHERS**



We have a  
**GROWTH MINDSET**

# OH, WHAT A LOVELY TRIP!



**Ishaq Saad (9 Dean) writes about an emotional visit to the Imperial War museum.**

As soon as I stepped into the museum I was ecstatic, surrounded by marvellous artefacts with many interesting and eye-catching sights, I was blown away. I saw many magnificent artefacts associated with World War One and World War Two.



A particular artefact that stuck in my mind was a poem which a young girl wrote to her best friend who was Jewish saying that she longed to see her again - but it never happened. There were examples of where the girls drew pictures together and the non-

Jewish girl even broke into the ghetto at times so that they could play together.

I was heartbroken to hear of so many children who did not understand the concept of segregation between Jews and Germans, unaware that they would never see their friends ever again. They had made special bonds that were broken out of the

blue. Another shocking account I gazed upon was a young Jewish girl, who had a tiny amount of food and was begging for her life on streets seeing her fellow Jews perishing right in front of her, glass shattered from Jewish shops during Kristallnacht. Another unbelievable fact that really stuck in my mind was the treatment of handicapped and disabled children - they treated horrendously, used for dreadful tests and dissections, as if they were lab rats.

There was a whole area about trench life and what it was like in the trench system. It was very realistic - you could hear ear-piercing shells (as if you were shell shocked), fake barbed wire that looked real and binoculars to look into enemy lines. We looked at artefacts from The Battle of The Somme, which we have been studying about in class. It was really interesting seeing it from a different perspective.

Despite the horrible and tragic stories I had an amazing time with all my peers and teachers, from 7am in the coach to the end of day; filling my brain full facts to help me with my education. In all aspects it was the best trip I ever went on - thanks to members of staff for taking us there! ■

## ATTENTION! IT'S THE CADETS!



**Our first new cadets from Year 9 have begun their evening sessions working as an Army Cadet Unit with Year 12 Portsmouth College pupils and they look to be a force to be reckoned with!**

Uniforms are smartly and proudly worn, the cadets work as a real team and we are getting better and better at military drill. This week, we split into two camps and half did archery practice using real equipment while others cooked delicious-looking ration packs ready for when we go on our first weekend camp.

It is still early days but we have been really impressed by seeing character

development before our eyes. Some of the older college pupils have already received promotions within the unit and the force Commander is looking at promoting some of our cadets in the new year.

Well done to all of those who have taken up the challenge. We are very proud of you. ■





# IN THE SHADOW OF THE BARD

In October, staff and pupils took a trip to the beautiful cities of Venice and Verona. We asked them to write about their adventures.

*"Where is Verona Miss?"*

*"Italy."*

*"Where in Italy Miss?"*

*"Near Venice."*

*"Is there really a balcony there that was Juliet's balcony Miss? Is it real?"*

*"Could we see it?"*

*"Mmm, er maybe..."*

*"Oh Miss, please, could we?"*

And so it started... our big Italian adventure! We were in the middle of a unit of learning which explored Shakespeare's most famous villains. We were looking at the role of Tybalt Capulet who is one of the main barriers to Romeo and Juliet's

happiness. We got to the famous balcony scene (you all know how it goes) and then the questions began! And there we finally were, in sunny Venice, taking in some of the most stunning scenery I had ever seen with a group of young adults who were just a delight to be with.

It was an inspirational trip that none of us there will forget. We ate Pizza and Gelato and some of us even shopped till we dropped! We all felt sad to be coming home.

So, everyone. Where might your learning take you next year? ■

*Ms Hart*

*In October 2015 our school held a trip to Venice and Verona. It was absolutely phenomenal! When we first landed in Italy, we had to get a water taxi to Venice. It all felt very surreal. Coming into Venice, all the buildings were very old and beautiful and we were really excited to be there. It took a while to settle into the hotel as there were many narrow streets and confusing Italian signs. After a lovely dinner, we headed back to the hotel ready for bed and our next two days of sightseeing!*

*Harriet Brown, Josie Hall and Lauren McNeil*



*We flew in on 11 October and took a water taxi into the island. We walked around, exploring the city until we went back to our hotel. The next day we went on a city tour, a gondola ride, a water boat and a tour around the famous La Fenice theatre. Later on, we got onto a water boat and went to San Michele which is an island where all the Venetian people are buried. On the second day, we travelled to Verona to visit Juliet's balcony and wall. We wrote letters to Juliet, looked round the museum and took pictures on the balcony. After that, we went to a small market place packed with Italian souvenirs. We stayed at the hotel Atlantide and ate at the restaurant Ai Scalzi as well as eating at a very nice pizza restaurant one night. On the last day, we went shopping and then travelled back to the airport. Overall, we had an amazing trip and it was worth going.*

*We would recommend it to everyone.*

*Isabelle Pearce and Polly O'Neil*



## JOIN THE DEBATE!

COME AND THRASH OUT THE ISSUES AT DEBATING SOCIETY -  
Thursdays 3.15 - 4.15pm, in the Chapel



