

Priory School – Proud to be part of the local community

To show our support for the local community, Priory School's staff and key worker children decorated the front of the main building with messages of support for the NHS and a giant rainbow – the symbol of hope and better times ahead during the pandemic. The idea to display the giant rainbow was part of the school's ethos of being at the heart of the community.



Headteacher Mr Vaughan said,

“It’s an expression of one of our core values to support the local community. We’d seen a number of rainbows on people’s houses and decided it was something we would like to do. It was produced by our key worker children who have parents working on the front line and is an expression of our pride for them and our support for the NHS.”

IMPORTANT DATES AUTUMN TERM

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1 : INSET Day

Wednesday 2 : INSET Day

Thursday 3 : Year 7 only

Friday 4 : Year 7 and 11 only

Monday 7 : Year 7, 10 and 11 only

Tuesday 8 : All year groups in

OCTOBER

Monday 26 - Friday 30 : Half Term

DECEMBER

Friday 18 : Final day of term

Please check the Priory School website for updates on calendar dates at the start of term subject to Covid-19 updates. Full Autumn term dates will be communicated as soon as possible. Relevant dates will also be posted on our Facebook page.

www.priorysouthsea.org



@PrioryOfficial



@PriorySouthsea

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers

I think that I can reasonably say that this has been the most unusual term in my twenty-seven-year career to date.

Covid-19 has challenged us in so many different ways and that has been very demanding at times. First and foremost, I need to thank you, as parents and carers, for all of your efforts in supporting Home Learning.

There is little doubt that this new way of working has been very difficult and has its limitations; if it was the best way to do it we wouldn't have schools in the first place I guess.

With any challenge comes opportunities to shine and as I look back at this term I am so very proud of our community and the way it has responded and adapted.

- Thousands of lessons online
- Hundreds of live lessons for year nine
- Thousands of phone calls and emails home to check on our students' wellbeing and work
- Year 10 returning to school
- Running outdoor classes to support the return of key students
- Key worker school and school for the most vulnerable
- Breakfast deliveries to those in need
- Desktops and laptops delivered to those in need
- Charity fundraising for the NHS
- 2,200 visors and 450 scrub bags were made for key workers
- Over 100 shopping bags of food for St Margaret's Food Bank

So now our thoughts turn to two things:

- 1 Our Year 11 and their GCSE results in August and the hope that this wonderful year group receive the results that they deserve.

2 September and a full reopening.

We have a lot of work to do before being ready for September, but we will be and we cannot wait to get back to some semblance of normality.

In the meantime, can I say a wholehearted thank you for all of your support for home Learning and the continuous stream of messages of support during such uncertain times. They have been very important to us and so gratefully received.



Photo courtesy of The Portsmouth News

So I wish you all a restful, sun filled and, most importantly safe, summer season.

Governors' Report

We all sat round the table for our Governor's Meeting on 3 March not realising at the time that a mere 12 school days later the delivery of education, for Priory, and for every school in the country, would change so dramatically.

Our next meeting was very different! On 16 June we convened by using 'Zoom' – something I had not even heard of a few weeks earlier. Things were slightly awkward to begin with, however we soon got used to talking to each other via our screens and were able to concentrate on the important matters for discussion. I am now confident we can continue to have useful 'virtual' meetings in the future, should it be necessary.

The governors have been kept well informed of the situation by regular update letters from the Headteacher and I am in regular contact with him to discuss how the latest developments affect the Priory community of families, students and staff. The school's heroic efforts have provided continuing support for its students. Thank you to everyone involved for the commitment and adaptability you have shown in finding new ways to progress learning and promote wellbeing.

Sue Bushell – Chair, Priory Local Governing Board

Priory staff support in the making of essential PPE

At the start of the Pandemic, it was clear that there was a shortage of PPE for many keyworkers.

Head of Priory's Design Technology Department, Kay Coghlan, contacted a Facebook group set up by the Makers Guild who were gathering local people with 3D printers and laser cutters to manufacture face shields.

Ms Coghlan knew how important the community is to Priory School, and knowing we had the materials and machines ready to go, she started making face shields. On the first day, she managed 28 visors which were delivered to the Makers Guild and distributed.

After an official Priory Facebook post, the school became inundated with orders for community care workers who had no PPE. So, for the next four weeks production was a daily occurrence – on average Ms Coghlan was producing upwards of 250 face shields a week, with some help from another DT specialist Miss Feasey. In total they produced over 2,200 face shields and delivered them to key workers in Portsmouth. Ms Coghlan said, *"It was good to be able to do something to help our amazing key workers who were working throughout the darkest stages of this pandemic."* Headteacher, Mr Vaughan added, *"We also have a number of our former students who are working for these care providers and obviously we were only too keen to help."*

A special thanks must also go to Ms Dalton, who came in almost every day to support assembly and to keep the team thoroughly entertained. Great work indeed.



3

St Margaret's Church Foodbank



Priory Staff have been collecting much needed goods for the St Margaret's Church Food Bank on Highland Road.

The food bank is staffed by a group of wonderful volunteers who have been needed in the community more than ever during the pandemic.

To support them, Priory staff have been collecting and delivering regular supplies, dropping food into school, and even donating cash directly to their fund page. Ms Dalton, Mr Vaughan, and Mrs Snewin have delivered food every week in order to support 220 families to receive what they need to get by.

St Margaret's volunteers work extremely hard to help our local community and Priory staff feel it is particularly important right now to be a part of this support.

If you read this and want to help throughout the summer, you can drop in donations on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am to 11am

Priory staff made scrubs bags for Keyworkers

Priory staff Michele Mundy and Clare Chapman along with Maths teacher Joanne Fairley of Mayfield school started making scrubs bags after seeing online posts and requests for the bags.

The bags are used to carry worn scrubs/uniforms home so they can then be placed directly in the wash thus avoiding contamination.

Since making the bags, the sewing team have continued by making face masks for friends, family and colleagues in light of the new government recommendations.

Materials from school

Head teachers of Priory and Mayfield School, Mr. Vaughan and Mr. Jeapes, readily agreed to allow school stocks of fabric and thread to be used for making the bags.

To keep up with demand we enlisted other staff to help make the bags which has become a real team effort. Praise must also be given to Sian Davies, Emma Andrew and Paula Medland. A combined total of over 450 bags were made and donated free of charge by the sewing team from Priory and Mayfield School.

Just a few of the places the bags have gone to:

Autumn Vale rest home, Harry Sotnick Care Home, Denmead District nursing team. Cardiology unit QA, F ward at QA where haematology and oncology patients are. Alcohol team and stroke unit at QA. St Mary's Adult Care team, St Mary's walk in centre, Belmont Castle nursing home, Blue Water Care home, Meadows Care Home, and the Home of Comfort Nursing home, Community Care nurses. Well done everyone—an incredible achievement



Year 10 School – A report from Ms Farrell, Head of Key Stage 4 English

When we knew we would be having some Year 10s returning to school before the summer holidays, we were keen for English lessons to be a forum for discussion above all else.

As an English Department, we agreed that the thing we had missed the most in recent months was the interactions with our students.

We wanted to make the most of being back in the classroom and be able to talk, discuss and debate together. We have therefore focused our curriculum in these final weeks on Language Paper 2 and the skills and knowledge needed to write speeches and articles which promote personal opinions.

In the last three weeks our wonderful Year 10s have shared insightful perspectives on a whole range of topics including; the true value of the NHS, whether the voting age should be lowered, Black Lives Matter, media bias, privacy and social media and whether men can be feminists among many other things.

In a year of unprecedented turmoil and trauma, our students have more opinions of society, politics, economics, and our world than perhaps ever before. For us as an English Department it has been so rewarding to discuss these ideas freely in the place where so many of us learn best – the classroom.

Mr Vaughan making his daily checks as students arrive for Year 10 school.



George Smith of 10 Lai Lan has his temperature checked and is given the familiar handful of anti-bacterial soap before being welcomed into school by Mrs Fairs, Mr Rackley and the teaching team.

5

Science Enrichment – Key worker School

The Year 7 and 8 students from the Key Worker School were able to get back into the lab this week.

The intention being to allow them to engage in some exciting science practical activities.

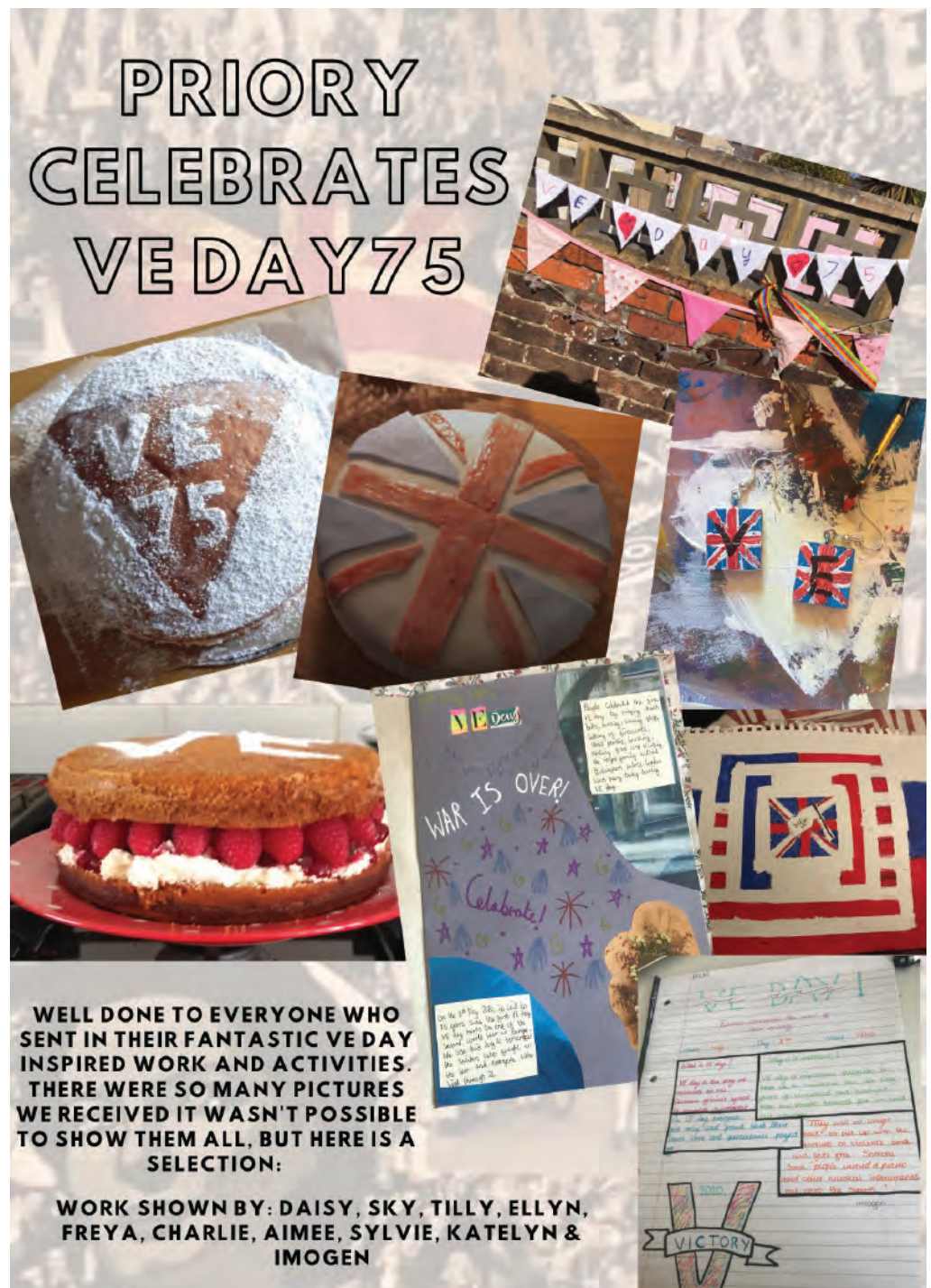
They were mesmerised by the amazing array of colours they were seeing whilst carrying out the flame test, with lots of discussion about how this knowledge is used when creating fireworks.

They then went on to create their very own rainbows, with a very patient and careful approach to mixing acids and alkalis they were able to produce many of the different colours that represent pH scale.

All in all the students enjoyed this opportunity to get involved and it was great to see such a buzz about science in school again.



Interviews included those experiences from Gloria and Graham Weston. Graham Weston was born in 1936 and so by 1945, aged 9, he remembers the street parties and celebrations well. Asked what he remembered the best about VE day, Graham said "The cakes of course." Presentations were created based on these interviews.



Key Worker School Enrichment Activities

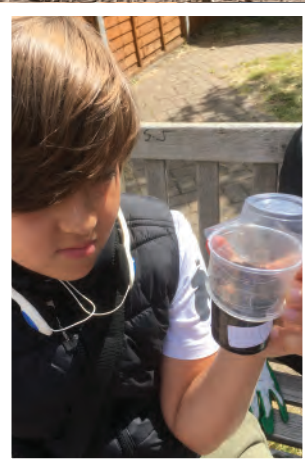
Priory Key worker students have been busy helping in the staff garden for part of their day.

Grass, turf, and soil was dug. Students planted potatoes and some basil too. Some picked blackberries and worms! And many were really interested in the fish who continue to thrive in the school pond.

The weather was not as hot as it has been, so it was an ideal outdoor activity for a summer's day. Well done everyone. Great work!



7

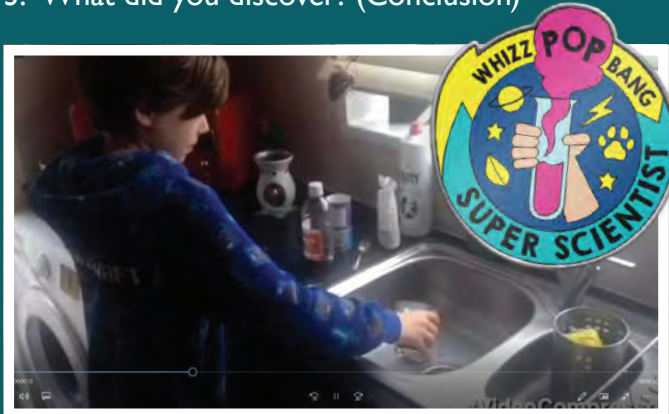


The Great Science Share for Schools is about young people communicating something that they have been investigating which starts with a question that they are interested in. Our Priory Students had the opportunity to be part of the Great Science Share collaborative 2020 campaign.

This Year's Campaign was sponsored by Whizz, Pop, Bang! "The awesome science magazine for kids".

Students were in with a chance to earn a super scientists badge. To earn their badges, students had to complete the following tasks:

1. What's your question? (Hypothesis)
2. How did you investigate? (Scientific method)
3. What did you discover? (Conclusion)



Hayden Gould – Testing the effect of Vinegar on Bicarbonate of soda

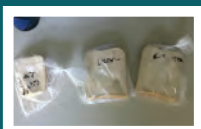
HOW DID I INVESTIGATE THIS?

- I clamped the pendulum in a clamp stand.
- Using a ruler, I measured the length of the pendulum.
- Timed how long it took for 3 swings.
- Used this information to work out the time for one swing.
- I repeated this with strings of different lengths

And then recorded all the information in a table.

LENGTH OF STRING [CM]	TIME TAKEN FOR 3 SWINGS (seconds)	TIME TAKEN FOR 1 SWING (seconds)
26.4	9.88	3.293
35.4	11.77	3.923
38.7	12.29	4.097
46.6	12.61	4.203
52.2	14.32	4.733

Thomas Stedman submitted his results from his pendulum experiment.



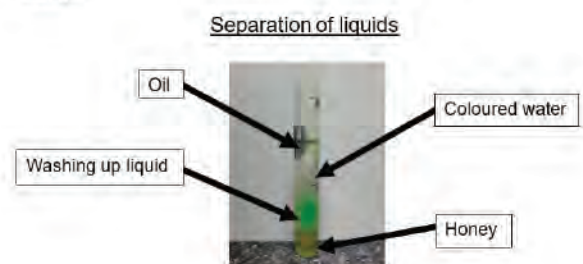
Add the liquids in the following order:

Washing up liquid, coloured water, oil and honey.

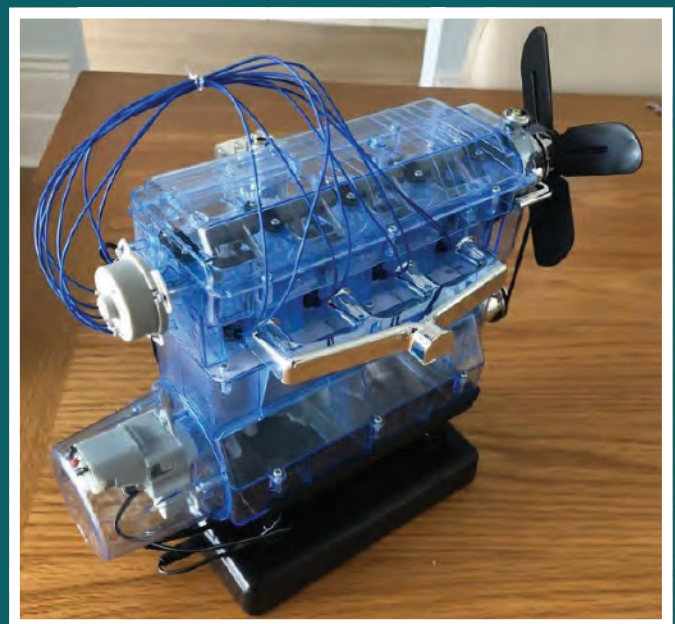
Once each liquid has been poured in, leave it to settle for 5 minutes.

When all the liquids have been poured in, observe your results.

Results



Ellyn Vayro investigated different densities of liquids.



Oliver Palmer's working combustion engine.

And many more;

Jess Shillingford investigated the effect of density in liquids, Lucy investigated lava lamps, Jake Slater looked at altering the composition of lava in a model volcano, and Freya Hawkes investigated surface tension in different liquids with pepper!

There has been a superb response to this challenge. Well done to everyone who got involved and are due to earn their Great Science Share badges.

Fun run for NHS

Students and staff of Priory have smashed their target to run three marathons in three days, to raise money for the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust 'Thank You Appeal'. Pastoral Outreach Worker Katherine Hughes has inspired the students attending key worker provision in school to undertake a fundraising initiative to say thank you to our local NHS staff.



Many of the students expressed a desire to do something to say thank you to our wonderful staff at QA Hospital, and a fun run was decided on as the means to gain sponsorship. The students and Ms Hughes spent time training in the weeks leading up to the event by running laps of our 3G all-weather pitch.

As more and more students heard about the event in school it was decided to open it up to students at home doing some form of activity to also gain sponsorship.



Making the most of the relaxation of government guidelines at that time, which meant that outdoor activity became unlimited, students chose to walk, skip, skate,

cycle, or run at home, in their gardens or out and about in our lovely city. Students were allowed to set their own daily or weekly targets so everyone could get involved if they wanted to.

Over the three days 1-3 June the students running in school managed an astonishing 484 laps in total, which is a total of 80.67 miles – or, over three marathons in 5.5 hours! Priory staff added to this total with an additional 35 making a staggering 115.67 miles in total – over four marathons.



Students undertaking physical activity challenges at home included Judah Hurr in Year 8 who cycled the equivalent of the entire length of the UK. His story was featured in the Portsmouth News and can be read by [clicking this link](#).

Bella Hemsley in Year 11 ran 7 miles a day for 5 days, Tilly Gauntlett (Year 8) skipped every day of the week, along with many others who pushed themselves and got active in order to gain sponsorship. Year 7 student Grace said, "I did the run to raise money for the NHS and we are all going through a hard time and Priory wanted to help. I found it hard, but I powered through it for the NHS."

So far, we have raised £2500 but we are confident of reaching our £3000 target once all the sponsorship money is sent in to the just giving page. If you would like to donate to the [fundraising please do](#).

Mr Vaughan, who himself ran four miles, said he was "unbelievably proud" of students' efforts and feels the initiative has really brought the school together, 'giving students something to focus on is beneficial for both the community but also for individual wellbeing.'

Emma's Story



Celebrating Year 11 student Emma Walker as she succeeds in selection for the European TeamGym championships – and it really couldn't have happened to a lovelier girl.

Mr Vaughan and staff at Priory School would like to congratulate our amazing Year 11 student, Emma Walker, who has recently qualified for the Great British Squad for the next TeamGym European Championships to be held in Denmark in 2021, an event postponed from October 2020.

What is even more incredible about Emma is that she had to overcome a massive setback in her sporting career as a crippling knee dislocation could have seen her leave gymnastics altogether if she hadn't been so determined to get back on top of her game. Emma we absolutely salute you.

If you don't know what TeamGym is, it is certainly worth a google! It is an incredible team competition which sees teams of 12 gymnasts compete and entertain across three disciplines – floor, trampette and tumbling track. Team members need to have great flexibility, precision, strength and skill in running, jumping, tumbling, acrobatics and dance. They need balance, poise and physical strength in order to meet the requirements of the sport, which as its title suggests is all about perfect synchronisation and symmetry with your team.

The forthcoming championships will be the 13th year they have been held, with the first ever competition taking place in Finland in 1996. The event was started by the European Union of Gymnasts and consists of three teams – Women, Men and Mixed. Emma will be performing in the Junior Women's team where there are set skills for all to trial for the GB team. Emma would actually have been the first junior girl to compete a 'double straight one and a half twist' on the trampette but sadly dislocated her knee doing the skill in the run up to a competition.

Emma was only two years old when she first went to the gym in her native South Africa, with a close family connection meaning Emma was joining in classes at a very tender age. After moving to the UK around 10 years ago, Emma joined the Plymouth Swallows and really immersed herself in artistic gymnastics. When her family moved to Portsmouth, Emma enlisted at the prestigious Portsmouth School of Gymnastics which is based in Farlington, and despite her horrendous knee injury has literally trained her socks off to get where she is today, rising through the ranks to become a real star of the already considerable talent pool there. Emma trains four days of the week and sees a bright future in the sport, both at competitive and club level.

There was no doubt about Emma's talent early on, but, in this sport, where injuries are pretty commonplace, you need to also have dedication and grit to overcome all obstacles and this is where Emma's fantastic attitude to training has really paid off. While Emma is truly thrilled to be representing Great Britain, she also feels it is very important to stay grounded and give a message to all students about the importance of finding something you are good at when sometimes success in the classroom is harder to come by. Emma is dyslexic and admits that lessons can sometimes present challenges for her that she knows others struggle with too. But her talent in the gym has given Emma confidence that she hopes others will find in their lives as well. Emma said, "We cannot all be great academically so it is good to search for things we can get involved in that are fun but also challenging. By immersing myself in the gym, I have found my own strength and that is hugely important. My favourite quote is the one that says 'keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground'." We couldn't agree more!

Emma's idol and constant inspiration to improve herself and get to the top has been her PSG coach and mentor Hema Gaur-Sharma who is one of Britain's top stars in the sport. As well as guiding Emma through the rough and smooth, Hema has an important work ethic which Emma has adopted and learned from. This ethic is to 'never give up – even if you fall a hundred times, with each fall you learn something and try again.' No doubt particularly important words in all walks of life.

Emma's Mum, Christine, has been behind her all the way but credits the incredible team at Portsmouth School of Gymnastics for bringing out the very best in Emma. She said, "There is a really nice family atmosphere involved in the training and competition. It is such a dynamic and exciting sport, I really do hope it will be chosen as an Olympic discipline in the not too distant future."

We hope so too so we can invite Emma back to Priory to share her experiences (and hopefully medals) with Priory students in the years to come.

Go Emma – we wish you every success in the future!



Breakfast at Priory

Our usual way of providing bagels and cereal to our students has had to change due to the current situation.

We are all usually happily serving students each morning in the sports cafe, chatting with them and providing buttered bagels and cereals. Watching the students interact with each other is normally a lovely way to start our day which the students seem to love too as it is a regular routine for so many of them.

But the breakfast team are not ones to be stopped even with a global pandemic and with the help of Magic Breakfast who supply our bagels and cereals we continued to deliver our breakfasts – but now to our students' and parents' homes.

Magic Breakfast gave us unlimited amounts of bagels, cereals, and baked beans to give to our families along with some milk vouchers too. And our families are always happy to see us as having extra mouths to feed each day – many of them growing teenagers – every little helps.

This would not have been possible without the team getting together to make this happen, all who have fitted this in around their normal working day, even getting their family members helping too!

The Team

Carol Roberts (chief packer)

Delivery Team:

Nicola Robinson, Michelle Chadwick, Vikie Usher, Hesta Dalton, , Isabelle Fairs, Tracey Morris, Katie Strong, Kate Misslebrook, Olivia Stitt. Along with the help of Karen driving the mini bus when needed.

Without teamwork and the dedication from these members of staff this would not have happened, so I am very thankful to all.

Mrs Fairs



Thank you to Tesco Frattton for donating 250 bags for life to use to pack up our breakfast parcels.



11

Priory Refurbishment

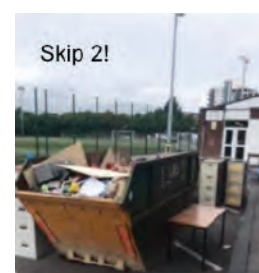
Despite lockdown, Priory is having many improvements made ready for September. The Art and Photography Department is having a major refurbishment.

The Art and Photography department is currently going through a major renovation, which will be completed by September.

Due to the increasing numbers of students opting for photography at GCSE we are converting one of our classrooms into a purpose-built photography room. The room will be equipped with computers, printers, cameras, lighting, and a space to set up photo shoots.

The departments are extremely excited about this and cannot wait to see the new room in September. Staff are also incredibly grateful to Mr Vaughan for supporting the creation of this new teaching space.

Here are some photographs of the art department clearing out the art rooms last week:



12

Our students have been working hard at their weekly pledge challenges to gain credits towards their 2020 pledge. From random acts of kindness to entering Kate Middleton's Hold Still photography competition, the students have been showing their creative sides in abundance. Students have been sending in photographs of the wonderful things they have been doing towards their pledge and it truly has been mind-blowing. Our gamechangers of the future are showing us that they are up for the challenge.

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 I hope
 2 Journa

M) Creative
 Whatever you like!

Stories
 Journals
 Memo
 Everything!

Monday 1st June
 Great day! The next
 best thing to the
 British pound

8/10

I'll sell my Story Ideas

1 A group of
 kids with
 power rings
 school in
 same Earth

2. Puma and
 Fun

3. A Special

my MUMMY

READ IM

2030

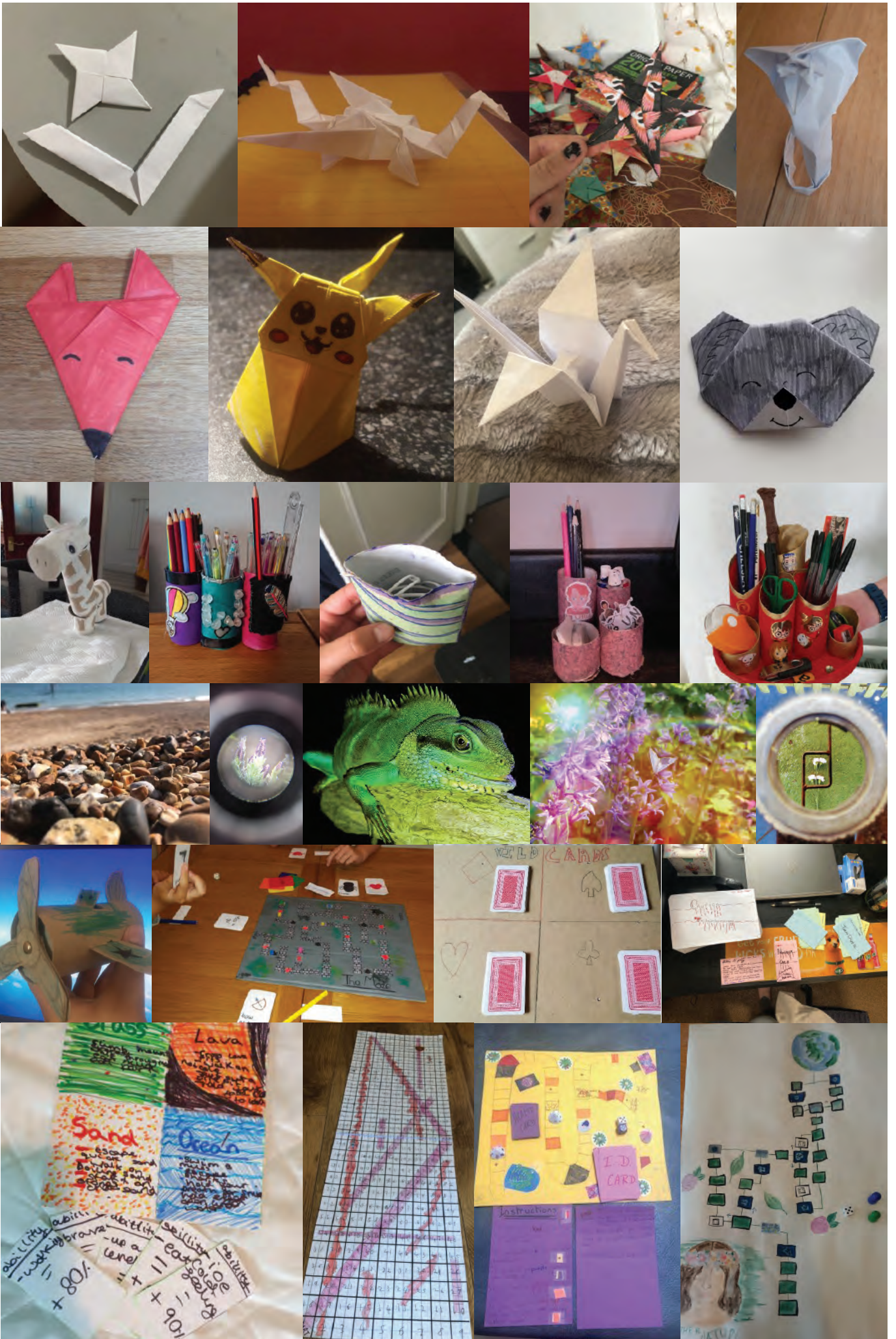
Sorry, we're closed for now

because we're going home

Where have all the loo rolls gone?
Our cupboard is empty and bare
We're all stuck together at home
Any exercise outside is rare
There's only so much on Netflix
After I've finished home schooling
You'd think work from home would be fun
But our schedule is really quite gruelling
Wear a face mask, they say
It'll protect you from the virus
But still there are people suffering
From the coronavirus crisis
How long will it last?
None of us know
We can only do what we can
To make the illness go
Clap for the key workers
Every Thursday night
Support the real superheroes
Who are putting up a fight
Be a good neighbour
Support you family and friends
Help them get through their troubles
Together we will reach the end
Though we've spent months like this
The time really seems to drag on
And as the days roll by, I wonder:
Where have all the loo rolls gone?

Marianne McIntyre

Lily Payne



Priory Gamechanger Day

In the midst of a pandemic, the drive and passion of Priory students did not falter! Gamechanger Day was designed as a discovery and aspiration day for students to be the change they wanted to see in the world.

On Wednesday 13th May, Priory students in Years 7-10 were working from home, engaging with a variety of online and 'home practical' tasks.

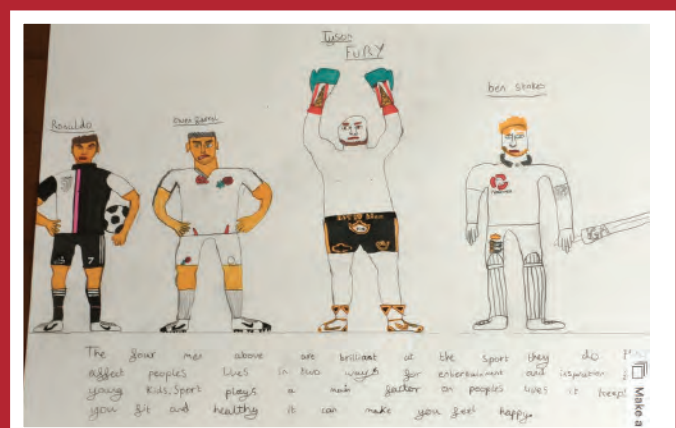
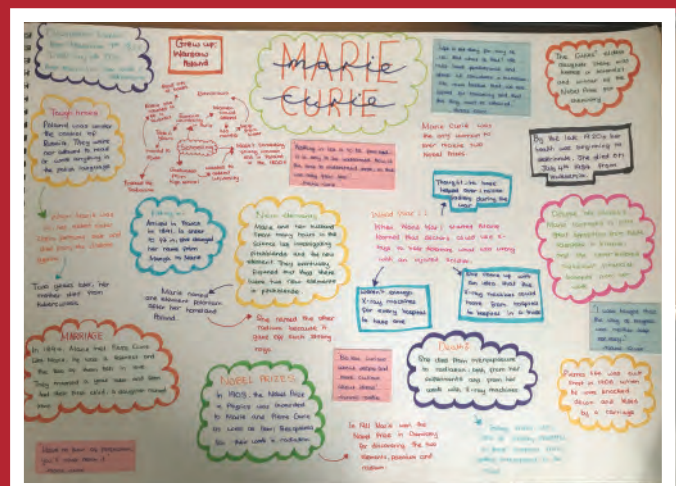
The event's sole focus was to inspire our learners to be self-reflective and then to look to the future – contemplating the difference they could make in our communities. Could they have a positive impact on the lives of others, like so many of the essential and key workforces currently were?

The core gamechanger tasks invited students to pick an 'influencer', one who had shaped history by making a national or global difference; a distinct difference to those deemed as a modern day 'influencer' whose impact is seen via social media – a moment to think there.

A self-evaluative task and an investigation into one of these pioneers provided a springboard for our students to present a creative response to their own aspirations as a gamechanger in our 'new normal'.

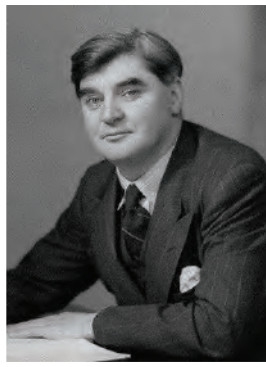
A truly remarkable deluge of thought-provoking and aspirational work in a variety of mediums was produced by Priory's wonderful students; paintings, poems, minecraft structures, scripts, TED talks and infographics to name a few.

These incredible outcomes have proved that our students will challenge the status quo and lead this world forward. We have a very simple ethos; Enjoy Respect Achieve and Gamechanger Day was the embodiment of this.



Sam Poots Essay

Aneurin Bevan – How he went from the son of a coal miner in a poor welsh town in the valleys to the country's Minister for Health and creator of the famous and life saving british National Health Service.

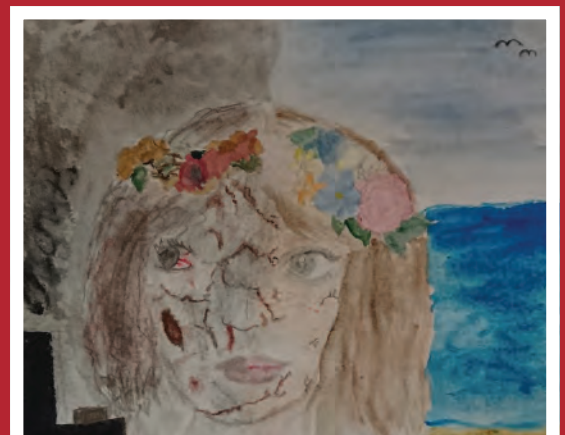


In 1897, Aneurin Bevan was born into a poor family in the Welsh valleys. His father worked in horrible conditions in the coal mines for minimal pay and his mother was a clothes maker.

His parents had ten children but only six made it past their infant years. He left school at just 13 to work in a butchers, which gave him the confidence he needed for later life, as he had a stammer as a child which he was made fun of so he was a very introverted, unconfident child. However, in 1914 the Great War (now known as WW1) broke out. Many men from his village went out to fight, and there was a lot of pressure on him to join them. But he was not allowed to because of an eye condition, so he went to work in his local mine to help substitute for all the men that normally worked there that had gone to war. The coal miners were all members of the trade union, which he agreed to help in, which helped boost his confidence further. At 22, he decided to run for local council, which although he didn't win helped him make a name for himself.

He was then given a trade union scholarship and went to college. After a while, he ended up working with the Labour Party, who won the most seats in parliament, making Bevan a law maker. And it was his aim to improve the lives of the working class. He remained a politician throughout the Second World War, and soon after Clement Attlee was elected Prime Minister, who appointed Bevan Minister for Health. His aim was to introduce a comprehensive National Health Service, which was easier said than done because many doctors opposed, thinking they would get paid less and many taxpayers because they didn't want to be charged more. But in the end he convinced them and the NHS was launched two years later.

What we can learn from the amazing story of Aneurin Bevan is that you can achieve your goals in life without being born into a rich family and no matter how hard it may seem, you can still achieve amazing things if you put your mind to it. The fact that he went from having a stammer to giving speeches and went from dropping out of school at 13 and getting through college just goes to show that even without the best start in life you can still accomplish your ambitions.



Regional Finals of the Solutions for the Planet Big Ideas Competition

On Tuesday 7 July, two teams from Priory competed in the Solutions for the Planet Regional Finals. Their ideas were:

A mobile refill station for health, hygiene, and beauty products

“Our vision is that there would be no landfill or plastic pollution in the future.”

Freya Hawkes, Madeleine Lucas, Gracie Novakovic



“BEAUTI-FILL”

T,Eco – A floating tidal energy generator

16



“Tidal Energy has been done before but not in this way. Our way is cheap and affordable, plus giving a new purpose to old buoys that would otherwise be put in landfill. This way also gives jobs as we need people to collect the batteries and make the boxes. We are interactive and fun as well as helping to save our planet.”

Seren Jones, Willow Lindstrom-Fabik and Phoebe Billson.

Mrs England-Wood watched the question and answer session with both teams and judges. They were clear, passionate, and committed to their ‘Big Idea’. Both teams were commended on their work over the past weeks.

Each team has had to complete five challenges across the time of lockdown, prepare their business plans and sit in front of a panel of Industry experts and answer questions.

The two young teams have been truly inspirational in their approaches and they should be rightly proud of themselves.

The winners of their heat, and the winners of the Southern Regional Finals was Beauti-fill.

They have now got their place in the National Finals which will take place at the Palace of Westminster in the Autumn Term.

Both teams have shown great determination and worked together throughout the toughest times. We are all so proud of them and the amazing STEM work they have produced.

Lockdown Thoughts

Ms Sime interviewed Maddie Lucas about her thoughts on lockdown, home learning and a whole lot more...

How did you feel when the schools were first closed at the start of lockdown?

When lockdown first started, I would be lying if I said that I wasn't worried and/or scared at first. Of course, having such a swift and unexpected change in routine will take a toll on somebody and in a way, pull the carpet from beneath their feet and I can confidently confirm that I certainly felt that way.

Having a Grandma who we believed at the time was of 'high risk' was certainly unsettling and the worry of school and my progress falling behind I think has and is something at the back of your mind. But for me, I felt more disappointed that history has shown us what devastation pandemics can do yet we had no structure or program in place and that all led to panic and worry.

Also, as a person who has significantly cut down on my social media usage since the start of 2020, seeing my friends everyday was more vital for me personally as school would be the place I spent the majority of my time talking to them instead of social media which I ironically thought was taking too much of my time back in January.

Socialising is one of the key ways to keep relationships healthy and now that school isn't there and Instagram isn't a morally fitting option for me, I was, and still kind of am, worried that my friendships with certain people will suffer in the foreseeable future.

How did you think you would find 'remote learning' and has your opinion changed over the past two months?

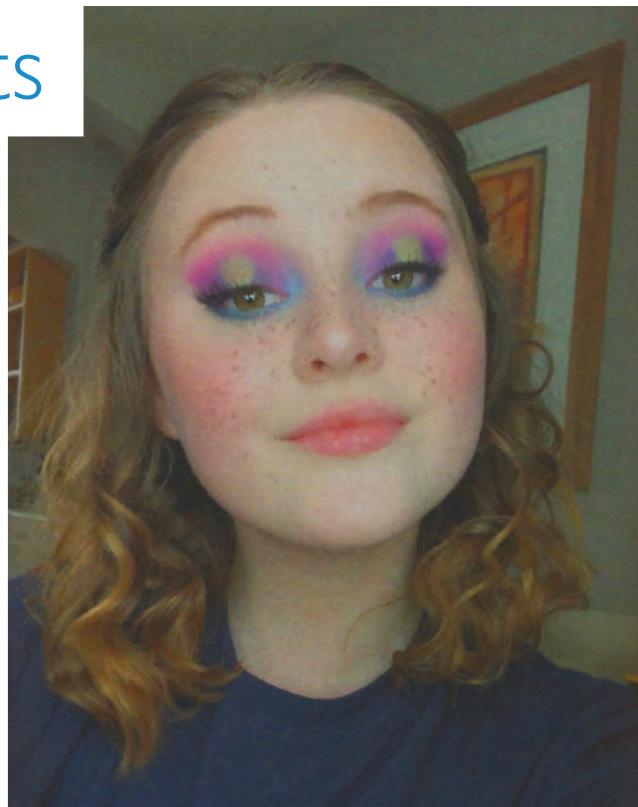
I think that I am in a privileged position where I have access to all the work and because of that I can find a routine that works for me. Because of it, I am able to see the benefit and downsides to 'remote learning'.

However, at the start of lockdown my heart went out to all of those who do not have access and would fall behind because of that. I thought remote learning would be stressful for both the teachers and students since for teachers the worry of 'Have the students done the work?' 'Are they all logged in?' 'Are they just searching the answers up?' And for students the question of 'Have I done all the work they've sent me?' 'Is this enough?' 'How long do I have to do it?'

And for the start of lockdown both students and teachers were getting used to this new way of learning therefore there was a certain kind of disconnect. However, as lockdown has gone on, I think a lot of people, both students and teachers, have kind of settled which is something to be grateful for.

Which lessons have you enjoyed most and why?

I think the lesson I have enjoyed the most is history since it has always been one of my favourite subjects and now I have the 'freedom' AKA internet to really thoroughly research a certain topic in the subject, beyond what the textbooks say. Also, my history teacher is very forgiving when it comes to the handing in of certain tasks.



How have you filled your free time at home?

I have filled my free time at home by trying to do as much indoor physical activity as possible since now I don't have any excuse, reading the books I bought but always pushed to the back of my shelf and watching different documentaries about certain topics I've wanted to research but never have.

The book I am currently finishing right now is 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' by Suzanne Collins which is a prequel to her beloved Hunger Games trilogy.

Can you tell me about something you enjoyed, respected, or achieved during lockdown?

Enjoyed – I've enjoyed having a lot more time to self-reflect and relax since normally school takes up the majority of my mind even if I'm not there so to have that detox of stress and pressure to focus on new hobbies and routines I've set is definitely rewarding.

Respected – I have been recently respecting and supporting the Black Lives Matter movement that has taken place in both the USA and UK as I firmly agree and support their message. So, although I am not able to take part in the protests I still praise and encourage those who do and are able to.

Achieved – Going into lockdown, I fully expected to hate my body and physical appearance more than I already do, in fact the first month I only went out once since I was so scared and embarrassed to show myself and what I looked like. But although I still occasionally feel like that, I feel as if recognising that a toxic and depression inducing mindset is an achievement of itself and the reminder that I'm not the only one feeling this way has also helped too. Not going once on Instagram has in my opinion for me been an achievement also, since I have stopped or lowered the amount of comparison I do between myself and someone else.

Have you learnt anything new about yourself that has surprised you?

I think I have been surprised at how much I want to do well and that I have this self-motivation I have never really seen before. I do the work pretty much all the time without being asked and now see that I have a drive and competitive spirit I never fully recognised in myself. This is a good thing.

The stories that will take us forward: Teaching and Learning

As professionals working in education and at school, these last few months will be something Priory teachers will speak of often in the future. What we have achieved together during this time has been phenomenal and would only have been possible as part of a team

For the future, we want to have a record of all the stories that took place. So, in this edition of the Priory Post, we want to share with you the teaching and learning stories that we have been able to capture over the last few months. And they are extensive! Thank you to everyone – teachers and students alike who have been part of this extraordinary journey.

Teaching and Learning: Our Priory Staff Team's Continued Professional Development to ensure that our students' future education is secure:

693 Continued Professional Development engagement summaries completed (excluding Gamechanger days)

The consistent themes in staff weekly CPD have been recovery curriculum, trauma informed schools, safeguarding, meeting the red lines of home learning, well-being, and leadership development. The weekly CPD has been tailored to all staff.

31 leaders signed up to be part of the first 'summer read.'

The summer read includes the titles 'Successful difficult conversations in schools (Sonia Gill),' 'The curriculum (Mary Myatt),' 'Leverage leadership 2.0,' 'Leadership matters (Andy Buck),' and 'Closing the vocabulary/reading gap (Alex Quigley)'

INSET DAYS We have held 1 trust led virtual INSET day and 2 Gamechanger CPD days for all staff

These Involved all staff. The priorities have been The Game changer curriculum, lessons captured during remote learning, the development of online learning to meet the red lines of teaching, assessment and data, well-being, metacognition, and building independent learners.

Wednesday 13th May, Friday 3rd July (INSET) and Friday 10th July

8 Start-up of Priory's first Avengers Assemble, including 8 aspiring or new middle leaders.

Buddies established, introductory session, Leadership styles CPD and summer reads

CPD STAFF SURVEY The May 2020 CPD staff survey results demonstrated the impact on teaching and learning our CPD programme has had during the extended period of remote learning.

- **98%** of staff believe the CPD programme has improved their understanding of what makes an effective home lesson.
- **83%** of staff engaged with additional CPD outside of usual roles and responsibilities suggested on the CPD programme. The reasons for doing so varied but some cited to broaden understanding and that they felt everyone had a pastoral responsibility.
- **95%** of staff felt that the CPD programme had enough variety within it.
- **84%** of teachers felt the Gamechanger day supported them in meeting the red lines of home learning teaching.

A bespoke year group home learning timetable created for delivery from Monday 23rd March 2020.

We used the platforms we were already familiar with to offer our students familiarity and support at this unprecedented time. Issued on day according to Home Learning Timetable with the deadline to complete on that day.

Red lines of home learning written, agreed with Heads of Faculty, and shared across the school community to ensure a shared goal for all and meet the needs of our students.

Used a range of online platforms to offer a wide variety of lessons to students.

The following platforms have been used by subject areas: Seneca, Educake, Hegarty Maths, Lexia, Accelerated reader, Loom, Zoom, Memrise, Quizlet, Show my homework, Google classrooms.



77 live lessons delivered via zoom to Year 9 in the last three weeks of term.

zoom The consistent themes in staff weekly CPD have been recovery curriculum, trauma informed schools, safeguarding, meeting the red lines of home learning, well-being, and leadership development. The weekly CPD has been tailored to all staff.

10,553 home learning lessons have been set on show my homework between 20th March and Thursday 9th July.

Of the 10 ½ thousand home learning opportunities set:

- **1275** flexible task (tutor communication, pledge, competitions etc)
- **2373** included a low stakes quiz within the home learning lesson (Exit ticket, do now etc)

3,073 Priory students have dedicated 3073 hours on Lexia since 20th March.

Lexia Lexia is an online platform which allows students to work independently to develop critical reading and language skills. During this period of home learning, **85%** of Year 7 pupils engaged with Lexia at some point, and seven pupils completed the full Lexia package. Priory students have dedicated **3073** hours on Lexia since 20th March.

Teachers have planned and delivered a loom pre-recorded lesson and shared it on show my homework alongside the lesson.



We started creating loom videos in summer 1, and the loom clips have increased engagement with home learning, as they:

- Model to students
- Share the subject knowledge and expertise of the teacher
- Increase teacher presence
- Address misconceptions
- Introduce new knowledge and learning
- Motivate, engage and orientate students into the lesson

The important message here for all is the willingness to learn and to evolve so that whatever future is shaped for us by government, we are in a good place to respond.

Some Important Messages From Mrs England-Wood

Priory Outdoor Classroom



Key workers and a group of Year 7 and Year 8 have been busy working through the Outdoor Classroom. They have been building a working area, cutting down bushes and trees while learning new skills including some bush craft skills. They also started making a vertical farm for the classroom.

They have cooked breakfast and toasted marshmallows and enjoyed a cuppa together! They have shown great teamwork and worked together in making the outdoors a nice place to learn. Well done to all involved.





30 Days of Wildlife Acts of Kindness

June was Wildlife Month. And Priory students had the opportunity to take part in "The Wildlife Trust's 30 days of Wildlife".

There was a challenge to complete everyday – for 30 days of June. We had some fantastic entries! Some students were surprised how much nature and wildlife they saw in Portsmouth when they stopped and looked. A special mention to Leo Cramp, Marianne McIntyre, William Harrigan, and Jacob Parker. Their work was fantastic!

DofE Update

By this time of year, Priory students would have completed all DofE expeditions. It is sad that this has been impossible, but we have not forgotten about you.

All students completing the awards this year should have received a letter with a breakdown of where they are in the award. All students that complete three out of their four sections (excluding their expeditions) will get a Certificate of Achievement this year. Well done to the Students that have already completed their **Bronze** – Danny Jones, Robin Tuck. **Silver** – Sam Hart, Alex Higson.

They should be proud of themselves for continuing their sections throughout lockdown. I look forward to signing off other students in the Autumn term. Then in the summer of 2021, we will complete our expeditions, and everyone involved will then receive the full award. Please see the letter and information sent to you for further details, or contact Mrs England-Wood: Bengland-Wood@priorysouthsea.org

STEM News

Well done to all those students who have taken time to take part in the various STEM challenges set over the past few months. The resources are still available so you can take part in some of them over the summer holidays.

Also, STEM UK LEARNING has opened their resources for free, online. There is a wealth of resources on there for all the family, including this week how to make the ultimate paper plane! <https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning>

INEOS Challenge

The INEOS team based in Portsmouth set a summer challenge posing six questions to go and investigate and come up with some STEM inspired solutions to help their team win the next Americas Cup! Many students submitted their Ideas to the INEOS team. A special mention goes to Katelyn Ingram, Jack Pike, George Bannister, and Judah Hurr for their work.

Summer Holiday – Stem Activities – Keep an eye out!

Mrs England-Wood has posted some summer holiday activities for you to take part in. Keep an eye on SMHW and on the School's Facebook page.

STEM Academy

Priory School was the first school to be able to get access to this great opportunity! Some students have already completed a couple of the workshops and Activities and they have their certificates. This is what one of our students said:

Hi miss, hope you are well. Just to let you know, I have decided to do the Summer STEM Academy opportunity and I've already completed a workshop! I found it very interesting and I'm awaiting my certificate currently. Thank you for sharing this opportunity with us. Year 9 Student.

Do have a go over the summer. It is all for free and there is a Loom to explain what you have to do.

<https://www.loom.com/share/60d85fd77b404478aa78d1b6316be8a4>

STEM SUMMER ACADEMY

Fancy working with academics and STEM professionals to get a taste of careers in STEM subjects?

Portsmouth STEM network encourages all Year 6, 7, and 8 pupils to take part in this exciting opportunity.

The workshops are suitable for older/younger students if they wish to participate.

Portsmouth STEM Network is working with University of Glasgow, this summer, to give all Portsmouth students access to

27 FREE STEM ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Each activity has videos and resources to support home learning.

Certificates are provided on completion of workshops.

Welcome to this innovative University and Industry led programme bringing together
STEM subject academics, industry, teachers and school pupils.

The 2020 Online STEM Academy provides a fabulous variety of 'hands on' workshops and
activities, working with experts and experiencing the real and exciting world of STEM
beyond school. Workshops range from Astrobiology, HYPED Hyperloop- the fastest
transport on earth, racing cars, viruses and our defences, to 5G Communication, robotics
and AI.

Teachers and pupils attending previous STEM Academies reported significant increases in
confidence and ability in STEM Engagement, Learning and Leadership. We hope that
participants will enjoy similar benefits by joining the very first 2020 online STEM Academy
at: www.stemacademyscotland.org

Getting started:

Step 1: Visit the website and students under the age of 16 should complete the Junior
pupil pre-questionnaire with a parent/guardian.

Step 2: All workshops will be live from the 15th June. Have a look through and pick a
minimum of 5 workshops you would like to participate in.

Step 3: Get going! Access the video and download the resources and follow the guided
activity.

Step 4: On completion of the activity, you will get a certificate and have a chance to reflect
on your course.

Step 5: Print/save your certificate to support future STEM applications. Consider sharing
your work/ideas with your school.

A message from...

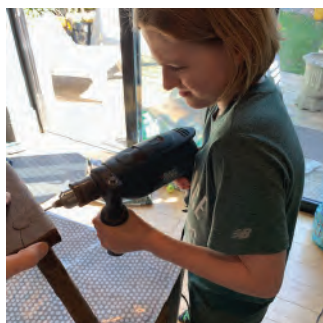
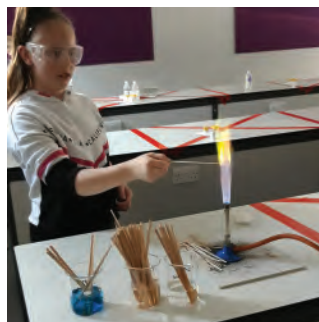


Ms Robinson – Year 7

As your first year at Priory comes to an end, it certainly was not the year that any of us were expecting!

During the last few months, you have worked tirelessly on your home learning, showing your dedication to your education. I had only just started to get to know some of you before things changed.

But I feel like I have got to know you all so much more by seeing how hard you have all worked, the constant email communication with you all and congratulating so many of you for being Stars of the Week. I am super proud to be your Progress Leader and I cannot wait to see you all again very soon. Take care, have a great summer, and let us make Year 8 a great year!



24



Mrs Chadwick – Year 8

It has been a very strange and interesting term and end of Year 8 and this year seems to have flown by.

I cannot tell you how much I have missed seeing you all and chatting but I have got to know some of you even more than I did before, the different talents that you all have shown has shone through, from photographers and artists to cooks and creative imaginations, not to mention the musical performances.

I have enjoyed your messages, photos and excellent examples of work that you have contributed and, of course the Gamechanger Day and Priory Pledge. I am honestly just overflowing with pride.

Some of you have loved this time, some of you have had ups and downs and I am sure all of you just want to get back to school. I cannot wait to see you in September as Year 9s – starting the GCSE journey. Take care and have a great summer holiday.



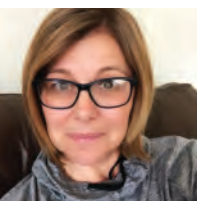


Mrs Douglas – Year 9.

Year 9, where has this year gone? Although this has been a very unusual end to the year, you have all continued to work so hard and I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

Usually, we would be meeting as a year group to celebrate the year and to say goodbye for the summer holidays. But this year, although we are still celebrating your success and saying goodbye for the summer, it's very different. I have thoroughly enjoyed receiving your photos and examples of work you have produced. You are all truly amazing!

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you back in September for another incredible year. But this time, you'll be year 10!!! Have a fantastic and well-deserved summer. Remember, we are a team and I am only an email away.



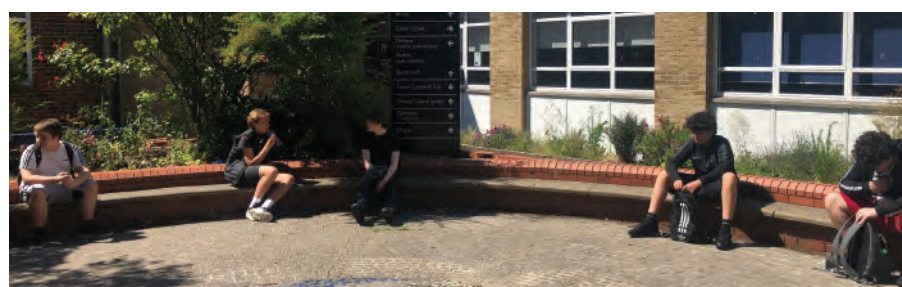
Mrs Fairs – Year 10

Well Year 10 it most certainly is a strange way to end our year. We would usually be meeting together as a year group in the hall to celebrate our year and to say goodbye for the summer.

This year it's a very different way to say goodbye, but the messages are still the same. It's been a rollercoaster of emotions but in the usual Year 10 spirit you have done us proud. It only seems like yesterday I was welcoming you into Priory as Year 7 students. There have been lots of changes over the time and lots of things to celebrate too.

I will be immensely proud to be welcoming you back in September as Year 11s - our final fantastic year together. You are superstars with a great spirit and I very much look forward to our last year together.

It was an exciting day when we could welcome Year 10 students back into Priory for a socially distanced part time timetable. Their response to returning to school has been overwhelmingly positive and it has been an emotional time for staff as well who could not wait to teach students some classroom-based lessons. Great to see you Year 10!



A message from...

Ms Usher – Year 11

To my incredible Year 11 family. The best thing about family is that we know we have each other's back. We remember that we are all living this life to face everything together. The support, love and affection you get from your family is the best thing and I couldn't ask for more. We have been together for 5 years, and long may it last.

Stay in contact with each other, look out for each other and be each other's rock. Never doubt your own abilities, and strive to be the best version of yourself always. Don't forget, my door is always open to you.



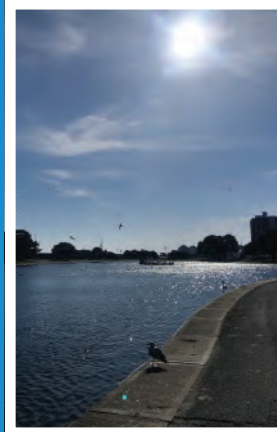
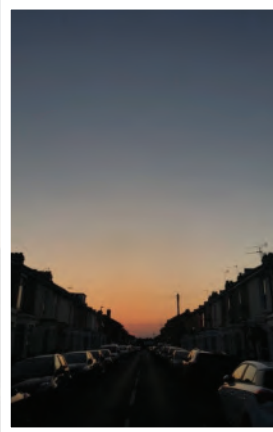
Alyssa Frampton has been spending her time making baby hats and booties for the special care baby unit to donate at QA hospital.



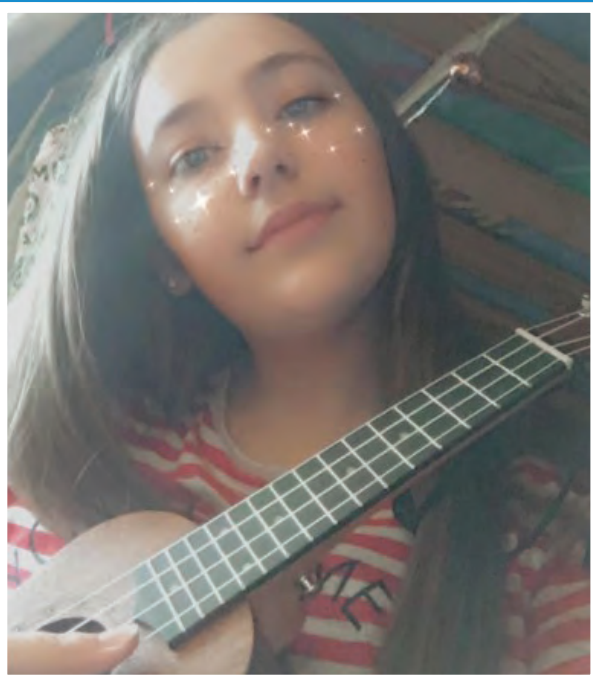
Delphine Latif taught herself how to make cushion covers.



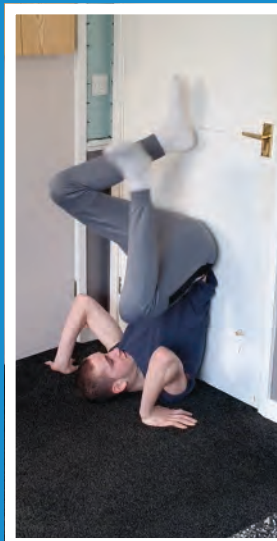
Isobel Hecks has been restoring her BSA bantam for DofE Gold and once fully restored, she will exhibit it at vintage shows.



Hollie Eeles has been improving her photography skills and mastering the hoop.



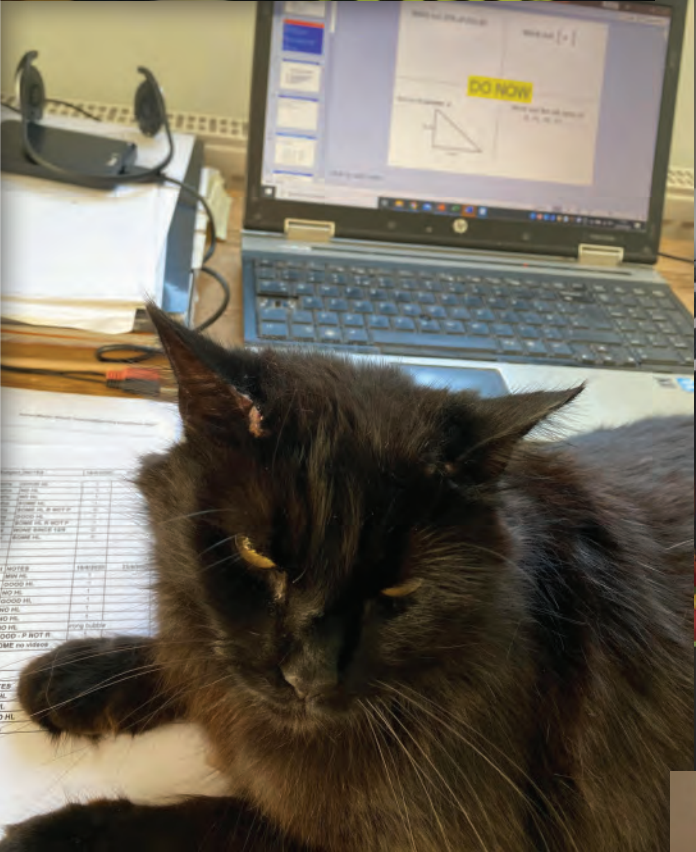
Hermione Troke has been spending her time trying to master the ukulele.



Bobbie has been baking and trying to master the handstand.

Our New Normal





Virtual Sports Day 2020

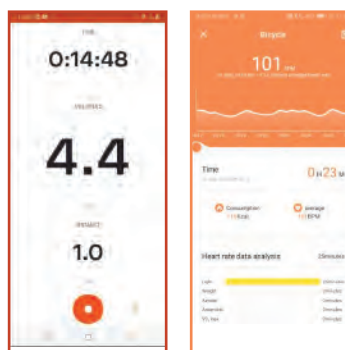
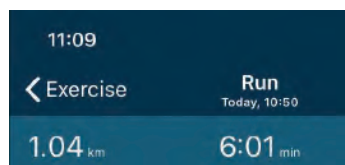
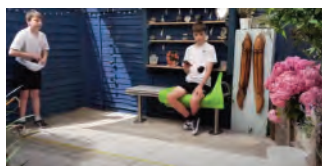
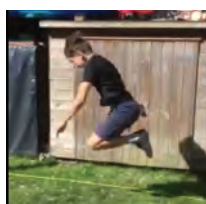
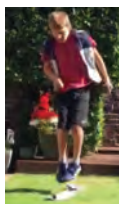


This year, our traditional sports' day at Southsea Common was cancelled due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, determined to provide an opportunity and 'A day to be mobile,' Mr Andrew and the PE Department began planning Priory's first ever Virtual Sports Day!



The day began with a warm-up video created to get everyone involved ready for the events ahead. The day then moved into the activity phase which consisted of six separate activities for students to take part in. These activities included Standing Long Jump, 1min Socks in a Box, 1min Press-Up, 1min Speed Bounce, Hand Wall Toss and finally, Shuttle Transfer. Each of the activities included an instructional video created by the PE Department so everyone knew what was expected of them.

Students were competing for themselves and for their own tutor groups. However students were also competing for the Pride of Priory as scores entered from Standing Long Jump, 1min Press-Up and Hand Wall Toss were collated for the Cross-Trust Challenge! The Cross-Trust Challenge has been agreed upon by all seven schools within the Bohunt Education Trust and our students have the opportunity to be the best girl or boy amongst thousands at these activities. Once students had completed their activities, they uploaded their results to the leaderboard eagerly awaiting who would be crowned top girl and top boy for each activity within their own year groups.



Students were also given the opportunity to compete in Extension Challenges. These challenges gave students the option of taking part in a 1km, 3km or 5km walk, run or cycle. Students uploaded a screenshot of their challenge with the distance. An open challenge was also included for those wanting to complete a shorter or longer distance than those already outlined.

In Between each of the activities, students were given learning tasks to extend their knowledge of current affairs

and how sport and its athletes cannot only have a positive impact on the sporting stage, but also in everyday society. The learning tasks included deciding whether Marcus Rashford should be knighted for his extensive charity work particularly during the Covid-19 lockdown and the influence that he had over the government in obtaining free school meals for all those eligible over the summer holidays.



This year should have been an Olympic year with The Games taking place in Tokyo. This learning task required students to research and learn about who organises

the Games, where does the funding come from, when women were allowed to compete and when the games were first televised.

The final learning task involved students learning about Colin Kaepernick. Colin Kaepernick is an NFL player in the US who became known for refusing to stand for the national anthem as a form of protest for injustice. Students explored the reasons behind many athletes 'taking the knee', and learnt about the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

Congratulations to all students who have taken part in our first Virtual Sports Day! It was a massive success and we eagerly await the results of the Cross-Trust Challenge. Go Team Priory!

To stay up-to-date with all the day to day happenings, as well as upcoming events at Priory, simply follow us on Facebook and Twitter. We regularly post news, updates, photos, achievements, and information which you will hopefully find useful and interesting.



@PrioryOfficial



@PriorySouthsea