



THE PRIORY SCHOOL

D O R K I N G

Headteacher: Mrs J Trimnell

3 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Last week Year 11 parents and carers attended an exams information evening where Mrs Abbott and Mr Everall gave some very important tips for our students on what they should be doing now to prepare for their exams later in the academic year. One thing that came to my mind whilst listening was how quick the years have gone by for the students and how important Years 7-10 are in the preparation for this moment. As you will be aware we work with all our students to ensure that they make the reading progress they should. As a school we work hard to ensure this happens, however, it is also incredibly important that this is mirrored at home. Please support us to push your child in this area by keeping them reading, and reading with you would be even better. Anything being read needs to be of high quality and engaging for them.

Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 20 October

This virtual event is available via our School's Cloud system, please ensure you book appointments with your child's teachers [here](#).

Unauthorised leave of absence

With the start of the new academic year, Surrey County Council have asked us to remind parents that any unauthorised leave of absence from school may result in a penalty notice. The current guidance from Surrey County Council states that: "Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. The Headteacher is required to determine the number of school days a child can be away from school if leave is granted.

In accordance with the above Regulations, requests for leave of absence are treated sympathetically, but only in exceptional circumstances can they be approved. Government Regulations state that parents who take their child out of school for five days or more during term time, without the authority of the Headteacher, will each be liable to receive a penalty notice. Penalty Notices will be issued by the Local Authority and in Surrey it has been agreed that Penalty Notices will only be issued where 5 or more days unauthorised leave of absence is taken. These absences do not have to be consecutive but could be accumulated over a 3- month period.

The penalty is £60 per parent if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days of receipt of the notice. If the penalty is not paid in full by the end of the 28-day period, the Local Authority will prosecute the recipient for failing to ensure regular school attendance of their child under section 444 Education Act 1996. Please be aware that each parent is liable to receive a Penalty Notice for each child who incurs unauthorised absences, for example, if there are two parents and two children, each parent will receive two Penalty Notices."

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As per recent guidance 'It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional.' We monitor attendance at The Priory School and studies have shown the higher the attendance, the greater chance of academic achievement, so we would encourage your child to attend regularly.

Friends of the Priory School - Line Dancing Evening

FOTPS are organising our very own "Line Dancing Evening" here at The Priory School. The event will take place on Friday 14 October, starting at 7:00pm. Tickets cost £12.00 via Scopay and include a licensed bar, fish/sausage/vegetarian burger and chips supper. The evening will be led by our very own Dance Teacher, Mrs Hastings-Holland.

Year 7 - Smartie tube

At the end of their induction day, Year 7 students were all given a tube of Smarties and asked if the tube could be returned full of coins to help us raise money. Thank you to those that have bought theirs back, if you haven't yet, please could they be handed in to our Finance Office.

Pizza kits

Pizza kits are available to order again, please see the attached flyer. The closing date for this is 15 October and students will be given the kits to take home on the 21 October. All proceeds help our community, to renew the facilities we have and help students that need financial support.

Dates for this half term

Week beginning Monday 3 October - Anti-Bullying week

Thursday 20 October - Year 8 parents evening

Week beginning Monday 24 October - School closed for half term

Flourishing

After a very successful geography trip for our Year 8 students at Denbies last week; we look forward to hearing about the success of our GreenPower Racing teams competing at Goodwood this coming Sunday. Good luck to both teams.

Congratulations to Zack De Vlieg and Emma Roberts who were elected as our new Head Students.

Best wishes



Mrs Trimnell
Headteacher