



THE PRIORY SCHOOL

D O R K I N G

Headteacher: Mrs J Trimmell



04 November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this bulletin finds you well. I would like to thank those of you who took the time to complete the short questionnaire I shared in my last bulletin. I would like to share an overview of the results and what we will be doing to respond this half term.

1. Areas of the school people are pleased with;

Extra opportunities for children i.e music theatre trip, Greenpower, Denbies' trip, community events.
The change in uniform.
Some staff are very quick at responding to my emails.
The transition from primary to secondary.
Ties are seldom worn in business circles these days. Well done for recognising and reflecting on that.
The school continues to make expectations about performance and behaviour clear.
Communication.
'Well done for your hard work' postcard.
The excellent teaching in some departments and enthusiasm of the teachers.
Homework load, children have time to regenerate at the weekends. Sparx Maths, EduLink.
The after-school study sessions for yr 11 are fantastic.
The extra information around house points.

2. What aspect of the school would you like to see improved? Why? How?

Concern	Response
Uniform - I think the children look really scruffy with the current uniform requirements.	The general response from students and parents is that they are more comfortable in the new uniform requirements. The school will be continuing its work to address the length of skirts worn.
Understanding SEN better.	The school has increased the amount of training it provides staff for SEND. It is also working on how to make information regarding student needs more accessible to teachers.
Having a clear policy for sanctions.	A video has been created to clarify the sanction system to students and has been shared today. The video has also been included here for all our community to see.
Student body awareness of diversity and the need for inclusivity & acceptance.	Mr Currie has created a culture curriculum which is delivered during tutor times. The sessions started in September and have been focusing on current/needs and trends. The new Social Skills curriculum taught alongside PSHCE to KS3 also supports the education of these areas.
Last minute communications.	Trip specific information is sent out separately. The Headteacher bulletin sends out all information required to keep our community up to date. However, on extreme occasions, it is necessary to communicate information that does not fall within the usual timeframe.

Undesirable behaviours in lesson & tutor time.	The school continues to set high expectations and work with parents where students are struggling to meet these. This year the school has seen our new "Patchwork" project introduced to support students.
To be able to speak with a senior leader at all times	Whilst members of the SLT team would happily liaise with members of our community, we all teach and have daily meetings for various roles depending upon our areas of responsibility. It is not possible to always have a member of SLT available. However, we would be available through appointments set up in advance.
Homework - why is it optional? We don't want our son to be bogged down with it but some mandatory homework in all core subjects would be good. One per half term at least?	Maths, English and Science are compulsory with Maths every week and English/Science alternate weeks. All other subjects set "Enrichment Projects" at the start of each half term.
Some teachers are not very proactive at issuing positive behaviour points.	Reminders have been made to staff about the importance of issuing these.
There seems to be an alarming number of lessons taken by supply teachers.	We have only had one position in Maths covered by a supply teacher in school; he was a fully qualified Maths teacher. This has been whilst we waited for Miss Aji to join us this half term.
Children seem to be sneakily using their phones in school.	The school continues to confiscate phones used in school. It would support us if parents refrained from calling or texting their children whilst they were at school, which encourages them to use it.
Lack of communication on what the children are learning about.	The curriculum for every subject is available on our school website. All staff should respond to emails within 48 hours.
More and more children seem to be leaving or thinking of leaving.	Since the start of this term, we have increased our numbers from 642 to 678. Our Year 7 intake is full.

3. Does your child feel safe at school?

4.22 Average Rating out of 5.

4. Do you find the Headteacher Bulletin which is shared every Monday useful?

4.07 Average Rating out of 5.

5. How would you rate communication between yourselves and school?

3.48 Average Rating out of 5.

As a school, we want to celebrate the success of students daily. To ensure this happens regularly we will not tolerate disruption to the learning of others. Today students were shown this [video](#) to clarify what leads to a student being removed from a lesson and why.

Year 9 Parents' Evening - Thursday 28th November 2024 – Online Appointment Booking

I would like to invite you to attend Parents' Evening on Thursday 28th November 2024. This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to find out how your child is progressing in Year 9. We will be hosting this via School Cloud, which you can access through the school website. The Parents' Evening will be open from Monday 4th November at 4pm. A link to the letter can be found [HERE](#). Please make sure to book your appointments online in good time; you will not be able to book appointments after Midday on Thursday 28th November as we need to allow ourselves time for administration.

To access the system, you can use this link: <https://priorycofeschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. If you have any questions, please email Mrs Chart at kct@priorycofe.com

Remembrance Day - Monday 11th November

If students are linked to services such as the Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, Scouts etc. and wear a uniform, please encourage them to wear it on this day instead of their school uniform.

Key events for the term:

07 November	Inclusion Parents' evening
11-15 November	Reading Zone week
12 November	INSET Day
13 November	Ski Trip information evening
14 November	Yr 9 and 11 reports to parents
24 November	Twickenham rugby trip
26 November	Flu vaccinations all years
29 Nov-9 Dec	Year 11 mock examinations
5 December	Carol service and rehearsals
12 December	Yr 7 and 10 reports to parents
20 December	End of term / Christmas Jumper Day (MUFTI) 1:00pm finish

Key events for next term:

Monday 06 January	Staff Inset
Tuesday 07 January	Start of Term
16 January	Flu vaccinations (catch up session)
23 January	Year 11 Parents' evening
25 January	DofE Bronze training day
04 February	Year 11 Mock Interview Day
05 & 06 February	Gym & Dance Show
13 February	Year 10 Reports

Best wishes,



Mrs Trimnell
Headteacher

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