



THE PRIORY SCHOOL

D O R K I N G

Headteacher: Mrs J Trimmell



16 March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 students have now successfully completed their second mock examination series; staff are now working hard to mark all the papers so results can be shared. I will update every one of the improvements in results since the previous mock exams.

Last week, I invited external visitors into the school to moderate the quality of Teaching & Learning within the school, one being a qualified OFSTED inspector, and two who specialise in Teaching & Learning of secondary schools. They spent the day in school, observing 25 lessons, talking with a student panel consisting of Years 10 & 11 and met with Middle Leaders to check that they were clear with the understanding of the vision and strategies the Senior Leadership Team have embedded over the past couple of years. The result of this visit was overwhelmingly positive and clear evidence of the positive changes we are making on our journey.

Strengths from students included:

- Pupils report that there is an excellent community feel to the school, that they feel safe in all areas of the school (within and outside of lessons) and that staff supervision of social times is comprehensive. Pupils note the strong and visible presence of the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and state 'they must never have a break!'
- Pupils all have a trusted adult to whom they could turn if needed
- Pupils recognise the improvements made across the school in terms of improved teaching and behaviour
- Pupils have found the Personal Development curriculum effective, with a helpful focus on careers and the next stage of education and training at KS4. All feel ready for the next phase as a result.
- Pupils welcome the changes to the timing of tutor time and really like that the day starts and end with this.
- Pupils have leadership opportunities e.g. through head students and prefects. Pupils get opportunities to feedback on issues through Google forms, to which the head students and senior prefects respond.
- Pupils are all aware of the core pedagogical practices and reasons for these. They report that Do Nows have improved the starts of lessons.

Strengths from lessons observed include:

- There is some excellent practice and new recruits have added value to the school
- Teacher professional development has impacted positively on many aspects of practice, with evidence of core strategies being utilised well in classrooms e.g. Do Now's, Pose + pause questioning, Silent Solo
- Do Now's are embedded across school
- Clear learning intentions which are ambitious and well-pitched in most classrooms
- Lots of well-designed resources to support all pupils to think hard- knowledge organisers, Power Point's, worksheets, booklets etc
- Some great use of the visualiser in English and Maths to live model
- Climate for learning is excellent in most classrooms- pupils can attend to learning without distraction due to high expectations of conduct, clear and consistent routines, narration of positives, front-loading means of participation, active circulation, genuine and specific praise, warm-strict approach, well-designed seating plan, depersonalised reminders etc

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- Active teacher circulation to check for understanding and provide 1:1 support
- Silent solo being utilised in many classrooms, with use of timers to inject pace and urgency
- In the best lessons, the quantity and quality of work in books is excellent, with regular formative feedback and meaningful DIRT.

Mrs Abbott led an online assembly following the visit entitled 'Building Success Together' which can be viewed [HERE](#)

Parent and Student Surveys

It is really important to us to hear from our community. Please find below links for parental and student surveys. It is only a short survey but vital for us to find out your thoughts and make any improvements.

[Parental survey](#)

[Student survey](#)

Everyone Ask Twice

A quick reminder that you're invited to **Workshop 2** of our *Everyone Asks Twice* programme with **Joe's Buddy Line**, building on last term's session about children's emotional wellbeing.

This workshop will focus on practical ways to help children stay calm and regulated by understanding their Window of Tolerance, spotting stress triggers, and using simple supportive strategies. We'll also look at how connection, belonging, and strong home-school networks help build resilience.

You'll have the chance to ask questions, hear how school supports emotional wellbeing, and pick up easy tools you can use at home.

The workshop is **free**, and you can choose the time that suits you best:

- **17th March at 6pm**
- **26th March at 2pm**

Both sessions are the same, just pick the time that works best for you. We look forward to seeing you there.

What parents said last time:

"Very helpful and informative. It was great! "

"Makes me want to explore more to equip myself with more knowledge. Thank you!"

Please register using the Eventbrite links below. A Zoom link will be sent the day before your chosen session.

17th March 6pm-7,30pm Eventbrite Link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/families-ask-twice-evening-workshop-2-17th-march-2025-tickets-1978378620711?aff=oddtcreator>

26th March 2pm-3.30pm Eventbrite Link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/families-ask-twice-workshop-2-afternoon-event-tickets-1978386237493?aff=oddtcreator>

Year 9 Options Evening – Thursday 19th March

A reminder for parents and students that this important event for Year 9 takes place in the School Hall from 6.00-7.30pm on Thursday 19 March.

Parental update for understanding restrictive interventions in our schools

This information is being provided due to updated Government guidance to the document 'Restrictive interventions, including use of reasonable force, in schools', which is applicable from 1st April 2026. Link [here](#).

Parental information regarding the use of EScooters. Click [here](#).

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Thank you

We would like to publicly thank both Circular Dorking and Heath Educational Books for donating free books to our Library on World Book Day.

Future key dates:

17 March	Everyone Ask Twice Workshop 2 at 6.00pm
19 March	Year 9 Options Evening
24 March	Year 9 DTP & MEN ACWY vaccinations
25 March	Hampton Court History Trip
26 March	Everyone Ask Twice Workshop 2 at 2.00pm
27 March	Year 11 reports to parents
27 March	End of term – 3:25pm finish
13 April	Summer term starts

Best wishes,



Mrs Jo Trimnell
Headteacher

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