



PRIORY SCHOOL
EDGBASTON

Start of the New Academic Year Newsletter

September 2018

A Warm Welcome Back

We are pleased to welcome back our pupils this September looking smart in the correct uniform and wearing formal black school shoes. Trainers are not permitted.



Prayer for Priory School Pupils

Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love
you surround us with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon these students
and fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies
and draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

No Mobile Phone Zone

Pupils and parents are reminded that Priory School is a 'no phone zone'. Pupils must keep their phones in their lockers or at reception when they arrive at school and may collect them at the end of the day. If a pupil needs to phone home in an emergency, they may use the school phone at reception. Thank you for your co-operation.



Making Contact with the School

The Form Tutor is the first port of call for any parent or pupil who has a query or concern about any aspect of school life. The Form Tutor is also the person best placed for a pupil to approach when guidance or support is needed. The Tutor will support both academic and pastoral development and will monitor each child's attendance, punctuality and behaviour records regularly. Form tutors are supported by the Senior Leadership Team, with Ms Guiver overseeing all curriculum matters and Mrs Mullin overseeing all pastoral matters. Ms Mazzocchi supports with pastoral and behaviour matters at Key Stage Three. Sixth Form enquiries may be directed to Mr Branch, Head of Sixth Form or Mrs Tarantino, Assistant Head of Sixth Form.

Parents may contact their child's form tutor by email or telephone and may track pupil progress through our parent portal on Firefly.



Emails and Text Messages

Our aim is to reduce the amount of paper we use. To this end we will be using the ParentMail email distribution system, combined with the text message system. **It is therefore vitally important to check your emails regularly as well as the school website and to update your mobile phone number or email address if these change through ParentMail.**

Policies

Parents will be pleased to know that there is a whole range of information and policies on our website. The information includes our Mission Statement and supplementary information for Senior parents. The policies on our website include: Admissions Policy, Internal and External Suspension Policy, Permanent Exclusion Policy, EAL Policy, SEND Policy, Senior Curriculum Policy, Senior School Positive Behaviour Policy, Senior PSHEE Scheme of Work, Safeguarding Policy, First Aid Policy, Anti Bullying Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Fire Risk Prevention Policy, Senior Supervision of Pupils Policy, Complaints Procedure, Accessibility Policy, First Aid Policy, Medication Policy, Whole School Educational Visits Policy, Whole School Equal Opportunities Policy, Whole School Equalities Act Accessibility Policy, Whole School e-Safety Policy, Whole School Staffing Policy and Whole School Whistleblowing Policy

Minibuses

We have two brand new minibuses and provide a minibus service from the Solihull area, picking up pupils in Solihull, Olton, Moseley, Kings Heath, Bournville and Selly Park en route. If you require further information please contact the main school Reception – telephone 0121 440 4103.

Facility Improvements

Over the summer a major refurbishment of the Prep School has taken place. This included new double glazed windows and doors, repainting and re-flooring of the main corridor and the installation of Perspex fronted display boards. Many rooms have been completely refurbished and look splendid. Many parents have already commented how bright, airy and spacious the corridor now looks and that it is like a new building. Everyone is clearly very impressed! So too they are with the re-modelling of the Dining Hall, which has a new serving area.

This year will be a highly significant year in our history as we will be opening the new Quad Building. The major construction work is now complete and the roof is on. This means that the finishing work can continue whatever the British weather throws at us. We anticipate that the move to the new Quad will take place during half term. Reception will occupy the ground floor of the new Quad and Years 3 and 4 the first and second floors. This will create additional space in the Senior School building and move us one step further to zoning our Prep children in one area and our Senior students in another.

Car Park Courtesy and Consideration for Others

Once again, I am asking for your co-operation and consideration for other members of the 'Priory Family' in respect of our car park and drop-off area at the front of the school.

Please be mindful of others by refraining from double parking and by not blocking the driveway. This causes problems for other cars entering the site as there are occasions when tailbacks occur into the road. This in turn causes danger for you, and for the traffic approaching from Church Road, as they tend to drive quickly around a blind corner towards the entrance.

You will be aware that there are limited spaces in our car park. Accordingly I strongly request that **only** parents who escort their young children into school use the car park. The marked drop-off bays are for parents with babies and toddlers. As always,

your child's safety is paramount. We would therefore urge you to always hold your younger children's hands as you make your way through the car park. Please be aware that drivers backing out of a parking space may not see small children in their mirrors and so parents must be fully in control of their children at all times.

Parents with older children should drop their children off across the road opposite the school entrance, and the pupils must cross under the supervision of the Crossing Warden who is present both before and after school. Pupils must then use the designated walkway into school. It is most important that parents do not park near the crossing so that the warden has a full view of the traffic.

If you need to enter the car park, please drive past the designated spaces if they are full and use the visitor space at the front of the school. In consideration for other parents, may I ask that the time taken to drop off children is kept to a minimum. A practical way of achieving this is to ensure that your son or daughter has their bag with them in the car so they can immediately step out and make their way towards the school without the need for accessing the boot.

Please note that the school accepts no responsibility for any traffic violation or fine that a parent might incur outside the school premises. It is essential that we are considerate to our neighbours and that we always park sensibly.

The Priory family is growing!

Mrs Mullin is delighted to inform parents that she will be having a baby in October. Her maternity leave will be covered by Mr Selomon and Ms Zolna, our associate members of the senior leadership team.

An exciting year ahead

You can see a short video which celebrates our exciting and eventful academic year 2017-2018 by clicking onto this link: <https://vimeo.com/270945844>. Who will be featured in this year's celebration video?





Senior School Rules, Code of Conduct and Home School Agreement

Parents and pupils are reminded that the school rules, Code of Conduct and Home School Agreement may be found on our Firefly Parent Portal. Parents are encouraged to read through these documents carefully with their child so that the high standards of behaviour that we expect of all pupils are understood. Our school policies are also available on the school website.



Examination Success at Priory School

Congratulations to Priory School Class of 2018 who enjoyed A-Level and GCSE examination success this summer. Pupils gained places onto their universities of choice, where they will study courses as diverse as Dentistry, Psychology, Criminology, Nursing, Business, Accounting and Childhood Studies.

After a turbulent adolescence battling an eating disorder, anxiety and depression, this talented Bollywood actress and Priory School Sixth Form student is proud to share her A-Level success after achieving A*, A*, A* and an A grade. She says:

“It was joining Priory Sixth Form when things changed for me. The teachers here are incredible, I genuinely never thought I'd go to uni. Now that I've experienced the pastoral care at Priory, I have high expectations for my future educational institutions because Priory really has set the bar.

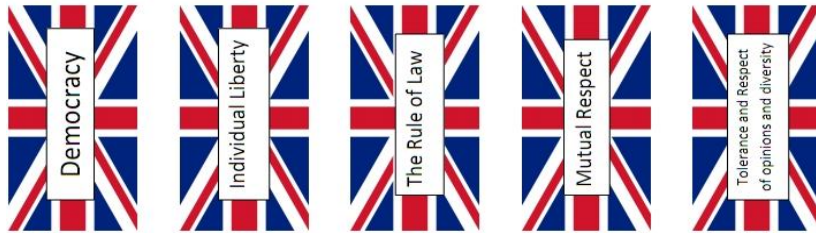
Throughout my short time at Priory, I've managed to boost my self-confidence back to where it should be. Whenever I had problems, Mr Branch, the Sixth Form staff,

Mrs Mullin, Ms Guiver, Miss Mazzocchi were always by my side, always putting me at ease and motivating me. I never got this kind of support before. These teachers are all so caring, understanding and flexible - they always helped me find solutions when I was stressed. The school did everything and anything to make sure the education system wouldn't let me down. Good quality pastoral care, continuous support, and friendliness is vital - all which are abundant at this school. No success story is an easy path, nothing comes naturally to people, EVERYONE struggles."



The Priory Family

As a Catholic School, we are proud of our anti-bullying and anti-cyberbullying ethos. You can find copies of our policies including our safeguarding policy and online safety policy on our school website.



Like us on Facebook

To keep updated about the amazing things that take place every day at Priory, you can 'like' us on Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/prioryschooledgbaston/?hc_ref=ARSIFJzzqd3uOUfVvGrzsmBvzIKbBR3W0nzJQeA_NhAtE52gh_dyrYJjmeoYMM5MhO8



We are pleased to welcome our pupils back this term and look forward to seeing many of you at the Friends of Priory BBQ on Friday 21st September 2018

Jonathan Cramb
Headmaster

Sarah Mullin
Deputy Head