



## Letter from the Head 15/3/24

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### In this issue; Exam preparation, TTRP tours and lots going on!

Dear all,

Somehow we are approaching the last full week of the term! It has absolutely flown by and these last two weeks have been no exception.

One of our key priorities at PHS is ensuring that our students achieve the best possible exam outcomes in Year 11 and 13. Over the last few weeks, staff have been focusing on the forthcoming exam season which is now incredibly close! We have been working on a range of key areas:

- ❖ Looking at Year 11 and Year 13 mock papers and deciding upon the important content to reteach in the next few weeks.
- ❖ Moderating the marking of coursework ahead of submissions to the relevant exam boards.
- ❖ Starting to think through and plan our exam warm up and revision booster sessions.

Over the Easter holidays we will have a range of Year 11 and 13 revision sessions. Mr Coley, Mr Jones and Ms Lennon will be in contact about these. It is vital that all of Year 11 and 13 students are working in structured revision programs at home, as meaningful independent work is going to be absolutely essential now. In addition to our Period 6 offer, we also have Champions Hours in the Library from 4pm to 5pm every day, which is an ideal space to complete work before going home.

This last week I have enjoyed leading on a number of tours to parents of our roll call and TTRP. Every day at PHS starts with reading. Every tutor group spends the first 25 minutes of the day reading together - the tutor reads a high literacy book and the class tracks it. This helps everyone develop as an excellent reader and learn new vocabulary. We have a further roll call tour next Thursday - please [sign up](#) if you'd like to come and see what we do!

I will do my best to summarise some of the many things going on at PHS recently;;

- The Year 11 and 13 final round of mock examinations have now concluded and attention turns fully to making the most of the remaining 56 days until the first terminal exam on the 10th May.
- We have had the pleasure of hosting two very well attended parents evenings for Year 7 and 8 where teachers, students and parents came together to reflect on their progress so far and identify areas for improvement as we head towards the summer term..
- Year 7 had a disco organised and run by our wonderful Sixth form leadership group. Such was its success that Year 8 now has one this coming Wednesday - tickets are available on parent pay.
- House competitions have taken place in abundance - last week was the Spelling Bee, this week it was Science and a focus on Aerodynamics! Next week sees the start of House Sports, netball for girls and football for boys.
- Mrs Rowland has been incredibly busy leading the bronze and silver DofE training weekends which have been a huge success and helped develop the students skills as they progress through the programme.



- Year 11 and Year 12 students enjoyed a trip to the University of Surrey to discover the options on offer at a variety of universities that were in attendance, and broaden their awareness of life after Park House. Futures and careers have continued to be a focus throughout this week, with assemblies and lesson time being directed to possible career paths in each subject area as part of careers week.
- On the sporting front, once again there has been numerous football and netball fixtures;

Year 7 boys football team enjoyed a 5-0 win over Kennet in the league and the B team played in a very competitive tournament at Trinity. The Year 7 girls football team faced a formidable Piggott School team in the county cup, but gave it everything and should be proud of their efforts.

The Year 9 football team have enjoyed wins over John O'Gaunt and Kennet 4-3 and 4-0 respectively. The Year 9 netballers endured two narrow losses in horrendous weather this week and will probably just be drying out now!

The Year 10 boys have enjoyed a county cup win over Little Health and also beat Kennet 4-1 in the district league.

The Sixth form girls netball team played in their last game as a team this week in a friendly against St Barts/ They came second in a tough, but well contested game played with smiles throughout.

- The basketball partnership with Reading Rockets has got going this week with lots of well attended sessions on Tuesday and Thursday. These sessions will be a consistent feature until the end of the year.
- On Saturday morning we held our inaugural community litter pick led by Mr Gianakakis and it was great to see so many students give up an hour of their weekend to contribute to tidying up our local community. These events will become a regular feature over the coming terms, please encourage your children to get themselves involved.

To finish, two logistical points. Firstly, I would like to remind you that ParentPay is closing as of the **29th March**. At that point, you will no longer be able to access the platform. Any debts and balances will be transferred to the new MCAS Dinner Module. The MCAS dinner module will become available from the 18th March, initially just to add money to. Once ParentPay goes offline, the money on MCAS will be available to use for trips and dinners etc. Thank you to all those that have signed up to MCAS already, and if you haven't, please use the link [here](#) to avoid returning after the Easter holidays and your child being unable to purchase food.

The second point is just to remind you that we finish school on **Thursday 28th at 3pm - there will be NO Period 6 for Year 11** and return after the break on **Tuesday 16th April at 8:30am**.

I hope you all have a great weekend but please can I ask you to join me in keeping your fingers crossed for England's rugby team today!

Regards,

Headteacher