



BURSCOUGH PRIORY SCIENCE COLLEGE

The Priory Spirit Christmas Newsletter

'Together - Creating the World We Want'



19th December 2012

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the last week of a highly successful term I would like to thank you for your continued support in working closely with school to provide close home-school communication. It has been an exciting time with students not only striving to achieve their aspirational



targets but also by participating, in lots of extra- curricular activities. **Recently we were contacted by the governments press office as our school has been identified as one of only 6 in the country to have made particularly outstanding progress by Ofsted since the last inspection.** We are featuring in a special government publication to be sent out to every school and LEA in January. We are extremely pleased with **the work of our students and the staff team** to enable us to achieve this result.

On Saturday 15th December we held our first ever Christmas Market from 12-3pm. There were a range of exciting stalls and activities and we have raised further much needed funds towards our community Mini bus appeal and also for the students to donate to a charity of their choice. Thanks to everyone who has purchased a school calendar and has therefore helped further fundraising. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to buy a copy of this excellent gift as all profits go towards the purchase of this mini bus to enable your child to access a wider range of educational opportunities off site.

Also, on Monday 17th December Years 7 and 8 went to St John's Church for a Carol Service starting at 11.30am. **We are extremely appreciative of the support we have continued to receive from St Johns** and we hope that in the coming year we will also have regular visits from the range of faith communities in Burscough as we promote the social, moral and cultural aspects of the curriculum identified in our latest Ofsted as an outstanding feature of our school. This Thursday, **school will finish at 12.30pm and buses will be available to take the students home.**

Just a reminder that **school re-opens on Monday 7th January 2013** for a prompt start at 8.45am and students are expected to **attend fully prepared for their studies in proper school uniform, including a blazer, black shoes, tie for boys and with a sturdy bag and equipment.** Also, hair should be neat with no extremes of colour or cuts into the scalp. There seem to be a small number of students who are arriving without the basics such as a pen and school bag. Please make sure that they attend with what they need for a successful day and if there are any issues of hardship, please contact me directly as I may be able to help.

Finally, may we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Warmest wishes

Catherine Edens
Headteacher on behalf of all staff and governors

PS: Just a reminder that the **Newsletter is only sent out electronically or is available from the school website**. This is for a number of reasons: it often doesn't make it home to parents; it costs a lot of money to produce and resources are extremely limited; we would rather put the funds into your child's educational provision; we are an eco-school and finally it means we can continue to send out a detailed information resource in a modern format about the many varied activities and celebrate the achievements of our students. If you haven't already done so, please update your email address with school as most of our information to you is now sent this way.

Resistant Materials

Year 11

Well done to all year 11 students who have excelled with their GCSE coursework practical work this term. The work is to a very high standard as can be seen, and all students should be proud of themselves. Lets keep up the effort and ensure our coursework folders are to the same standard. I only wish we could have attached more amazing practical photo's. We are planning an exhibition of the work produced in Technology in February when all students can showcase their work.

Well done from all in technology.



Year 10

Well done also to all year 10 students who have worked hard to ensure their skills are of a high standard in preparation to starting their GCSE controlled assessment early in the new year.



Year 7, 8 & 9

The students in KS3 who have been rotating through technology have also made excellent progress this term. Students have been making a range of projects from automata's, mood light cases to screwdriver. Well done everyone for the efforts displayed.



Maths

The autumn term is always important for the progress of students in mathematics. Students have to establish themselves in new maths sets, start new schemes of work and sit assessments in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The vast majority of students have accepted this challenge and worked extremely hard and shown in assessments that they have acquired new skills.

Many students in Year 11 sat their GCSE maths exam in November and are waiting for their results on January 10th. Other Year 11 students sat Mock exams so that their progress can be tracked. Students in Years 10 and 11 now have a tracking board on display in the maths corridor where they can compare their recent results with their aspirational targets.



Mr Sturgeon and Mr Derbyshire have recently joined the Maths department on teaching practice from Edge Hill University. Both have established good working relationships with the students and are helping students make more progress. An example of their good work is the formation of a dinner time maths session where students can receive help on topics which they are struggling to understand.

To help with Numeracy across the curriculum Mathswatch is now available on Moodle for students to use at home or in school. Mathswatch can be used for revision purposes or as an extra resource to increase understanding in the subject. The maths department will also provide students with CPG revision guides and workbooks when requested.

Trip to Cadbury World

On Thursday 13th December 2012 60 Burscough Priory students and 6 members of staff travelled to Cadbury World Bournville, Birmingham to sample their delicious wares. The trip was aimed at rewarding those students who were working above and beyond their targets – a reward for hard work and total commitment.



Students and staff arrived at school promptly at 7:30 pm and we set off at 7:45 pm. As is usual we hit traffic on the M6 and the students were very patient and uncomplaining. We arrived at Cadbury World at 10:45 pm: we had a tour of the factory, saw chocolate being made, had a go at chocolate decoration and sampled a goodly amount of the merchandise.

We were given an insight into the History of Cadbury and the surrounding village of Bournville, we were able to take part in interactive chocolate activities and we saw the drum playing gorilla from the famous Cadbury Chocolate advert. It was a thoroughly good and interesting trip and the behaviour and attitude of all the students was exemplary. We hit traffic again on the way back and again the students were patient despite being very tired. We finished with a good humoured sing-song and staff received many thanks from many pupils. Overall an interesting and inspiring trip and we hope to repeat this trip next year.

Mr Collier

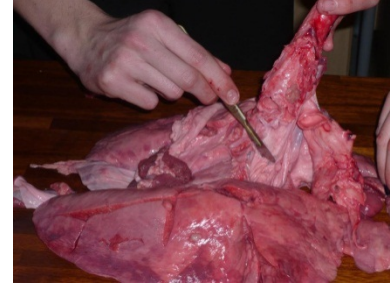
Science

The science department welcomed students from the science club at Lordsgate Township Primary School earlier this half term. Students from years 3 - 6 visited with Mr Allday and Mr Hackett and they all managed to safely light a Bunsen burner! They all then went on to burn

some copper and even magnesium. The students all enjoyed the visit and are keen to have another science club trip out to Priory.



The new alternative curriculum option, Human Health and Physiology, has given students the chance to carry out heart and lung dissections this term. Students in Miss MacRae's class recently enjoyed cutting open lamb hearts and identifying the main chambers, while in Mr Mobbs' class students had a go at inflating lungs and then dissecting them.



Year 7, 8 and 9. Outstanding achievement in science this term are:

Emily Mellor, Cory Altcar, Holly Mercer, Charlotte Doran, Natasha Drury, Elizabeth Jackson, Holly Lowe, Erin Simpson, Owen Langley, Sean Lloyd, Ryan Millward, Emma Pugh, Nina Nickson, Xaz Jacobe, Abigail Bancroft, Isaac Brewer, Jessica Hall, Philip Jones, Amelia Molyneux Birch, Lauren Evans, Harley Johnstone, Chloe Barker, Rory Wilkinson, Holly Pinnington, Ben Jackson, Tiegan Cunningham, Leon Raveendran, Jack Fairclough, Patrick Statter.

English

Each week, each member of the English Department nominate a '*Star of the Week*' and each term there is an overall '*Star of the Term*' awarded for individual reasons.

Mr Arnott:

Luke Neale (8U) – for being an incredibly hard worker this term and for tackling each and every task with a fantastic 'can-do' attitude.

Matthew Bellamy (9U) – for being such a conscientious worker from the very beginning of this term and for always looking for ways to improve.

Lucia Pagliarulo (10C) – for constantly striving for improvement within each lesson and for tackling each task with an excellent attitude.

Lauren Stuart (11C) – for always looking at ways to improve her work and for taking real pride in her work.

Miss Brown:

Jessica Winrow (Y10)- for her amazing effort and work produced. She always puts in 100% effort.

Mrs Davies:

Tom Baxendell (Y7). He has made amazing progress during intervention class, has worked really hard in skills class, and is such a pleasant, hardworking and polite young man .

Harley Johnston (Y8). She has quiet determination and hard work. Never makes a fuss , always does her best and has continued to make excellent progress with literacy skills.

Mr Livesley:

Ryan Peet (Y11), Ben Pallett (Y11) and Hayley Medlock (Y11). All have made excellent effort and commitment in English.

Miss Parke:

Jack Smith (Y8). For the utmost effort, enthusiasm and high attainment.

Mrs Prescott:

Laura Connor (Y7). She has an excellent attitude and hard work.

Mr Tetlow:

Chloe Latham (Y9). For persistent effort and attainment throughout the term.

Miss Tsui:

Ethan Turner-Freeman (Y10). He has produced some amazing essays this term and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading them!

Charlotte Rimmer (Y11). She always works hard and tries her best.

LITERACY STAR: Seb Murray (Y7). He has made an excellent start and has a great attitude to work.

ENGLISH INTERVENTION continues after Christmas. Some students have been targeted and they must attend. However, the sessions are also open for others who would like some extra support.

Year 7- Wednesday lunchtime with Miss Tsui

Year 8 and 9- Monday after school with Me Tetlow

Year 10- arrange with Miss Parke

Year 11- Literature on Thursdays and Language on Fridays

IGCSE

To ensure progress, this term 27 students were entered for the English Language iGCSE. This examination requires students to complete three examinations in reading, writing and speaking and listening. All students completing the examination worked incredibly hard- we wish them luck on results day!

Miss Tsui

Acrostic by Charlotte Ashton 9B:

Christmas is coming, let's have some fun.
Hurry and wrap the presents – we have a ton!
Reindeers passing the cold night sky,
Ice cream for pudding – but don't forget the pie.
Santa's coming to the Christmas tree,
To leave presents just for me.
Mum's tucking me into bed,
And I'm dreaming about the food instead!
Santa's on his way and I'm looking forward to Christmas Day.



Extract from '**Husband Home for Christmas**' a poem by Lily Heaton 8S:

On 24th December 1917,
My husband came home for Christmas.
John is 25 and among the most handsome of men.
He has deep brown dancing eyes,
His lips as soft as silk.
His face is smiley and looks like he hasn't a care.

Went to war a boy,
Came back a man....

Extract from a poem by Elliot Hawkins 8C:

The children stood waiting in the window,
For a touch of magic to fly through the sky.
The snow was like a blizzard; the best it had ever been.
Everyone waited for the light to intervene....

Extract from a short story by George Radcliffe 10R:

Christmas Cheer

From the high skies above Manhattan the clouds began to shudder. Tiny flakes of snow were thrown out and they slowly drifted down towards the city. The bitter wind tugged the flakes in every direction causing them to swirl around each other as if they were dancing....Down on the ground a small child was trudging through the now almost ankle deep snow...

'Triple A Students' at Priory

This term 83 students volunteered to take the Mensa IQ test. Students from all years sat the test and are eagerly awaiting the results. Perhaps we will soon have some members of Mensa at Priory. Well done to all those who gave it a go!

Literacy

All students have taken an active part in 'The Headteacher's Power Words Challenge'. This culminates in an exciting competition in the final assembly of the term, to find the Champion of the 'Power Words'. Many students have also submitted entries for the 'Creative Christmas Writing Competition'. The results of both these competitions will be announced in the next newsletter. Well done to all our students for 'taking the challenge'!

Mrs Prescott

Year 7

All forms have been busy on the lead up to Christmas. Forms 7B and 7U were busy making biscuits for the Christmas decorating competition at Burscough Methodist church. The whole event was a big success and the children thoroughly enjoyed making and decorating the biscuits with an individual star.

Form 7B managed to win the best attendance and have duly been rewarded with a visit to the Nativity Play at Lordsgate. Enjoy the experience Miss McCrae and 7B and keep up the excellent



Mrs Tootle

attendance.

Forms 7B and 7U also took part in making

and decorating cakes for CRY charity (Cardiac Risk in the Young) whereby we sold cakes to contribute to this fantastic cause.

All forms have worked long and hard along with their form tutors, Miss McCrae, Mr Moore, Miss Tsui, Mrs Sharp, Mrs Nelson and Mr Ooi to pull together some fantastic ideas for the Christmas Fayre.



Art

A group of pupils across years 7,8 and 9 have been giving up their lunch times to take part in the "Love Ormskirk" Christmas wreath competition. They have been asked to design and make innovative Christmas wreaths to be displayed around local businesses in and around Ormskirk and judged by local headteachers. The pupils brought in various materials to use on their wreath and many decided to give theirs a recycled theme. All the wreaths looked fantastic and have now been submitted to the competition organisers. I would like to thank all the pupils who took part and the parents who supported them. We nervously await the results!!

ICT Students Riding High!

It has been a jam packed year in ICT with pupils taking part in Southport Pleasureland's 'Design A Ride 2012' Competition. Pupils had to showcase their skills in areas such as Information Technology, Graphic Design and Online Media & Marketing to create the



ultimate ride for Southport Pleasureland!

The hard work paid off as three of our teams placed highly in this prestigious regional competition:

Rebecca Gill, Charlotte Finlay, James Molyneux-Birch and Elisabeth Munro scooped the Joint Winners Prize for their 'House of Dolls' ride.

It was a tie for first place in the 'Most Educational Ride' category between **Amelia Blundell, Bradley Wilde, Alistair**

Bradshaw, Kira Williams and Robert Taylor for their 'Colosseum' Ride and **Katherine Dow, Shannon McCaul, Maisie White and Amie Birkett** for their 'Culture Trail' Ride.

Well done to everyone who took part and we look forward to competing again in 2013!

ICT@FACT

Year 10 & 11 GCSE pupils rounded off the year by visiting the Foundation for Art and Creative Technology (FACT) in Liverpool. Pupils were introduced to the many possible careers that are available in Creative Technology including Digital Film Making, Online Marketing, Art Installation and Journalism.



The Department for History and Classical Civilisations

Many parents and students in different year groups may be wondering what they have been missing out on with the introduction of Classics on the syllabus for Year 7 and the Alternative Curriculum. So here is an update!

Year 7 have done really well with their introductory course dealing with chronology.

Converting years to centuries and vice versa can be a challenge but as most of Classics focuses on BC dates this is even more of a challenge and students are adapting well. We are now studying Ancient Greece and focusing on a depth study of the Greek Gods. Some Year 7 classes are busy researching and creating social media style personal pages for a Greek God of their choice. In the New Year we will be venturing into life in Athens and Sparta.

Alternative Curriculum students are making fantastic progress. We are reading Homers Iliad and studying The Mycenaean Civilisation and linking archaeological findings in Mycenae and Troy (Ilium) to test aspects of the Iliad as a historical source. We also have a very exciting visit to The University Of Liverpool, Department for Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology in the Spring. Students will have a lecture linked to their studies from the specialists in the department and then an artefacts handling session. Most students have opted to take the Classical Civilisations GCSE after a one year course. This shows the drive and aspiration of our students and we are very proud of them.

Music

This year the department has joined the national Musical Futures project and, as a result of this, has been loaned a wide range of equipment and instruments for use by all students. This has resulted in new and exciting projects being taught to Year 8 and 9 students as well

as providing other students with the equipment to use in their lessons. We hope to develop more Musical Futures projects in our lower school music curriculum.

The equipment is also being used by students who are members of our own Priory Rock School which is part of the Alternative Curriculum on Wednesday afternoons. Anyone visiting the department on Wednesday afternoons will no doubt be aware of this! Other classes in the department on a Wednesday afternoon include a Musical Theatre Singing Group and G.C.S.E Drama. The department is a hub of activity!

Thank you to all those musicians who have represented the department performing at so many events this term. We started off the year with our Open Evening when students busked around the department wowing visitors with their musical skills.

In October we once again welcomed the Pearl of Africa Children's Choir to Burscough Priory to help us to celebrate our Harvest. The choir is made up of orphaned children from Uganda who have been rescued by the Molly and Paul foundation. It was really good to see some familiar faces who had visited us last year. The choir sang and danced traditional Ugandan music accompanied by some phenomenal drumming. During the visit, Year 9 pupils 'adopted' choir members for the day and introduced them to our school life - dinners in the canteen, football on the tennis courts and registration time! In the afternoon we welcomed pupils from our feeder primary schools to Priory to enjoy the choir's performances. The evening concert was an amazing experience for all those involved. Priory students joined together with the Pearl of Africa choir to present a superb evening of music, dance and drumming. We look forward to next year when we hopefully will welcome the children back to our school. Thank you to all those who gave generously to support the children whilst they were with us and also to those who donated money to the charity. £1,750 was raised.

October was a very busy month as the Y11 G.C.S.E Performing Arts group entertained the elderly residents at Stocks Hall Nursing Home. They presented an afternoon of Music, Dance and Drama and they were a credit to the school. I would like to congratulate all those involved.

Year 11 students entertained parents and former Year 11 students at the presentation evening and gave rousing performances.

A huge well done to those members of the Singing Group who sang at the turning on of the Burscough Christmas lights at The Wharf. They braved a very cold evening to entertain residents and their Christmas singing marked the beginning of the festive season in Burscough.

Film Group

Over the last few weeks, the Film Group has seen a number of very interesting films, across different eras and genres. The members of this club have enjoyed such films as 'Signs', 'Pleasantville', 'V for Vendetta', 'Big Fish' and 'Some like it hot'. They have also kicked off the Christmas season with the screening of 'Elf' and will show more Christmas films for the next two weeks. The Group takes place every Wednesday at 3.20 in Room 12. New members are welcome and we are always looking for new and interesting films to screen.

Creative Writing Club

Since the beginning of term, the Creative Writing Club has seen members sharing their creativity with peers, whether it has been when they have created a new character or have perfected poetry or mini-sagas. Many of these pieces have been selected to be published in a small chapbook, especially made for the school, but members also choose to come along and write for themselves. The Club takes place every Thursday lunchtime in either Room 10 or Room 12. New members always welcome.

Mr Arnott

PREMIER

School and Sport

DECEMBER
SPECIAL OFFER

School Wear
Winter Promotion

Up to 20% OFF

Starts 1st December 2012

United Dance Organisation Winners



Jessica Winrow, Kate Shields, Sophie Roughley, Shannon Mccall and Ella Brighthouse, known as Base Dance crew "VOGUE" have just won the United Dance Organisation under 18 newcomer class and will be going to the world championships next year !!!! Good news for Priory as we have such brilliant talent to celebrate. Well done Girls!!

Hosting at Christmas

At home this Christmas? Many international students at UK universities will be alone and would love to celebrate with you and your family. Inviting a student to stay will make them feel welcome here. Teach your children about other cultures meet new people and make the world a little friendlier!

To learn more about volunteer hosting at Christmas or any weekend of the year, see www.hostuk.org or contact Alan on 01845 527448.

FAQ

Q. What have host families with children said about inviting an international student?

A. "It is a great way to learn about other cultures and particularly for our children to learn that others are just like them but might look or do things differently." – Joanna, Berkhamsted
"We really enjoy having people from other countries come to visit & believe that it's good for our children to have their horizons widened in this way." – Esther, Tattenhoe
"Our son has had the opportunity to meet people from different cultures and this wouldn't have been possible without HOST UK." – Maria, Helston

Q. How do parents know this is a safe opportunity?

A. HOST has been going for 25 years. In that time we have never had any worrying incidents regarding children of host families. In fact, the families who volunteer with us say that this is a fantastic opportunity for their children to learn about other cultures and be introduced to people from around the world in a safe home environment.

Q. Are the host families checked?

We do not require CRB checks on hosts, because all our students are adults. However, our volunteer regional organisers visit every potential host family in their home before accepting them as hosts. We never register as hosts anyone about whom our regional organisers have any concerns.

Do you do your Christmas Shopping online?

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Help Burscough Priory Science College to raise money whenever you shop online. It's very simple - just visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bpsc/> to register and shop with over 2000 well known retailers like Amazon, Argos, M&S, eBay and many more. Whenever you buy something, the retailer makes a donation to Burscough Priory Science College. They've helped other causes raise over £2,000,000 so it really does work! We'd be really grateful if you could use easyfundraising too. It won't cost you a penny extra to shop through easyfundraising and you can even save money with special offers and voucher codes.

So please make a difference to Burscough Priory Science College and take a look at easyfundraising today - <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bpsc/>

If you download the "easyfundraising toolbar" Burscough Priory immediately receives 50p and if you set their search engine as your homepage, Burscough Priory receives 0.5p each time you do a search online. It all adds up!

Thanks

Mr Frain

Governors – Who are they?

Jez Hall

My first term as initially Acting Chair and now Chair of Governors has been nothing if not an exciting time. My principal role is to constructively support and challenge Catherine and her team as together with the Governing Body we take the whole school family forward on the journey towards making Priory an Outstanding School in every respect. The Governing Body's most important task is the appointment of a strong head teacher and in this I believe we have been very successful. Under Catherine's first six months of refreshingly strong and inspired leadership, the Autumn Term has seen Priory moving from a school considered by central Government to be "in decline" to one recognised by Ofsted as



being on the threshold of Outstanding in every respect. All members of the staff team have been instrumental in this but the students themselves have responded magnificently to the changes that have come about. The fruits of that new motivation will be seen in improved academic results, in their commitment to the school and in their personal growth and social wellbeing.

The Governing Body of twenty members has had some changes. I have a new Vice Chair in Val Parry who has served for many years as initially a Parent Governor and more recently as a Community Governor. Val has had four children educated at Priory and has recently retired from an extensive career in teaching. Both Priory and myself will benefit from that considerable educational experience and insight. I am delighted that the previous Vice Chair Denise Moorcroft who has been a Governor for 23 years at Priory remains with us and we thank her for her continued support and service.

Parent Governors serve a four year term, and of the three retirements at the end of this term, I am delighted that the respective Chairs of the Finance, Leadership and Management Committee and the of Teaching and Curriculum Committees (Andy Broken and Alasdair Watson respectively) have been co-opted as Local Authority and Community Governors respectively for a further four year term. I would also like to record my thanks to Andrea Winrow who retires as a Parent Governor and Chris Mawdsley whose work commitments have lead to him standing down as Community Governor. Three new Parent Governors have been elected and took office this month, Gaynor Hackett, Ann Oldroyd and Steven Gore and we look forward to welcoming them to the next round of Governor Committee meetings. I am also delighted to welcome back former Parent Governor (Mrs) Ronnie Sutherland as a co-opted Community Governor. For me the key to the majority of Governors' respective commitments is their initial appointment as a Parent Governor. Ronnie for example assuming all her family attend Priory has a further 16 school years of children to come through the system, so she is most welcome!

Finally, this is my Christmas wish for all members of the Priory family, staff, students, parents and Governors alike: peace of mind, increased prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, good health for you and yours, lots of fun around every corner, increased energy to chase your dreams, and joy to fill your holidays.
Best wishes.

Parents! If you would like space in our Newsletter, please contact the school and ask to speak to my PA Mrs Ursula Garrahan



Remember to follow us on Twitter over the Christmas Break! **@BurscoughPriory**