

Priestnall School

Easter Newsletter

March 2023



A message from Mr Burns, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy reading our Easter Newsletter, which celebrates all the fantastic things your children have been involved in this term. I am grateful to staff for giving up their time for the many extra-curricular events that take place on a daily basis, as well as some really spectacular trips abroad. There is also plenty to look forward to in the summer term, with many trips and events that aren't as costly as a trip to Italy! Mr Kneen (Assistant Head) will be publishing further details in due course.

This term, we have said goodbye to:

Mrs J Rackham – Curriculum Leader: Geography
Mrs S.Majid – Learning Support Assistant
Mrs H Raccani – Learning Support Assistant
Mr M Myers – Business Manager

We wish them every success in their new roles.

As you know, this is also my last term at Priestnall. I am truly grateful for the support you have given to me since I arrived at Priestnall in September 2019 – it has certainly been an eventful three and a half years, but I am proud of what has been achieved. Your children are amazing. Aside from the spectacular examination results achieved year on year, and as important as they are, I am really pleased to see our Wellbeing Centre thriving and our Restorative Hub supporting our young people navigate the challenges of daily life. In a recent external review (March 2023), it was great to hear that our students value these internal services and tell us that they enjoy being in school, feel safe and are proud to be a Priestnall student. In his report, he makes some points that are great to read as I leave the school, and I hope you will enjoy reading them too:

- The school has made very good progress has been made in addressing the Ofsted recommendations.
- There has been a significant improvement to the rewards system.
- Careers provision has been considerably strengthened.
- 100% of school leavers secured a place in college, training or employment in 2022.
- Student leadership opportunities have increased and learner voice confirms that this is the

experience of pupils.

- Students appreciate their full involvement in school life.
- The enrichment curriculum has been considerably expanded and is appreciated by learners.
- There has been excellent progress in developing the school as an inclusive community through improvements to student support.
- There is a calm atmosphere and provision for students has been transformed.
- All aspects of student support have had a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable learners.

The school is in a great place to move onto the next stage of its development and I wish everyone associated with Priestnall School every success and good wish for the future.

Best wishes,

Craig Burns
Headteacher

The Wellbeing Room: Miss Marsden

COMPASSION IS CATCHING

Probably the most rewarding thing about managing the Wellbeing Room is seeing positive peer support taking place. Compassion is an emotional response to empathy or sympathy combined with a desire to help. This term, I've seen students support one another perhaps more than ever before and this is because compassion is catching!

Here's some feedback from the students themselves:

'Within the Wellbeing Room we are all comfortable with one another and because everyone is going through the same emotions we can share our feelings and this allows the stress and anxiety to ease. Having people our own age giving us advice or simply just sitting with us makes us feel less alone and happier, we know that when we are in the Wellbeing Room there is no sense of judgement but just a place we can be open.'

'As a Year 11, I feel compelled to help the younger ones as I know that fitting in at secondary school can feel really tough and having that one person there who is not a teacher or a classmate really helps, they can be honest and open and share the difficult feelings they might otherwise fight alone.'

'The Wellbeing Room helps because when I come here when having a bad day it just takes all the sadness, anger and frustration out of me. All the students in here always have a kind heart to help out.'

'Talking to friends can help get things off your chest and distract you.'

'Sometimes, talking to people you trust can make problems seem smaller.'

'I like the quiet and that everyone is so friendly and helpful.'

English: Miss Hughes



WORLD BOOK DAY I would like to say a huge thank you to staff who contributed, dressed up, and decorated doors. The efforts from staff who dressed up were very impressive and I know that students loved guessing the characters and seeing so much enthusiasm for reading! Students also enjoyed the short stories and quizzes that they completed in lessons, thank you for taking the time to deliver these activities.

The ambassadors have decided that the winners for best staff costume are - Mr Bland and Ms Hulley. Prizes will be delivered to the winners this week!



The Year 7 dress as a character winners are – Sean Mulligan and Kira Chernykava. The runners up were Zachary Donly, Telana Janse Van Vuuren and Jack Bower.



DRESS THE DOOR We were so impressed with the efforts gone into this. The doors were brilliant and the ambassadors had a hard time picking a winner. Some impressive and creative doors were 'Noughts and Crosses' – U1, 'Skellig' – I11 and Elmer – U3

However, the winning doors are– 'The witches' in the resource base and 'The Gruffalo' in R10.

BOOK IN A JAR These were fantastic and showed a good range of reading in year 7.

Winners are Megan 7R1, Erin 7U2, Sophie 7R1 and Sonny 7Y1.



Thank you for all of your support.



Design & Technology: Mrs Lightburn & Miss Griffin

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION AND LEVEL 1/2 HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



The year 11 students have completed their practical exam this term – over 120 dishes were cooked between the students. Well done to all of the students involved and thank you to all of the staff and students who came to taste testing sessions after school to sample the fantastic dishes.



The year 10 students have been showcasing their cooking skills in lessons with a variety of savoury and sweet dishes. The students have been cooking dishes for an occasion of their choice and there has been an array of occasions and recipes chosen. The dishes look amazing and have showcased really complex cooking skills. Well done Year 10.

TEXTILES

Year 10 students are currently working on a paper inspired project looking at the work of Rachel Parker. I challenged them to create a piece of work and they certainly didn't let me down.

Year 11 students are busy preparing for their 10-hr exam in April. They will be attending Easter school to put the final finishing touches to their portfolios. I wish them all the best with their GCSE exams.



History

ENRICHMENT TRIP TO MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

Earlier this term Mr O'Leary and Ms Kirwan were delighted to take 60 pupils from years 8 & 10 on enrichment trip to Manchester Metropolitan University. There the pupils enjoyed lectures from Dr Marie Molloy, senior lecturer in American History at the university. The year 10s heard about the lesser known stories of the many women involved in the struggle for civil rights in the USA in the mid 20th century. The year 8s learned about the development of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade and some of the key figures who experienced it's horrors such as Oluadah Equiano. They were also taken on a tour of the All Saints campus to get a feel for what going to university is like and also heard from some current students about why it might be a good idea to study history at degree level. Pupils found the whole experience very enriching and the history department hopes to offer similar opportunities in the future.

PE Round-Up: Mrs Jenkins

LACROSSE

Priestnall entered an U14 girls team into the Northern Schools Lacrosse Tournament, held this year at Moreton Hall School in Shropshire on Saturday 4 March 2023; an annual event traditionally entered by all the private schools in the region who play lacrosse.

The fourteen Year 9 pupils from Priestnall, were made up of girls who all play lacrosse for the local clubs of Heaton Mersey and Norbury. Eleven of whom have represented their County in the sport and six are also on the England Lacrosse Academy Talent Pathway.

Parents transported the girls (very early) on Saturday morning over to Shropshire.

The schedule for the tournament was a round robin format with short, 16 minute matches against all seven other schools. The girls had a great morning, winning all six of the first games:

Priestnall v Bolton Girls School 5 - 1

Priestnall v Withington Girls School 5 - 1

Priestnall v Harrogate Ladies College 3 - 1

Priestnall v Moreton Hall B 7 - 3

Priestnall v Birkenhead Girls School 5 - 3

Priestnall v Queen Margaret's School 8 - 1

They then had over an hour's break before the final match of the tournament against Moreton Hall's A team who were the reigning champions and had also won all of their matches...

After a decent warm up and motivational talk, the girls knew they had to be switched on from the very first whistle. Every single girl stepped up to the challenge and played their very best team lacrosse. From Matilda in goal; making some phenomenal saves, the defensive unit keeping Moreton Hall's top players at bay, the mid-field running tirelessly up and down the pitch defending back and transitioning the ball back into the attack, who created space and the opportunities for four different players to score the much needed goals.

They did not let up until the final whistle, winning the game 4 - 2

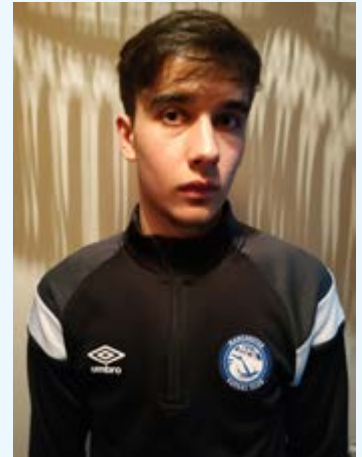
When the final bell went, the Moreton Hall crowd were very quiet and no one was quite sure the game was over until Mrs Marsh ran screaming onto the pitch in celebration!



FUTSAL

Tomas Uniatowicz (Heaton Chapel) has been chosen as one of the 12 players forming the England Squad to represent England in the U19's Futsal Euro's Main Round on the 22 March 2023 in Policoro, Italy . Tomas is a ex pupil of St. Winifreds RC Primary and Priestnall High and I'm sure we are all proud of him and wish him well . England play Turkey 22.2.23 , Italy 23.3.23 and Czech Republic 25.3.23 in a group format with the group winner going on to the Finals in Croatia later this year in September .

It will be available to watch on YouTube so check out the times on the UEFA Website .



Futsal is a indoor 5-a-side football game and is fast and intense . Tomas has been playing Futsal since the age of 7 years old at Manchester Futsal Club Youth Academy and is now a regular first team player this season in the National Futsal League Tier 1 . Good Luck Tomas and the boys and lets hope they can qualify for the Finals for the first time , which will be a unprecedented achievement for English Futsal .

Dance: Mrs Morrison

At the end of the Spring Term our Y10 GCSE Dance class took part in a Contemporary Dance Workshop with a visiting Dance Artist, Holly Andrews (who is also an ex Priestnall Student). The students learnt a series technically demanding routines that were very easily degree level strength and were absolutely superb from start to finish.



We also took 25 students from our Dance Clubs and GCSE Dance classes to The Lowry Theatre at the start of March to watch an incredible evening dance performance by critically acclaimed Rambert Dance Company's 'Peaky Blinders' – the show was outstanding! Dynamic, quirky and the level of skill from the professional dancers was breath-taking! As were the students we took; the way they conducted themselves was exemplary.

Wednesday 29 March also saw the return of 'Priestnall's Evening of Dance' where approximately 50 of Priestnall's dancers took to the stage to showcase their dancing talents – and we really do have exceptional level of dancing talent at Priestnall! There was a mix of solo and group performances, from clubs, GCSE examination pieces and choreography the dancers created themselves. We also showcased a range of dance styles from traditional Chinese Dance to Contemporary, Irish dancing to Hip Hop and Street Dance! The dancers were an absolute credit to themselves throughout the entire process. It was also lovely to be able to welcome parents, carers, staff and governors into school for an after school dance event again! And thank you to all the staff who helped backstage to make the show a success.



Year 7 Football: Mr Kneen



A massive well done to the Year 7 football team who won the Stockport Cup Final last night. They beat Harrytown 1-0 at Cheadle Hulme School. It should have been a lot more! This is the second trophy this season after winning the Stockport football 5 a-side competition earlier in the year. They have the chance to win the treble with the league semi-finals coming up after Easter.

Players involved:

Toby Magee (GK)

Olly Cunniffe

Lewis Pettifer

Jack Wright

Harry McHugh

Douglas Smith

Olly Malpas-Farr (Capt)

Matthew Noble

Leon Cherney-Preen

Ben France

Stefan Locke

Keane Senior (GK)

Will Sanchez

Jayden Thorpe



MFL: Mrs Ainsworth

YEAR 7 SPELLING BEE

We are down to our final three; Beth, Telana and Maisie will be representing Priestnall at the Regional Finals at the University of Liverpool at the end of March. They are currently busy learning their 200 words! Bonne chance les filles/Buena suerte las chicas.

Update: Beth won the First place in the Spanish regional finals held on Monday 27 March at Liverpool University. Beth will go on to represent Priestnall at the National Final in Cambridge later this year. We are ever so proud of her achievement and we believe she can go all the way!

YEAR 8 TRANSLATION BEE

The whole school final took place on Tuesday 28 March. For this competition, they need to translate from English into French/Spanish on the spot and do as many perfect sentence translations as they can in 1 minute. It's tough but on top of that, for Stage 2, sentences were mixed present and future tense. They all did so well. The students involved were:

Kaia Ashton Iris Christie Amelie Murray Olivia Shackleton Olivia Galbraith Florence Bibby

Next stage is the STAGE 3 FINAL, it will be an external event and will take place in June. Our two finalists for each language will be Olivia Galbraith and Florence Bibby, who will be representing Priestnall for Spanish and Iris Christie and Olivia Shackleton, who will be representing Priestnall for French.

We wish our superstar linguists the best of luck!

PRIMARY VISITS - WHY LEARN LANGS ASSEMBLIES



Earlier on this term, 15 of our superb Languages Ambassadors visited seven of our feeder primary schools to deliver their 'Why Learn Languages' assembly. Our students did so well. Well done to Megan, Emily, Matthew, Sonia, Aaron, Evie, Kaia, Mason, Olivia, Holly, Ana, Toby, Elizabeth, Beth and Saachi. They delivered confidently and got our message across in both an informative and fun way. Well done all.

PRIMARY TWILIGHT LESSONS

On Wednesday 8 February, we had some Year 6 visitors from Norris Bank who had a short Spanish lesson all planned and delivered by our Languages Ambassadors here at Priestnall.



Careers: Mrs Slack

In February we took a group of Year 11 students to the UK University & Apprenticeship Event at Old Trafford football stadium. The event gave students the opportunity to talk to a variety of universities about courses and qualifications. Employers in attendance included NHS Careers, Cadant Gas, Deloitte and Barclays. Our students were tasked with gathering information from both universities and employers to increase their knowledge of post-18 opportunities.

In support of Year 9 options evening we were delighted to have Loreto College, Xaverian College, Cheadle College and Stockport College with us on the night to give students and their families an insight into post-16 education. It was great to meet so many parents/carers and hear the variety of goals and aspirations from our students.

Music: Mr Parker

A few weeks ago we visited St Winifred's primary school to perform to all of their students. The Year 7 band performed Four Note Samba, Eye Of The Tiger and Blue Silk Shirt.

The Key stage 4 band entertained the audience with arrangements of Disney and ABBA songs which were enjoyed by the students and staff.

The concert was Dexter Hayden's (7B1) very first public performance. Dexter started learning the trumpet at the start of Year 7 and has made great progress with Mike Cavanagh, our brass teacher. Well done Dexter, hopefully this was the first of many performances!

Currently, our Priestnall musicians are working towards a Summer term concert, which, like our Christmas concert, will involve musicians from several of our feeder primary schools. Mr Parker is hopeful that this concert will also see KS2 vocalists performing with The Priestnall Vocal Group. Whilst the Choir have been working on songs such as, Someone you loved, Million Dreams, Aint No Mountain High Enough and What about us.

Congratulations to Charlotte Hill in Year 7, who achieved a Distinction at Grade 2 on Cornet and Daniel Hammerton also in Year 7, who achieved a Grade 1 Distinction, Rock School Drums.

Good luck to the following students who are taking grade exams soon:

Brass

Harry Dickson - Grade 5 Baritone

Elsa Wallace and Daniel Tiller – Grade 5 theory

Percussion

Beatrice Muskett - Rock School Grade 2

Strings

Gwen Fair Grade 3 Violin

Edie Gravestock Grade 3 Violin

Vocals

Penny Williams - Grade 3

Megan Cooper - Prep Test

Sophia Torry - Prep Test

Pippa Slack - Grade 1

Woodwind

Isabelle Hanson - Grade 5 Flute

Thomas Griffiths - Grade 4 Clarinet

Aaron Armstrong - Grade 3 Saxophone

Fioana Greaney - Grade 3 Clarinet

Emily Collins - Grade 2 Flute

Alysia Tevlin - Grade 2 Flute

Samuel Collier-Roach - Grade 2 Clarinet

Bethan Adams – Grade 2 Clarinet

Harry W – Grade 3 Saxophone

Vuk Pokusevski - Grade 3 Saxophone

Evie Hallam - Grade 5 Flute

Ellen Dryfe - Grade 3 Bassoon

Resource Base: Ms Griffin



All the students have engaged in a wide range of activities including tennis and Kurling events at the Heaton's School. They came first and second in the Kurling event. Well done boys! We are all looking forward to the next event in April.

We will be going rowing!

Students have explored neurodiversity in their Personal Development lessons and are creating a piece of artwork to celebrate Autism Acceptance Week 2023.

The student have embraced all their lessons and are working very hard producing lots of amazing work.

World book day was so much fun. The student even won the best decorated door! Well done.

A new pen pal project was set up with the other Resource Bases in Stockport and the students are in regular contact with each other. We are looking forward to meeting each other in person in the summer term.



The students have visited the snakes in science and got to touch them. Thanks to Mr Derbyshire for hosting us.

Everyone has worked hard to make the outside area of the Resource Base more appealing. The boys have swept up all leaves and doing a litter pick. We have now got some outdoor furniture to hopefully enjoy the weather.



We have welcomed a new addition to the Sensory room a 9 foot teddy called Eddy. He is great at giving cuddles when needed. He is loved by both students and staff.

Greg Lyons held a coffee afternoon for the parents earlier in March. This was well attended and appreciated by all.

The staff and students would like to wish Mr Burns the very best in his new job.



Ski Trip to Claviere, Italy 2023: Mr Morrison



The February half term again saw Priestnall students heading out to the Italian Alpes for the annual ski trip. Over 90 students attended the trip this year honing their skills in the stunning beginner areas in Claviere and then further afield into Sestriere, Sansicario and Sauze D'Olux.

Amazing ski tuition from the Claviere Ski school saw all students making amazing progress over the week.

Every student was able to complete a ski safari over the border into neighbouring Montgenevre in France and many made it onto the men's and women's Olympic downhill run in Sansicario.

Despite early concerns about snow conditions across Europe, we were lucky to have a good dump of snow before we arrived and even luckier to spend the first few days in brilliant sunshine at times just skiing in t-shirts! After these first few brilliant days where the beginners excelled, they were able to make their way up to the top of the mountain and explore the tree lined slopes and some mountainside restaurants with some of the best Italian cuisine you could wish to eat!



Après ski also forms a big part of the trip, and it was no different this year. Claviere was a lovely resort to walk safely around and in the evening, students were able to experience Italian café culture in the coffee shops, pizzeria's, gelatos and bakeries. Once again, we had a sledging evening and the return of the karaoke evening in which Mr Tariq's rendition of MC Hammers "Can't touch this" will long be remembered... Finishing with a pizza evening on the final day was a fitting end to the trip.

The trip this year featured a majority of first-time skiers and I hope that this trip has ignited a spark in them to ski. All the staff were impressed by how hard they worked and the improvements they made. More importantly the students were incredible ambassadors for Priestnall drawing praise from the ski school, tour company and local businesses.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all parents who have supported the 2023 ski trips. These types of visits are of such benefit to our youngsters, and it is our pleasure to be offering such trips.

Finally, I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart the incredible Priestnall staff who give up their time to facilitate these trips. I could not run this trip, nor would I want to, without them.

Next time around the school will be returning to Austria for the first time in 5 years. We will be staying in a new resort, St Michael, in the amazing ski area of Lungau. Invites are currently being sent out on email and it would be wonderful to welcome both new and familiar faces out on the slopes again.



Super Curriculum: Miss Halfacre

A massive well done to all students who have achieved #Top10 status for their Super Curriculum Activities this term. Special congratulations and celebration Pizza Parlour invites go to:

Ana Maria Burcea
Rylan Cash

Zac B
Omar A

Isaac S
Abdallah A

Harriet B
Louie F

Fraser S
Jamal M

A fantastic effort on behalf of all students mentioned. It's all to play for as we move to the summer term. Who will win the Top Prize Amazon vouchers in this summer's annual count? It could be you! Get involved today. Ask your teachers for their subject Super Curriculum!



Summer Term 2023

Monday 17 April	School Opens
Monday 1 May	May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 8 May	Additonal Bank Holiday for Coronation of Charles III
Friday 26 May	School Closes for Half Term Holiday
Monday 29 May	School Closed for Spring Bank Holiday
Half Term Holiday	Tuesday 30 May to Friday 2 June
Monday 5 June	School Opens
Thursday 20 July	School Closes for Summer