



PRINCES RISBOROUGH SCHOOL

News from Princes Risborough School

December 2019

Positive | Responsible | Successful

Dear Parents/Carers

At this busy time of year, I wanted to spread the festive cheer and also celebrate the fantastic achievements and opportunities that Princes Risborough School (PRS) students have been involved in this term. I hope this newsletter captures a flavour of what a great term we have had at PRS, highlighting that students are **Positive**, **Responsible**, **Successful** and can “Aspire and Achieve”.

As we move into a new decade, I have shaped the school development plan around:

1. High and consistent expectations for all stakeholders
2. High quality teaching and learning
3. Excellent academic outcomes



In 2020 each of these areas will continue to incrementally improve to ensure that we are providing our students with the best platform to be successful. For high and consistent expectations for all stakeholders, we will continue to enforce the trainers and mobile phone ban but will also introduce a new behaviour for learning policy. This will be anchored around the core values of **Positive**, **Responsible**, **Successful** stakeholders and will enable us to celebrate those students who always do the right thing and support the minority to make effective choices. We will also increase our attention on attendance so everybody understands that good attendance is +95% and if we are not at that level we are severely harming our future achievement.

After a successful first term focused on recall and retrieval our teaching and learning focus will shift to challenge and scaffolding other key elements in our PRS Core strategy from the research of Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction. Our aim is to increase the level of challenge in every classroom but also model and scaffold tasks so that everyone can access the learning and accelerate progress. We will have another external teaching and learning review at the end of January to judge our impact as teachers and leaders and the changes we have made this academic year.

To increase the academic outcomes of all students we will make sure that all stakeholders are fully aware of their targets in every single subject combined with an understanding of the “big picture” of how it all fits into their learning journey. By students understanding their strengths and areas for development, we can personalise their experience and support them more effectively to plug the gaps in knowledge and understanding, ultimately improving their outcomes. You will see target stickers with assessment point data in every book so please question your child on what it means and what they can do to develop.

Thank you again for all your support in my first full term at PRS. If your son or daughter has not been mentioned in the newsletter this time there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to “Aspire and Achieve” in the future. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and **Successful** 2020.

I look forward to welcoming all the students back to school at 8:35am on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Simon Baker

Headteacher

Another successful Dragon's Den at Metro Bank Aylesbury *Entrepreneurship is alive and well in Buckinghamshire Schools*

Pupils studying Business from year 9 at Princes Risborough School and Wendover's John Colet School met up at Metro Bank's Aylesbury branch on Wednesday, 4th December to present their ideas in a "Dragon's Den" style contest to four local business professionals.

The event featured five teams from Wendover's John Colet School and Princes Risborough School. Each team had a "blank sheet" of paper to inception a new product or service. It was a hotly contested evening which required the Dragon's business acumen to recognise the opportunities being presented. What was clear was every facet of the new idea had been considered by each of the teams: finance, pricing, marketing, logistics and return on investment.



The ideas presented featured: wearable jewellery, bicycle tyre inserts to prevent punctures, a new way of collecting charitable funds, community focused products using recycled materials and new hair brush. These ideas were incredibly novel, innovative and creative. In the eyes of everyone there, all the entries were winners. The bravery to stand up in front of the Dragons and deliver their presentation was hugely impressive. In return, each of the participating students would learn a huge amount related to becoming a successful entrepreneur; experience that will help shape their future career potential, objectives and desires.

The "Dragons" selected "OneEarth" for their recycled product idea as 2019's winner. The team from Princes Risborough School demonstrated an innovative product that was a real head-turner.

Mike Donnachie, who was one of the Dragons', commented: "It was another fantastic evening. All the ideas were incredibly detailed and incredibly persuasive. I was proud to have been asked

to return as a Dragon and I hope together our experiences of life in our collective backgrounds is something that the students can learn from as they move into business. Many business leaders of the future were present in the room, of that I'm sure."

Richard Dannell commented: "All the students, from both schools, can be delighted with their work and the presentations on the night. On behalf of PRS, we're thrilled we've won and hopefully this will give our students extra motivation to see their product turn into reality. Everyone should be encouraged."



School Life

The Library

It's been another busy term in the library and it's been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7s to weekly library reading sessions. We have a great team of Year 7 and 8 Library Assistants who help me in the library all year round and are happy to help you borrow or return books, purchase from the stationery shop, or with any queries about which book to read next.



Our reading scheme (Reading for Gold) is well and truly underway, with around 50 of our Year 7s already having reached the Bronze Award, whilst several have already gone further to achieve Silver and Gold. Reading for Gold is a wonderful way to read a wide range of genres and to develop a love of reading for pleasure. There

is no better way to relax over the holidays than curled up on the sofa with a good book!

Break and lunchtimes have been very busy in the library this term and we now have two regular lunchtime groups, with others planned in the New Year.



Every Tuesday we have a new French and Spanish club run by Madame Robson and Senora Santapau. We have started this term with some fun games in French and Spanish and we'll move on to a range of other activities in the New Year.

The Library Book Club has just got off the ground and takes place on Wednesdays. This term we have started reading some of the shortlisted titles in the Bucks Book Award. This is a new local book award set up by librarians in Bucks schools,

with students in Years 7 to 9 voting for their favourite book published in the last year. This is an award chosen by the students – not by adults. You can place your votes for your favourite in the ballot box on my desk. We are also very excited to be taking our Book Club along to the Winner's presentation at Pipers Corner School in the New Year.



If you're not a regular visitor to the library, do come along and take a look. We have literally thousands of book titles for you to choose from as well as an up-to-date range of topical magazines and newspapers. Thanks to the generosity of the Guild of Parents we now stock a range of magazine titles such as BBC History, BBC Wildlife, National Geographic, New Scientist, Private Eye, plus modern foreign languages titles. We also stock newspapers such as First News and The Week Junior. If there's a book you would love to read and we don't yet have in the library, come along and talk to me.

We're open every break and lunchtime for you to borrow and return books, do your homework, or just chill.

Mrs Howlett, Head of Library

Wycombe Youth Council, Raising Awareness of Mindfulness, Saturday 9th November 2019



5 students were selected to represent PRS at the Wycombe Youth Council's event for raising awareness of Mindfulness. They performed a self-choreographed trio and duet and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Thank you and well done to Katie, Hatty, Scarlett, Daisy and Aspen.



MFL

Year 7&8 trip to Northern France - We still have a few spaces on the Year 7&8 trip to Northern France on 8-9 May 2020 - please see Mme Robson for a letter if you wish to join us (it is open to all Year 7 & 8 students).

Paris trip - KS4 (and a few KS5)

We still have some spaces on this trip but priority will be given to current Year 10 & 12. If you are interested, please speak to Mr Carberry or Mme Robson before it is opened to Year 8 going into Year 9 next September.

La météo en français:

Our lovely Year 8Fr1 had a lot of fun recording themselves making weather forecasts in French. Well done to all for being so motivated to learn and for putting a lot of effort in to bringing or making props!

Best student of the month goes to:

Gold - Jas Jasniak

Silver - Mia Rosser

Bronze - Ben Aubrey & Kaitlin Pursell Mason



Day of the Dead masks made by year 7 & 8 as part of a cultural Spanish lesson.

Joyeux Noel & Feliz Navidad!

Great Big Dance Off!

This year the 2 competition teams at PRS have made it through to the regional heats of the Great Big Dance Off, a nationwide secondary school dance competition. Our heat is on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at the New Theatre in Oxford. Wish the team luck and the result will be published in the Easter Newsletter!



House Dance Competition 16th December 2019

This year we were lucky enough to have 3 guest judges for this competition, one from Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, the founder of Barre Sculpt and an ex student of PRS

There was a huge variety of styles on show from the performers and the standard was the highest it has been. It was so lovely to see the students hard work and how talented they all are at choreography.

The winners this year were Aspen, Scarlett, Sophie, Ellie, Katie and Hatty their group performance.

Second place went to and third place went to

The winning house this year was Prytle Spring, again with the most entrants. It is so lovely to see the students grow in confidence and show off their talent to an audience! Well Done!

Geography Year 11 Field work River Wye.—27th September and the 7/8th October



For three days our year 11 Geographers ventured into the Wilds of Buckinghamshire (Amersham at least) to investigate how the River Wye changes from source to confluence. all the students who attended gained an insight into data collection methods, sampling and geomorphological processes.

The students now have all the information they need to access the physical geography fieldwork questions in the summer exam.



By the end of the trip there were a fair few wet socks and wellies but thankfully no accidents. A big thanks to Mrs May for driving the students around and supporting their GCSE Geography coursework.

School Life

Monday 23rd September, year 9 trip to the Royal Academy of Dance.

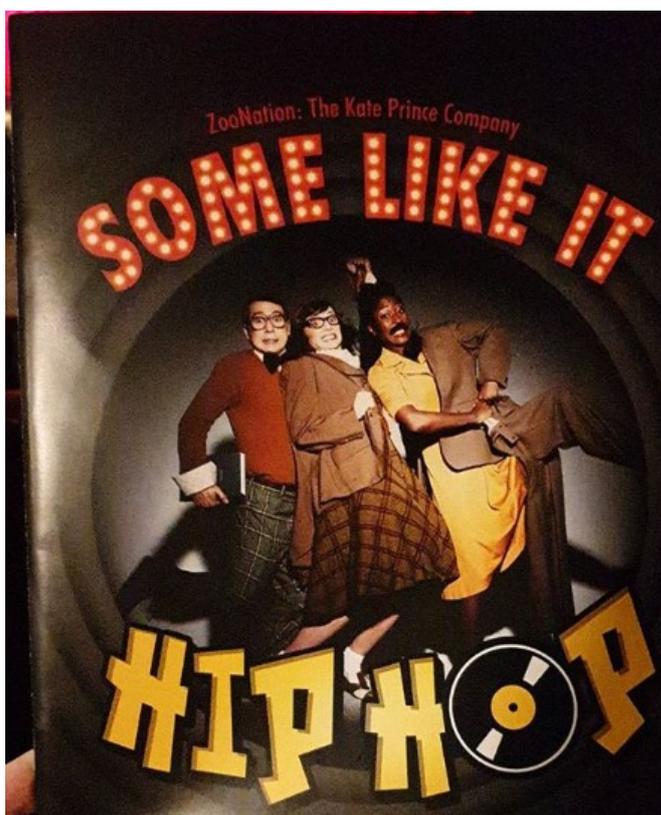


prs_dance Year 9s working hard today @royalacademyofdance headquarters #aspireandachieve #london #dance #battersea
10w

The year 9 BTEC Dance students went up to the Royal Academy of Dance for workshops on A Linha Curva, Artificial Things and Emancipation of Expressionism delivered by their trainee teachers. There were 3 workshops over the whole day and each was different and really interesting. The students worked really hard in every workshop and learnt lots of movements that they have used in their House dance choreographies for the competition on Monday 16th December.

Some Like it Hip Hop, Peacock Theatre, 7th November 2019

40 dance students travelled up to the Peacock Theatre with Mrs Audemard, Mrs Byerley and Miss Watkins. The piece was full of energy with some fantastic original music for the dancers. This was an inspirational piece of theatre that the students are still talking about now!



prs_dance Peacock Theatre

prs_dance #showtime #prsdance

3w

buffirelli Enjoy 🤩

3w Reply

bethalford2005 i enjoyed that so much

3w Reply



Liked by florenceallenx and 47 others

NOVEMBER 7

On the 10th of November I performed at Her Majesty's Theatre in London with Stagecoach Aylesbury's Performance Troop. We performed a medley of songs from musicals including Les Misérables, 42nd street, The Phantom of the Opera and many more. I had my own dance section in the 42nd street number, which was electrifying to perform on such a well known stage. I also was one of the students who had a mic attached to them for our select solo songs - which was exciting for me because it was my first time ever having a mic. Although there was much chaos backstage with changing props and running from stage left to right to get back on stage, it was an amazing experience and I hope to do it again soon!

By Georgia Lansdown Year 9



West End Show!



Remembrance Day Service

On Sunday 10th November 2019 Princes Risborough town fell silent for two minutes as we gave our respects to remember and honour those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and continue to do so. Simon Baker, Clare Audemard, Assistant Headteacher and 6th Formers joined the Princes Risborough Remembrance parade and laid a wreath at the Market Square memorial. During the week at school we held special assemblies led by Mark Instone, Head of Sixth Form and held a two minutes silence every day.

***They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, At
the going down of the sun and in the morning We will
remember them.***



Councillor Matthew Walsh

We were delighted to welcome our Town Mayor, Councillor Matthew Walsh and his Town Clerk Kirsty Pope to PRS. Despite a very busy schedule the Mayor managed to spend some time discussing local issues with the Headteacher and also undertook a quick tour of the school where he observed several lessons throughout school.

Daniel Bleasdale a Year 10 student is featured in a display at the Paralympic Heritage Trust based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The display is about the children's promise relating to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

<https://www.paralympicheritage.org.uk/>



Performance at Kop Hill Climb, Saturday 21st September.

Saturday 21st September saw the Key Stage 4 dance students come back into school for 2 performances in the Paddock at the Kop Hill Climb.

We were invited to perform by organiser Linda Canon-Clegg and were tasked to create a piece that would be performed in the lunch break of the climb in the avenue with the theme of the 10th anniversary being 'Stars and their cars'.

After the 'flash mob' performance in the 'avenue' 3 students raced over to the main stage to perform their solo and trio. The audience was so supportive and the girls performed absolutely fantastically.

The PE and Dance departments teamed up to raise money for ex student of the school Susie Aries who has cancer and the money raised will help her receive life saving treatment that is not available on the NHS. We had a 'shoot the hoop' stall with a pair of tickets to qualifying day at the British Formula Grand Prix donated by Pro-Excel. Ed China came along to the stall for some pictures and showed off his skills at 'shooting hoops'. Head to @PRS_dance and PRS_pe on Instagram for the video of him getting a basket.



prs_dance Ed China visited our stall this afternoon!
#celebrityendorsement
#aspireandachieve
10w

Early in the day Mr Rafter was in the lead with 27 baskets in 60 seconds, by lunchtime Jack in year 10 had overtaken him. A member of the public finally knocked Jack off the top spot to claim the tickets. The stall raised £200 for Susie Aries and all the students and staff that came along to help run the stall were fantastic!

ADULT LEADERBOARD		
	Name	Score
1 st	Mr Rafter	27
2 nd	Rupert	14
3 rd	Blake	9
4 th	Harry	8

prs_dance Princes Risborough
prs_dance Current leaderboard for the 'shoot the hoop' @prs_pe Go mr rafter!!
10w
Liked by lara.performer and 42 others
SEPTEMBER 21

Notices

Key Dates for 2000:

Spring Term starts	ALL	7th Jan 2020	
Spring Half Term	ALL	17th Feb - 21st Feb 2020	
Easter Holidays	ALL	2nd Apr from 1:20pm - 17th Apr 2020	13:20
Summer Term starts	ALL	20th Apr 202	
Summer Half Term	ALL	25th May - 29th May 2020	
Sports Day	ALL	1st July 2020	
Celebration of Achievement	Invitation only	14th July 2020	17:00 - 20:30
Sports presentation Evening	Invitation only	16th July 2020	18:00 - 21:00
End of School Year	ALL	21st July from 1:20pm	13:20

The School Calendar for 2020—2021 is now available on our website.



Houses

The winners of the hot chocolates and croissants this term are the **FABULOUS 8CQ!** Well done to all & to Mr Shannon & Mr Toovey.

Leading House for Conduct points at this stage is **RIDGEWAY!** Bravo!

Reverse Advent calendar

Many thanks to all the parents, students and staff who have kindly brought donations for the 2019 edition of the Reverse Advent calendar. Our two charities The Children's Air Ambulance and the Firefighters' Charity will be very grateful when they receive your contributions.

Thank you for your support this term with our mobile phone and trainers ban. We look forward to welcoming the students back in the New Year with the same positive attitude.



Follow us on Twitter: @PrincesRisbSch or Facebook

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