

Below are some of the common questions which arose from our live Q & A Zoom sessions with Simon Baker (Headteacher) and Mike Durose (Head of Year 7).

### **What is the role of Insignis Trust?**

Insignis Academy Trust (IAT) was established in July 2016. They are an education charity with the primary objective of improving education across the Trust.

The Trust currently contains two schools, Princes Risborough School and Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. However, its purpose is to work with other schools to create a significant enhancement to the education of students locally.

For more information about Insignis: <https://www.insignis.org.uk/About/>

### **Does being part of a Insignis Academy Trust increase funding?**

It allows us to manage our budget more efficiently and use our funding to support the needs of all students. By being part of a Trust we have shared services for IT, Finances, HR and Site which creates efficiencies of scale with lower cost and greater service. Most importantly it allows us to share expertise and great practice across both schools in all areas.

### **How does the link between the Sir Henry Floyd Grammar and PRS school translate in practice?**

Insignis Academy Trust (IAT) was established in 2016, with the vision of sharing expertise across both schools. The students have benefitted from being part of a Trust by improved facilities across the school in the last year this includes, new state of the art IT suite, 2 x new Maths classrooms, a new Head of Year office, refurbished Maths and humanities areas, new reception, all of which creates a better learning environment for the students. We also so have central finance, site, HR and IT teams across the schools which has benefitted us financial to spend our money more efficiently an example being the purchase of 100 new laptops for students to use throughout the school and the effective roll out of Chromebooks from Years 7 to 9. As Headteachers we meet on a fortnightly basis and share best practice in all elements of school improvement and this has benefitted students through stronger leadership, enhanced teaching and learning and excellent student outcomes.

### **Are there any improvements in the facilities planned?**

In the last year we have built a brand new computing suite, purchased 75 new student laptops, created a new pastoral centre for Heads of Year and Raising Achievement Officers. We have swapped the Maths and Humanities floors around and created two more modern Maths classrooms helping to drive the teaching and learning in both departments. We have a new reception and have refurbished the House into a central meeting and work space for Insignis Academy Trust. We have

some excellent facilities and we are passionate about developing the learning environment to enhance the students' experience and pride in their school. We have plans for the future to build another computing suite, investigate an astro turf pitch and refurbish rooms around the school.

### **When will Ofsted next visit PRS?**

OFSTED inspections have been suspended until January 2020. We are in the third year of being part of Insignis Academy Trust, so in effect a new school, therefore we expect and look forward to them visiting in the next calendar year.

### **What is the school's Progress 8 result based on results from 2020?**

The results in 2020 significantly improved in every single headline at both GCSE and A-Level. Year 11 Progress 8 went from -0.56 in 2019 to +0.04 this year. As an example in A-levels our A\*-B pass rate went from 28% to 48% and similarly A\*-C went from 48% to 86%. We have students who achieved 4 x A\* at A-level in the summer and are now studying at Oxford University, likewise at GCSE we had students achieving 8 x Grade 9's. This is good exam performance but this is the tip of the iceberg, we are not satisfied with that and we want excellent academic outcomes for every student. We will achieve this.

### **What are the food choices in the canteen and do you cater for students with allergies and specific dietary requirements?**

All information about our food and canteen (The Hub) is on our [website](#). We serve hot and cold meals throughout the day.

The Hub serves nut free food and all allergens and the menu for each term can be found on the website.

### **What languages are taught at PRS?**

Spanish & French

### **What after school clubs are there?**

We run a number of sports clubs after school but due to COVID-19 we have had to temporarily suspend them. We do still run our after school homework club. We also have a Bee Keeping club and our own hives and bees!

### **Do you run any concerts?**

Yes we usually run a winter and summer concert and musicians also get a chance to play at our Celebrations of Achievements assembly.

### **Do you have a Learning Support department?**

The school is fully committed to supporting students who have special educational needs. We aim for them to learn and achieve to their full potential. We work following the Code of Practice and the graduated approach.

The Learning Support Department is run by The Head of Department, a Literacy Tutor and a strong team of dedicated Learning Assistants. The assistants are motivated in supporting students academically, socially and emotionally. There is a continued professional development programme in place to maintain high standards of work.

Our Literacy Tutor runs specialised literacy programmes to improve students reading and spelling ages. Learning Assistants tend to specialise either within a subject, supporting many students across most year groups or focusing upon supporting students in a specific year group, moving up with them through the school.

Once students have been identified as having a special need, their individual needs are addressed through one or more of the interventions offered in school. Students are added to the Inclusion List and strategies are available to all members of staff in the school.

## **What D & T subjects are run?**

We have six classrooms where Food, Textiles, Product Design and Graphics/CAD are taught. Each room is very well-equipped with specialist equipment, including a range of CAD/CAM machines linked to computers, including a Laser Cutter and Sublimation Printer. We have access to laptops for use during lessons; students are encouraged to bring their own devices to support their learning.

## **What are rewards and sanctions?**

### **Rewards**

Through our online rewards platform 'epraise' all staff on site have the responsibility and opportunity to award Achievement Points to any students when they have demonstrated good behaviour, achievement or contribution to school life inside or outside of the classroom.

At PRS, we believe that there should be high levels of reward, knowing that 'success breeds success' and that a reinforcement of good attitude and behaviour is affirming in shaping good outcomes.

Rewards are communicated to students and parents via the 'epraise app'. The student council and staff had ownership in the development of the Rewards system.

The Achievement Points system encourages personal achievement as well as corporate responsibility. It works in conjunction with the Behaviour Points system (which tracks negative or undesired attitude or behaviour) with a net outcome of 'Conduct Points' which leads to points exchanged in our 'epraise' reward shop. Prizes include, basketballs, books, amazon vouchers, pencil sets, cinema vouchers and much more.

Further to these rewards and as part of the process students can also achieve recognition through:

- Verbal Praise
- Written praise in books
- Praise on a Postcard
- Contact with home via email, phone call etc.
- Attendance certificates
- Heads Commendations (termly) and Celebration of Achievement Ceremony (annual)

(Staff are encouraged to recognise the positives, so there is a deliberate strategy to seek a number of additional praise worthy moments)

### **Sanctions**

Princes Risborough School operates a staged approach of sanctions for inappropriate behaviour. Such an approach takes account of the nature of an incident, a student's previous behaviour and the impact of the incident on the learning and wellbeing of other students.

Students will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour and the development of a positive behaviour culture within the school. They will also be helped to recognise the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

Sanctions are more likely to promote positive behaviour if students see them as fair. This is achieved through the certainty of the consequence rather than the severity.

### **What is our approach to bullying?**

At Princes Risborough School, the health, safety and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. We listen to our students and take seriously what they tell us. Our aim is that children will enjoy their time as students in this school and will feel safe at all times.

**Our Culture of Safeguarding is underpinned by the core values of ;**

- *Every child has a voice*
- *Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility*
- *No concern is too small*
- *All concerns are treated professionally and sympathetically*

### **How long are lessons?**

55 mins each with 3 breaks throughout the day.

### **Is there a House system?**

Yes and there are many activities and competitions run in the houses throughout the year.

**Chequers, Chiltern, Icknield, Pyrtley Spring, Ridgeway and Whiteleaf**



### **How much homework do you get set?**

Year 7: 30 minutes

Year 8: 45 minutes

Year 9: 1 hour 30 minutes

Year 10: 2 hours

Year 11: 2 hours

Sixth Form: 3 hours