



PRIORY
Community
SCHOOL
An Academy

Priory Community School

ASPIRATION ~ INTEGRITY ~ RESPECT



It is my pleasure to welcome you to Priory Community School – An Academy.

As Headteacher of Priory Community School, my commitment is to putting learning at the heart of all that we do and to make every minute of our students' time count whilst they are with us. We believe that education is the key to a happy and successful future. Academic achievement married with our excellent pastoral care for all students is at the centre of all that we do each and every day.



**THE PRIORY
LEARNING TRUST**

As a school that puts learning at the heart of what we do, “Students First”, we expect the highest standards from our students. All of our students are given the opportunity to excel at what they do best and are supported in their mastery of the curriculum through well-planned and challenging lessons and activities. Our curriculum provides all students with an excellent grounding in traditional, academic subjects whilst also offering opportunities to pursue their passion. We see it as our duty to know every student and unlock their potential. We believe in investing in our staff and aim to develop teachers to be the very best they can be professionally. We expect our teachers to be subject experts.

Equally important, we invest in developing our students' character, ethos and values whilst with us. We are proud to be part of the community and we want our students to be a beacon of excellence. Whilst at Priory, all students will have the opportunity to follow five years of excellent provision in terms of Citizenship, Character Education and aspects of Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). There has never been a greater need to address these challenging issues, which affect our children on a daily basis.

The school offers a range of extra-curricular opportunities to allow students to leave school with the skills and knowledge that will ensure they play a full part as citizens in the local, national and global community. The extra-curricular programme at Priory provides students with experiences that inspire and challenge. We offer a range of activities that include sports clubs, computer programming, debating society, music and art clubs. We are a school that is both focused on learning, but which also develops the character of a student. It is our expectation that Priory students exhibit our core values of aspiration, integrity and respect.

Although we have expanded our provision to 300 students per year group, due to the high demand for a placement, we have not made any compromises in terms of our quality of education, excellent facilities and innovation. We are constantly investing and improving our provision as we want to make sure our students are ready for the future.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to the school. If you would like to visit Priory and see for yourself the opportunities and experiences that we provide please contact the main office. We look forward to meeting you.

Angelos Markoutsas
Headteacher



JOINING OUR SCHOOL

At Priory we know that the transition from primary to secondary school can be an exciting and anxious time. We have many events through our transition process to help support students and families settle into their new school.

We are proud of our strong links with all the primary schools from which our students come and carry out visits to every new child due to start with us. Students and their families are also invited into Priory to meet with our Leadership and Pastoral Teams. These meetings enable us to gain more detailed information about each individual child and means we have developed relationships with students before they join us in Year 7.

New students also take part in our transition days where they can make new friends, try different lessons, meet their tutor group and begin to find their way around the school. During the transition days, we hold a parents' evening. This is an opportunity for families to see all the activities that their child has been involved in and to meet their child's tutor.

We work hard to build strong links between home and school. We want each student to achieve academically and be able to reach their goals. However, we want to do it in a way that they will also progress personally and be responsible young adults by the time they are ready for their next destination.



OUR AIMS

1 To have a happy school community where students come first and all staff are valued and cherished.

2 To develop the whole child as a successful learner, a confident individual and a responsible citizen.

3 To raise standards for all students by sustaining and enhancing progress and attainment.

4 To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all our students.

5 To develop confident and resilient young people with high self-esteem and are not afraid to take risks.

6 To provide a safe environment where personal and professional development are supported for the whole school community.

The aim of our curriculum and the driving principle behind it is to equip our students with necessary and empowering knowledge.

We believe that all necessary skills for success are a by-product of knowledge, therefore, knowledge and skills are not separate but complementing elements of our curriculum to help our students achieve and excel in a variety of disciplines.

More importantly, deep knowledge will give our students a good understanding of the world and their surroundings on a local, national and global level.

Ultimately, we want all PCSA students to have a thirst for learning that will follow them beyond secondary school.

OUR VALUES



ASPIRATION

- Always do your best in every lesson
- Attending extra-curricular activities
- Be a role model for others

INTEGRITY

- Doing the right thing, even when nobody is watching
- Having strong moral principles
- Always be honest

RESPECT

- Being polite and respectful to all members of the school community
- Respect for ourselves, others and the environment
- Ability and willingness to accept the existence of opinions or beliefs that are different from our own

HOUSE SYSTEM

We believe a sense of ownership and belonging is crucial for our students. One major aspect of this is the house system, where students can compete and represent their house across a variety of events in the school calendar.

Our house system celebrates the geographical landscape of our local area.

House events and competitions run throughout the year, offering all students the chance to get involved, have fun, and earn points for their houses.

Last year, students took part in a wide range of activities including Murder Mystery, The Masked Singer, Sports Day, as well as photography and art challenges. Faculties across the school also organised their own unique events, giving everyone an opportunity to contribute and shine!

Whether you're a performer, an athlete, an artist, or just up for trying something new, there's something for everyone in the House competition calendar.



SUPPORT TO LEARN

Priory is a highly inclusive school. We believe in giving every student the opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities and our staff are dedicated to achieving this. We make sure that every student at Priory has the support they need to break down any barriers that may hinder their learning. We have a bespoke building called Support to Learn which is used to ensure that students with any additional needs are fully supported.

Support to Learn has a calm and purposeful environment where students are helped to develop core skills that will allow them to fully access all mainstream lessons. This may include having phonics intervention in Key Stage 3 or additional sessions for core GCSE subjects as they progress into Key Stage 4. Within this provision is also Return to Learn, which supports students who may struggle with social, emotional and mental health needs.

We are also able to offer Key Stage Three students a placement in our Nurture Hub. This is an intensive intervention that helps students who have struggled with the transition from primary to secondary school.





We are proud to be a part of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. Every year this inspires young people to explore who they are, grow in confidence and develop the skills they need to successfully navigate life.



Priory offers a large variety of extra-curricular opportunities to allow all of our students to unlock their potential and leave us with the skills and knowledge ensuring they go on to be polite, confident and kind young adults in the local, national and global community. The extra-curricular activities change on a termly basis to ensure all talents and interests are catered for.

We encourage all of our students to partake in at least one of the activities on offer such as cooking club, photography club, debating live, junior gym sessions, creative writing and drama club to name just a few. The Priory PE faculty also run a comprehensive list of sports fixtures and clubs throughout the week.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CAREERS

The Careers Office is open for students in all year groups. We are always very happy to talk through career ideas and aspirations.

We run an annual calendar of events and activities that is fun, engaging and challenging.

Our school careers offer is created to help students leave us with career aspirations and with the bravery, kindness and curiosity to lead happy and healthy working lives.

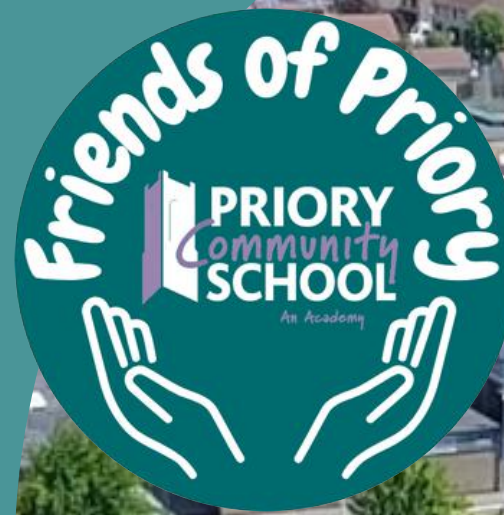
Guest speakers from a wide range of industries visit the school throughout the year to speak to students in assemblies and workshops. Many of these guest speakers are previous PCSA students.

The school runs careers events and activities throughout the year which students in all year groups are welcome to attend. These events are hosted both onsite and at other colleges and venues.

All of our events and activities can be found on our website (www.pcsa.org.uk) and in the monthly careers bulletin that is emailed to all parents and carers.



The Friends of Priory are an inclusive and supportive group of parents and staff who meet regularly and explore ways to add value to the school through a collaborative approach.



Want to get involved? Scan the QR code or email us for more information.

Join us and help make our school an even better place for our students! Your ideas and energy can really make a difference in creating a brighter, happier school community for every student.



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