

Principal: **Mr E J Matyjaszek** BA (Oxon)



Priory School
Beatrice Avenue
Whippingham
Isle of Wight
PO32 6LP
Tel: 01983 861222

Dear Parents/Guardians,

12th January 2018

SPRING TERM 2018 JAN 9TH – MARCH 23RD (HALF-TERM Monday Feb 12th-Friday Feb 16th)

We welcomed the children back on Tuesday last, and I hope they had a good first week. This is a very short term with only 4 weeks now to half-term; then five weeks to end of term. Easter is early on April 1st. This will make it a very intensive term with both performances – Junior & Senior – of Rock Challenge on the mainland after half-term, the Festival in March (Isle of Wight Music, Dance & Drama Festival–IOWMDDF), further mainland fixtures from our rugby triumphs last term, and of course, immediately, Senior School Mock Exams.

SENIOR SCHOOL “MOCK” EXAMS (Monday January 15th – Tuesday January 23rd) begin tomorrow. S1-S3 and L6th finish their exams next Friday 19th, but GCSE years S4/S5 finish early the following week. We then after the exams have parents evenings for S5 & L6th, S4 and S3 – the latter to include GCSE Options. All dates are on the attached Calendar, with printed copies given to pupils last Friday, and available from the office.

Two very important dates in February: **6th Form Open Evening** (21st) & **Scholarship Day** (27th). With the closure of Sandown Academy’s 6th Form following the closure of the Isle of Wight College’s 6th Form in a previous year, 6th Form provision is even more important to address on the island. Our success rate at both A Level and University entrance enables us to offer very secure provision for 6th Formers at this critical time.

CLUBS The Clubs List is attached – again, printed copies are available from the office. Please remember for ALL clubs and fixtures, pick up is from the front of the school as the East Cowes Road gate is closed at 5pm.

UNIFORM It is vital to remind all pupils at the start of term of the uniform policy regarding earrings, make up & skirt lengths, and the reasoning behind it. Earrings can be studs in the lower lobe and one pair only. They must be studs and NOT hoops or bangles etc. Could pupils please bring in their own tape to cover their ears for games if they need to eg recently pierced? Make up is not allowed in school. Pupils will be asked to remove it. Skirts are to be on or just above the knee. Please check the uniform policy on this on the website. This is not to suppress individuality–quite the reverse. It is to allow no distractions in terms of studies so that each individual may study free from pressures of a comparative nature. All these aspects of personal display are intended of course to draw attention. Comparisons are easily made. Pupils feel under pressure to “match” their classmates. All this distracts from learning, and can create an atmosphere of competition. Thank you for your support.

Future Dates & Events

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| 1. Monday 15 th January | Senior School Mock Exams begin (all week) |
| 2. Monday 15 th January | Cabin School Swimming Lessons, Waterside Pool, Ryde 2.30pm |
| 3. Tuesday 16 th January | Cabin School Introduction Meeting 8.30am |
| 4. Tuesday 16 th January | PSA Meeting Folly Inn 7pm All parents welcome to plan for this year |
| 5. Wednesday 17 th January | Under 11s Rugby, Ryde School |
| 6. Thursday 18 th January | Under 9s Rugby, Ryde School |
| 7. Saturday 20 th January | Hampshire Schools Cross Country Finals |

May I also thank all parents who came to the Christmas Service with its wonderful Nativity Play-and to thank and congratulate Junior pupils and staff, especially Mrs Kirby, for such an excellent performance.

E J Matyjaszek
Principal