



Dear All

21 April 2023

Reports:

1. Mon 17 Apr Y5 and Y6 Mixed, Bikeability (Group 1)
2. Mon 18 Apr Summer Term commenced
3. Tues 18 Apr Y5 and Y6 Mixed, Bikeability (Group 1)
4. Tues 18 Apr GCSE English Spoken Language Exam
5. Tues 18 Apr GCSE Digimap Webinar
6. Wed 19 Apr S3 VESTAS competition, Newport
7. Wed 19 Apr Y5 and Y6 Mixed, Bikeability (Group 2)
8. Thurs 20 Apr Y5 and Y6 Mixed, Bikeability (Group 2)
9. Thurs 20 Apr Online Safety Meeting
10. Fri 21 Apr S4, S5 and Sixth Form, Chelsea Football Stadium/Science Museum, London
11. Sat 22 Apr S3 and S4, D of E Bronze Day Walk, Carisbrooke area

Future Dates & Events:

1. Tues 25 Apr Tuesday Talk, 'Cats Protection'
2. Wed 26 Apr GCSE French Oral Exam
3. Wed 26 Apr S2 UK Maths Trust Junior Challenge
4. Tues 2 May Tuesday Talk, 'Equestrian Pursuits'
5. Tues 23 May Tuesday Talk, 'Army Careers'

Welcome back to the Summer Term. I hope Easter went well and that the longer days and higher temperatures are a welcome break from what seems like a very long and wet winter.

We held our first Parent Seminar this week and the topic was Online Safety. I do hope those in attendance found it useful, and I plan for this to be the beginning of a series of seminars which strengthen the home-pupil-school relationship and thus leave Priory School pupils better prepared for 21st Century life. If there are topics you would like covered, then feel free to contact me. Please note that pupils can stay and do prep here at school whilst parents are attending the seminar(s).

S3 pupils recently visited Vestas for the launch of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) design and build challenge. Vestas manufacture wind turbine blades here on the Island, and pupils will learn about and use computer aided design (CAD) and investigate different materials, manufacturing processes and testing methods.

Following on from a Tuesday Talk given by Anmarie Bowler, the editor of Brevity – The Isle of Wight's Literary Handbill – Milo Barnes in S4 has had a short story published. Very well done to Milo, and the 14th edition Brevity can be picked up free of charge in libraries and other outlets across the Island.

Members of Year 5 and Year 6 have been learning how to ride their bicycles safely as part of the Bikeability initiative. Bikeability is the Department for Transport's National Cycle Training Scheme for children across England and aims to develop confidence and road safety awareness through cycling. We are very grateful for the opportunity for our pupils to learn these essential skills, and I watched them cycling around the campus and having a happy time in doing so.



This week sees the beginning of the process for electing Prefects and Head Prefects, and all S4 pupils are invited to apply for these posts. I look forward to announcing the results in due course. Being a Prefect is not about the best academic. Of course, working hard in class is important, but so too is contributing to the wider life of the school through clubs and activities, being humble, helpful and well mannered, and displaying leadership and communication skills. Prefects have to diplomatically communicate with both staff and pupils, and should be good listeners, team builders and motivators. Being resilient when things don't go according to plan is also important. Good luck to all.

Looking ahead, we are hoping to book Year 5 and Year 6 on to a 'Sea Safe' drowning prevention scheme run by Ryde Beach Lifeguards. Subject to confirmation of spaces and depending on weather conditions, the date will be Monday 5 June. Given that we live on a relatively small island and with summer nearly upon us, the importance of such training cannot be overstated. Once we have a confirmed booking, more information will be sent out to relevant families.

Achievements:

Douglas in S2 recently participated in the Taekwondo grading exams for the Isle of Wight and is now a 1st Dan Black Belt. Douglas helped other students with their own techniques whilst also being assessed on his own performance. This included physical and theory elements, as well as board-breaking and self-defence. Douglas has been doing Taekwondo for 7 years now and has worked very hard to improve his fitness level, concentration, memory, confidence and teamwork skills. Great work Douglas!



And finally, 'Ice-Cream Fridays' are back, commencing Friday 21 April and running through until the end of the Summer Term (weather permitting). All ice cream and lollies are £1 each.

Have a super Summer Term.

David EJJ Lloyd
Principal