



Dear Parents

10 May 2024

This week has been dominated by the IOW Athletics Championships at Sandown track, and Mr B will write in detail within the weekly Sports Report. As such, his report will be a bumper edition, while the Newsletter may appear a little slimmer than normal.

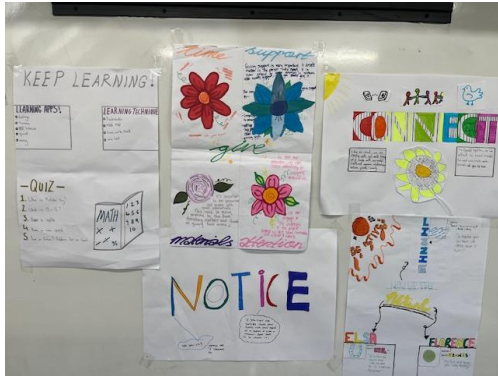
I will not step on Mr B's toes by writing about medals and individual performances, but I do want to say two things about the athletics squad as a whole – Tuesday for S1 and S2 and Wednesday for S3 and S4.

Firstly, whether winning or losing, every one of our pupils competed with heart and pride. They ran, threw and jumped as best they could, winning with humility and losing with dignity. I was so proud of them. Secondly, I was personally there on Wednesday and Mr M confirms that Tuesday was the same, and our pupils, more than any other school there, supported and cheered their teammates in every single event. The camaraderie and unity were amazing. Not only that, but Priory behaviour on and around the track was exemplary, and I am sorry to say that (some) pupils from elsewhere could learn a lot from the way ours conducted themselves throughout two long and hot afternoon sessions. Our medal haul was significant, but our fellowship and respect took gold, silver and bronze in my opinion. The gritted teeth, handshakes, applause and smiles all gave me a lump in my throat.

I got all the pupils together on Thursday to share my observations and praise, and whilst only a small gesture, Ice Cream Friday is on the house for all competitors, helpers and coaches. Thanks also go to all those parents who came to support the team. It was lovely to see so many of you sitting on the bank in the sunshine.

This week's assembly was the second of a series of three assemblies on mental health and we began by celebrating the excellent work all classes did on last week's theme, '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. Here are some of their displays – there were many more!





This week's theme was on the symptoms of poor mental health in young people, for example, becoming tearful, angry or withdrawn, and then what we can do to help our friends and peers. For the latter, we focused on simple things, such as smiling, listening, being patient and small acts of kindness, like paying a compliment or involving someone in a game. Very importantly, we discussed why mental health is not spoken about as much as it should, and the pupils offered fear, embarrassment, and the lack of awareness and understanding as the main reasons. That said, when we played 'word association' using 'mental health' as the trigger, the pupil responses from all ages were impressive and often highly sophisticated. Please do engage your child or children on this topic.

The word or phrase and question of the week for this week are:

Mental health

What symptoms should I look out for and how might I help those affected?

Next week is Mental Health Awareness Week. In support of this, we are having a Wellbeing Week. We have planned a variety of activities across the week, with different pupils involved at different times. The table below, as put together by Miss Pragnell, outlines the week:

Monday 13th May	Mr Lloyd will deliver the last of a series of 3 assemblies on Mental Health to the whole school.
Tuesday 14th May	Workshops will be delivered to all pupils from S1 – S4 on self-esteem, social media, technology and mental health by an external practitioner.
Wednesday 15th May	Pupils from Reception to S4 will be taken for a wellbeing walk with their form group up to Saint Mildred's and around the fields behind. It might be a good idea to bring in wellies!
Thursday 16th May	'Wear it Green' – mufti day and cake sale. Please bring in cakes. All money raised will go to the Mental Health Foundation.
Friday 17th May	Junior School pupils will be 'singing for their mental health' in a workshop looking at the benefits of singing.



And finally, a message regarding school fees. We operate significant discount schemes for forward payment of fees, and these are now open for payment of fees for the Christmas Term 2024. Details are available on request and to qualify for a 5% reduction, discounted fee payments are due by Friday 24 May 2024. Please email the School Office for details and invoices.

Reports

Tues 7 May	Official School Photos (class groups)
Tues 7 May	S1/S2 Athletics Championships, Sandown Athletics Track
Wed 8 May	Assembly 'Mental Health Week'
Wed 8 May	S3/S4 Athletics Championships, Sandown Athletics Track
Thurs 9 May	GCSE/A Level Exams began

Future Dates & Events

Tues 14 May	S1/S2/S3/S4, various workshops (re Mental Health Week)
Tues 14 May	YR/Y1/Y2, Butterfly World, Wootton Bridge
Wed 15 May	YR – S4, Well Being Walks (re Mental Health Week)
Wed 15 May	S2/S3 Boys, Cricket Match, Free School
Thurs 16 May	Mufti Day & Cake Sale 'Wear It Green' (in aid of the Mental Health Foundation)
Fri 17 May	Juniors, workshop 'Singing for Their Mental Health'
Fri 17 May	Y6, UKSA, Cowes
Sat 18 May	Show Jumping, Little Kennerly Farm, Godshell

Achievements

Tom (S4) completed the 55km Isle of Wight Randonnée event. He's very pleased with his fitness and hopes to do the full 110km circuit next year.



David EJJ Lloyd
Principal