



Prior's Court

Building a future for people with autism

**Prior Knowledge —Weekly update from the Principal
Term 2 December 11th 2008: Bulletin 9**

Dear all

This week we said goodbye to two trustees who have served for many years on the board of Trustees for the Foundation. Philip King, Director General of the Institute of Credit Management (ICM), joined as a trustee when Prior's Court was still a building site and has supported us with his considerable financial acumen from those early days through to financial viability. Professor Anthony Bailey has been a strong advocate of the School and has described us as being 'number one' at what we do, which is an enormous compliment coming from one of the world's leading experts on autism research and a key figure in projects such as the autism genome project. His parting words, which should be a mantra for us all, were to keep striving for excellence. I would like to thank them for the many years they have supported us, for the considerable commitment of their time, their expertise and their heartfelt dedication to the School. *Robert Hubbard OBE MEd (Cantab)
Chief Executive & Principal*

The Prior Approach

- **Object Schedules**

On a recent visit to Class One, I was delighted to see the progress Toby has been making in using objects to transition around the classroom; a fantastic example of consistency and hard work both for Toby and the staff.

I am hoping that, now that I am working with the SALT team in supporting people to set up object schedules, this will be something we can really develop. Ultimately this will help our students to be more independent and less reliant upon staff prompts. If you are unsure about any student understanding their schedule then please make a step towards changing it! Keep up the great work. Thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the SALT Assistants for their dedication and their help in making all the resources. *Sue Piper
Prior Approach Coordinator*

- **Line up for fire alarm practice**

Following last week's reminder to ensure that students line up on their class number in the playground when following the fire alarm procedures, there were many good examples of this being carried out perfectly however for those who did not do so well –please remember to do so.

Afterwards, please make sure that staff and students line up at each gate, class by class, on their return journey. Thank you. *Leadership team*



every child matters

PTO

- **Staff Forum:** next term's meeting dates are Thursday 15th January, 29th January and 12th February at 3pm in the Boardroom or School Meeting room (please see Noticeboards for details). Just another reminder that representatives are still needed for Palmer, Fleming and Todhunter Houses. If you are interested in becoming a representative please contact your Head of House.
- **Bradbury Hall:** all is still on programme with roof sheeting continuing to be laid, the Vulcan rooflight due to be fitted over the next few days and the first stage of electrical and plumbing installation commencing.
- **Building alarms:** Please note that the Education Block is locked and alarmed from 9pm each night until 7.30am each morning. If you enter the building during these times it will set the alarms off. If you need to gain access please contact the Duty Manager. During the Christmas holidays all buildings on site will be locked and alarmed from 6pm Tuesday 23rd December until 7am Friday 2nd January and again from the evening of Friday 2nd January until 7am Monday 5th January. During this period Elite Security will patrol the site.
- **Christmas events:**



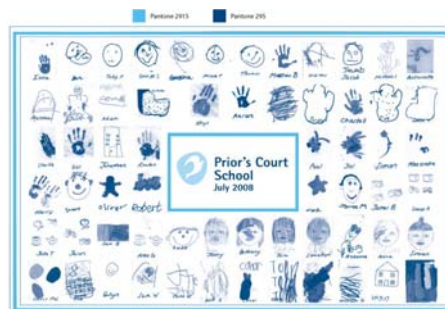
Wednesday 17th December- Round Robin; Thursday 18th Pupils' Christmas Lunch. Friday 19th December: 10am-10:45am parents collect bags from Houses; 10am-1pm holiday medication to be collected in the medical room; 10.45 –PSA AGM Princess Theatre 11am Lower School carol concert 11.45am Upper School concert

- **PSA AGM:** the PSA Committee meets termly (usually at the start of each term) with additional fundraising activi-

ties at other times during the year. A mixed group of staff and parents, the three Committee roles of Chair, Secretary and Finance officer need to be elected or re-elected at the AGM on 19th December and for any others to join the committee. If you would like to join and cannot be present at the AGM please contact Anna McPherson, Marketing & Communications Manager.

- **Post 16 Christmas cards:** sales have been extremely good again this year. John King-Head was delighted to receive a letter from just one of many satisfied customers, Grant Haze, architectural ironmongers and builders merchants, who wrote to thank the Post 16 students for the work they had done; "We have sent these out as our annual Christmas cards to all our top customers...please thank all the young people who have designed these wonderful cards." A number of local organisations and parents bought large quantities of cards and many personalised them with company logos and a personal message for their company.

- **Christmas gifts:** School tea towels and hand knitted wool scarves are still available



for sale to support Des-

ignated Funds either from Claire Pedley or Penny Taylor in 'the Hut' or on sale on the last day of term.

- **Staff news:** from Term 3 Lesley Copland will be Assistant Deputy Head; this will be a non-teaching post. Autumn Bunche, Deputy head, will have responsibility for Lower School (Giles to Shirley/Classes 1 to 6) and Lesley for Upper School (Palmer to Charlotte Houses/classes 7 to 11). John King-Head will take on the role of Acting Class Teacher in Class 11 until a teacher has been appointed. Three new teachers have been recruited to start in Term 3. A new staffing list for Term 3 will be sent out this week.