



Welcome to KS4

**A guide for students,
parents and carers**

Starting Priory School



We know our new pupils may worry about joining a new school so we do lots of things to help you to settle in at Priory School. Before you start, you will visit us with your parents or carers to get used to the school and get to know your teachers.



Head of School Mr Mick Truman

Senior Assistant Headteacher and KS4 Lead Mrs Lisa Andrews



Priory School is part of SENDAT
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Academy Trust
CEO and Executive Headteacher: Mr Lawrence Chapman

Transition visits

We know it is important for you to feel happy and comfortable in your new school. To help with this, we invite you to join in lessons with your new class.

If you are joining us at the start of September, we will invite you to Transition Week. You will go to lessons with your new classmates and new teachers. This will help you to get to know your teachers and new friends.

If you are joining us in the middle of a school year, we will organise transition on an individual basis.

The Office Team



Mrs Jackson and Mrs Reynolds

01284 761934

office@priory.sendat.academy



key stage 4

During Year 10 and 11 at Priory School, students work towards gaining accreditation in various subjects. We support students in gaining skills and qualities that prepare them for their next steps in learning, employability and independent living.

Post-Key Stage 4

Students are required to stay in education, training or employment with training until they are 18 years old. The curriculum at Priory School is designed to help students make informed choices about what they do at 16.

Priory School has a Sixth Form where students could study further qualifications – application to Sixth Form needed. Students can leave Priory School at the end of Year 11 and go on to college.

Please discuss future options with your child.



Curriculum

In KS4, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning by preparing themselves for the activities and choosing to act as young adults around the school.

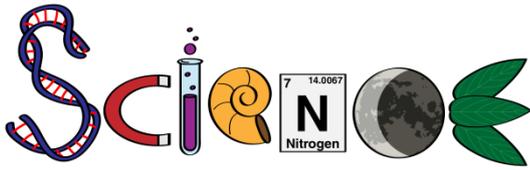
As part of their learning, the students will take part in accredited courses and some may take GCSE qualifications at the end of KS4. Students work towards accreditation in the following subjects:



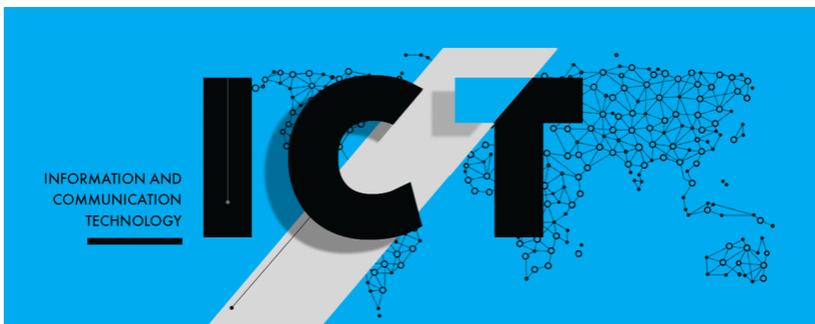
Pupils will be working towards an Entry Level qualification in English at either Entry Level 1, 2 or 3. They will be grouped according to potential outcome and may move between levels as appropriate. Pupils working at Entry Level 1 will gain a functional skills qualification and develop skills in using English for practical purposes. Pupils working towards Entry 2 and 3 qualifications will be developing skills in reading for meaning, writing for different purposes and analysing the effects of language.



The AQA Entry Level Certificate in Mathematics is available at Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3. The qualification consists of eight components: properties of number, the four operations, ratio, money, the calendar and time, measures, geometry and statistics. Students work through the units in short programmes with an assessment at the end of each component. This enables progress to be monitored and a sense of achievement can be gained throughout the course.

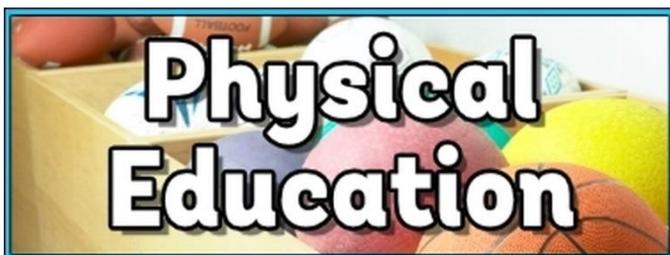


Students engage in a 3 year course, beginning in Year 9. Entry Level Science is accredited at three levels: Entry level 1, 2 or 3. Pupils earn points through 35 short, end of topic exams throughout the course, covering all 3 scientific disciplines. Pupils experience up to 6 opportunities to complete an assessed practical. All exams and assessed work are completed in Science curriculum time over the 3-year course.



Most students will be working towards a Functional Skills qualification in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) at Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3. The course is designed to give learners the skills to operate confidently, effectively and independently in education, work and everyday life. The aims of these qualifications are to develop learner understanding and skills in:

- Using ICT
- Finding and selecting information
- Developing, presenting and communication information.



All students take part in PE activity to support developing a health lifestyle.



LIFE AND LIVING SKILLS

RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

OCR Life and Living Skills is a range of flexible and adaptable qualifications, with no minimum entry requirements. We choose units across a wide range of skill areas; including pre-employability, personal and social skills. The course allows for varied personalised learning programmes.



In KS4, students will be invited to take part in a work experience placement as part of Life and Living Skills. Work experience usually takes place in the Summer Term. In Year 10 there is an internal placement. This year, students have set up a car valeting business and a café. In Year 11, the placement is external. *Please discuss with your child what they might like to do.*



For students working at pre-entry level, we offer the ASDAN programme of study. These accredited units focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills as well as social and emotional development. Some students may complete a combination of Entry Level and ASDAN accreditation depending on their skill set.

Options

Additionally, this year students are able to choose between the following two subjects:

Art and Design or History



Students work towards OCR's Entry Level Certificate in Art and Design. Throughout the course Learners to develop:

- creative and imaginative skills;
- confidence when working with art, craft and design materials and techniques;
- investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills;
- safe working practices in art, craft and design.

Students are assessed through a portfolio and a task, both of which are completed in school during timetabled art lessons and an art exam week. The Entry Level Certificate runs parallel to the GCSE (9–1) Art and Design qualification so students, who are ready, can achieve this outcome.



In History, students work towards accreditation at Entry Level, via the OCR Exam Board. An award of Entry Level 1, 2 or 3 can be attained, based on their work completing Depth or Thematic Studies from different parts of History (by way of an example - 'Britain at Peace and at War 1900 – 1914', also 'The American West, 1840 – 1895'). Their scores in their end-of-unit assessments are combined with the mark awarded for a Special Project that they do in Year 11. For this, they are invited to explore and analyse the significance of a famous person or place from History.

Food Studies or Creative, Media and Performance Arts

Food Studies

Cooking is an essential life skill. The course aims to work on skills and gain knowledge for young people to be able to cook for themselves. During theory lessons, students will learn about healthy food choices, costing of a food budget, safety and hygiene of handling food. During practical lessons, students will gain confidence as they prepare their own food.

Creative, Media and Performance Arts

This qualification includes units for developing skills and knowledge in a range of subject areas, including:

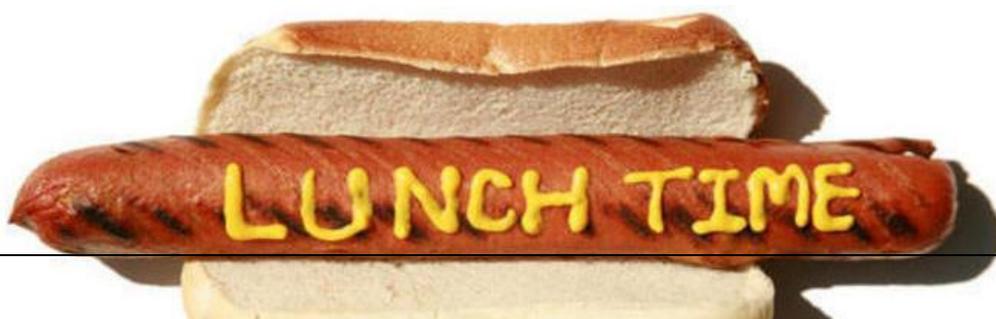
- Drama
- Media Studies
- Music

The qualification is available at Entry 2 and 3.

Enrichment Opportunities

As well as accredited courses, students in Key Stage 4 also enrich their learning about the world through lessons, assemblies and tutorial times, which include elements of Outdoor Learning, Current Affairs, Personal, Social and Health Education and Beliefs and Values.

In Key Stage 4, you will also have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.



We make sure you do not go hungry during the day. You can buy a healthy snack or fresh fruit at morning break at 11am.

At lunchtime, you can choose to have school dinner or bring a packed lunch. The school dinner menu on our website and Facebook.

We have 3 lunch sittings. Key Stage 4 students eat lunch at 1pm so it is important to have a good breakfast.



Once you have had your meal you can play outside and enjoy activities organised by the Playleaders.



A few key points to help you meet the expectations of being in Key Stage 4.

Essential items:

- **School bag** for your diary, pencil case and homework
- **Pencil case** for a small ruler, black pen, pencils, colouring pencils, rubber and pencil sharpener
- **P.E. Kit in a named bag** – Plain white T-shirt, plain black shorts, plain black sweatshirt, plain black tracksuit bottoms, trainers, sports socks, water bottle



Other:

- **Jewellery** – small stud earrings and watch (These will need to be removed for Food Studies and P.E) **No** other piercings are acceptable in school
- **No** other jewellery is acceptable in school
- **Make up** – Light, subtle make up is acceptable
- **If** heavy/ extreme make up is worn pupils will be provided with wipes to remove!
- **Nail varnish** – Light, subtle colours. In Food studies, students will be required to wear gloves to avoid contamination of food



Uniform

Black jumper



White polo shirt

Black trousers

(No jogging bottoms, jeans or leggings)

Black skirt

(No shorter than just above knee)

Black shoes

(No trainers)

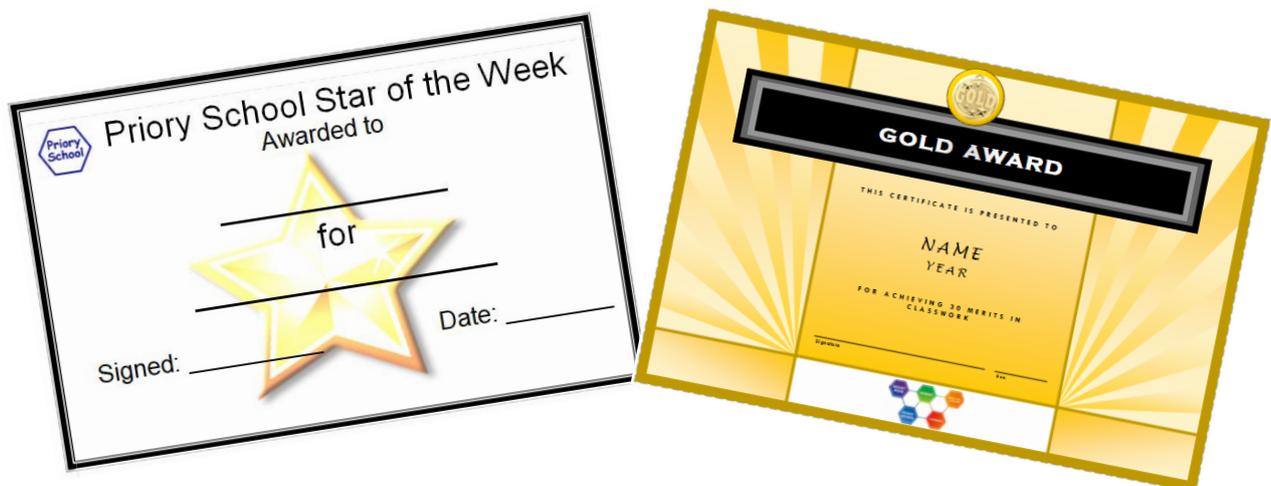
Black socks/tights

Uniform is purchased through Parent Mail

AWARDS & ACHIVEMENTS



We want you to do well. You can earn star of the week certificates, house points and merits for good behaviour, good attitude and effort.





Many of our students travel to and from school in minibuses or taxis.

All school transport is organised by Vertas. They will contact your parents or carers before you start at school to introduce your driver and passenger assistant.



School begins at 8:55am and finishes at 3pm

School staff will be waiting to greet you as you arrive and will welcome you in to school. You will be escorted to your taxi at the end of the day.