

December 2011

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND STUDENTS

As we approach the end of the first term I thought it would be appropriate to update you on a number of matters and also outline arrangements for January examinations.



PRINCIPAL & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

END OF TERM

All classes will close for the Christmas break at 12.15pm on Friday 16 December 2011.

SPRING TERM

Classes resume on Tuesday 3 January 2012.

JANUARY EXAMINATIONS

These start on Tuesday 10 January and continue through to Thursday 2 February. All students taking public examinations will be issued with their own personal timetables before the Christmas break and any issues should initially be discussed with Personal Tutors. During the examination period, students are excused all morning lessons if they have an examination in the afternoon, but they should attend all timetabled lessons once their examinations on any day have been completed.

Throughout the examination period students will have access to study and refreshment facilities even when classes have been suspended.

Students who miss a class due to examination commitments will not have an absence mark recorded in their register and Education Maintenance Allowance will not be affected.

STUDENT ID AND MOBILE PHONES

It is essential that all students have their official College ID card with them at ALL times and failure to have it in an examination could result in them being prevented from taking the examination.

If a student needs a new ID they should report to the Cash Office to arrange for another one to be issued. The cost of a replacement ID card is currently £2.00.

Mobile phones and MP3 players are banned from all examinations and on no account should they be taken into an examination room.

If at all possible students should not bring mobile phones into College on the day of an examination. If they do have to bring one in, it should either be left in Student Services or the Reception in the LRC and be clearly labelled at least 15 minutes before the examination start time. It is important to note that taking a mobile phone into an examination could result in results being declared void by the awarding body for everyone in the room, not just the person whose phone it is.

DON'T BE LATE

We all know that at times traffic congestion or bad weather can cause delays and it is your responsibility to make sure that you arrive in time for your examinations. That includes making sure you leave enough time to park the car if you drive to College and to leave your mobile phone in the LRC if you bring it into College. If you are delayed for any reason whatsoever please ensure that you get a message to Student Services and report to the examination room as soon as possible, on no account should you just not turn up.

SEVERE WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

It is vital that College has students' current mobile phone number and email address. This is because important news concerning severe weather and possible College closures will be disseminated by text messages to mobile phones (it is also important for examination purposes). We will also use the College website to update the latest information www.priestley.ac.uk

COURSEWORK DEADLINES

Coursework forms a crucial part of assessment in many programmes and it is important that all students with deadlines either side of the Christmas break ensure that they do not fall behind at this critical time. Please ensure that they inform their Subject or Personal Tutor if they are having trouble meeting deadlines. This year additional workshops have been arranged in the Learning Resource Centre to help students organise coursework and to meet deadlines. So if you are struggling ask for help before it is too late to catch up!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We are continually striving to improve student attendance and we would like to congratulate the 498 students who had a 100% attendance in period one and the additional 746 students who had attendance of over 95%.

You can regularly monitor your attendance rate on Priestley Quay and our target for 2011/12 is to have an overall attendance rate of over 93%.

During the Spring Term we will be announcing the winners from of our prize draws for those who had excellent attendance in period two.

We know that high levels of attendance is one of the key factors in helping you to achieve the very best of your time with us at Priestley but if you are off due to illness please notify us via the absence hotline on 01925624450 or at studentabsence@priestley.ac.uk If you know in advance that you will need to miss a lesson or College day for other reasons please ensure that you inform your tutors in advance so that the correct mark is recorded in the register.

OPEN EVENINGS

Once again we had record numbers attending our November Open Events for September 2012 admission. I should like to thank all of those students who helped out during the evenings to make them such a success. A large number of visitors commented on how welcoming the College was, and how helpful and knowledgeable our students were. If you know someone in Year 11

who missed the event, please inform them that our next Open Evening is on Thursday 2 February starting at 6.00pm. There will be a talk by the Principal at 6.30pm They can also get regular updates on College activities by logging on to our website at www.priestley.ac.uk

JANUARY ADULT CLASSES

Details of our Spring Term Adult classes will be available soon. If you or a member of your family would like to reserve a copy of our Spring Term Adult leaflet please phone Student Services on 01925 415415 or ask your son or daughter to pick up a copy.

MARCH REVIEW / CATCH UP DAYS

AS and A2 January results are now due in College on Thursday 8 March. The student Spring Term Review and Catch up Days will take place on 9 and 12 March. Students will of course be reminded of this nearer the time.

TRAVEL PASSES

Bus passes for Warrington Transport and Halton Transport for next term can be purchased from the Cash Office up to Thursday 15 December. Warrington passes can also be purchased from the Bus Interchange on Friday 16 and over the Christmas break. They will then be available again from College from Tuesday 3 January 2012.

PARENT UPDATE WEB PAGE

We have created a new page on our web site to update parents and carers of current news and events. You can find it at www.priestley.ac.uk/parents.htm. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions as to any further information you would like to see on this page.

PERFORMING ARTS CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

**Tues 13 / Wed 14 / Thurs 15
December**

Performing Arts will be giving a range of performances showcasing the many talents of the students.

Performances are at 7.30pm each evening and tickets are £6.50 and £4.50 concessions.

NEWS UPDATE

During a busy first half-term on campus, Priestley was regularly in the news.

Some highlights included:



AUGUST 2011

Priestley hit the high notes as the summer drew to a close, as for the seventh year running, the College celebrated a

99% or above pass rate at A-Level. 42 Advanced level courses had a 100% pass rate whilst there was 100% success in all BTEC National Diplomas. The sustained levels of academic achievement were a testament to the hard working nature of all College staff and students.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Students interested in pursuing a career in Medicine got hands on with their subject at the start of

the College year when members of The Fastbleep Foundation visited campus to offer a mentoring workshop. The Pre-Med group looked at CPR, read blood pressure and took part in a quiz based on the anatomy of the human body.



OCTOBER 2011

October saw a range of activities taking place. Former student Max Vickers wowed a national TV audience

with his performance on the X-Factor. Elsewhere the newly formed swimming team enjoyed success at the ESSA North West Finals. The girls landed second place in the freestyle relay and third place in the medley relay whilst the boys finished second in the medley relay. Also in sport, aspiring community coaches were given a unique insight in to coaching people with a disability

when Jordan Raynes - Captain of the Cerebral Palsy England Football team visited campus. Meanwhile Graphic Design students teamed up with the Liverpool Biennial in order to develop an awareness campaign and visual identity which was based on new media. Also in the regular yearly jamboree of events - £300 was raised for Breast Cancer Research UK during Pretty in Pink Day.



NOVEMBER 2011

Local MP David Mowat visited campus during November and was quizzed by students from Public Services

about today's burning issues. Elsewhere former student and team GB runner Abi Fitzpatrick was celebrating after she was awarded a Special Vice Chancellor's Bursary Award at Liverpool John Moores University. It was the second time in just three years that a former Priestley student had picked up the award following the success of Charlotte Sant in 2009.

DECEMBER 2011

Graphics students were busy again as Christmas got nearer when they collaborated with Studio Liddell in order to produce illustrations to be used in a new "app"



that the company were producing. Public Services students visited the Royal Marines training camp at Lympstone whilst Accounts students enjoyed a lecture from the visiting Price Waterhouse Coopers. Drama students put on a stunning show over the course of two nights in the College hall. The visual

spectacular was followed up by the now familiar annual instalments of Performing Arts' Christmas Showcase and Priestley's Got Talent.

COMING SOON

The start of 2012 promises to be as action packed as ever at Priestley.

In **BIOLOGY** students will be taking part in the annual national Olympiad competition and also visiting the Nowgen Centre in Manchester to look at DNA Biotechnology. **HISTORY** students will bring their studies to life during a visit to Paris and Normandy. **MUSIC** students will be putting on a gig featuring Motown Songs. **LAW** students will be participating in a mock trial competition in conjunction with Warrington Magistrates Association. TOK presentations will be taking place for students who study the **INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE**. In **SPORT** students will enjoy a period of warm weather training at Club La Santa. In **ART** students will visit Berlin and London, whilst the official opening of the College's new Arts Centre will take place on January 17th. A range of new **ADULT & COMMUNITY** courses will also be available from early January - check the website for the latest updates.

FINALLY...

*I would like to take this
opportunity to wish you
all the very best for
Christmas
and the New Year.*

PRIESTLEY
◆◆◆ COLLEGE ◆◆◆

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