

- 6.13 Careers advice is of good quality, and the management of the resources of the careers department shows the right enthusiasm and experience for the task. Detailed records are kept. An assistant to the head of careers has recently been appointed, and a valuable partnership with a local careers advice provider has been established. In the PSHCE course, younger pupils receive guidance on writing a curriculum vitae and the nature of employment. All Year 11 pupils have the opportunity of psychometric tests, in whose administration and use four staff have training, the alternative being computer-based questionnaires followed by interviews. In the sixth form, the emphasis is on advice in choosing suitable university courses. Parents and pupils are invited to a UCAS information evening. Taster courses and university visits are arranged together with presentations to Year 12 enabling pupils to consult, within the school environment, people involved in various careers. The department also supports many Old Priorians in their application to higher education. Since the arrival of AS levels, the school no longer organises work experience. Sixth-former pupils are actively encouraged to arrange their own during holiday time, and many do. All sixth-former pupils new to the school complete a questionnaire and receive advice, sometimes leading to a change in subject choices.
- 6.14 Measures to promote good discipline and behaviour are effective. The code of conduct, displayed in classrooms throughout the school, summarises an attitude to behaviour based on self-discipline. Pupils were extensively involved in its formulation. A system of merits and demerits is organised in different ways within Years 7 to 9 and Years 10 and 11. Younger pupils particularly are very proud to wear the badges they are awarded for numbers of merits received for good work, homework, effort and behaviour.
- 6.15 Sanctions proceed through various stages of verbal and written warnings before a demerit is issued. This may be followed by a pastoral detention at lunchtime and contact with parents. Ultimately fixed-term and permanent exclusions are applied, the school keeping a record of such serious sanctions. Pupils have a clear understanding of the policies for rewards and sanctions and generally approve of the approach. The system is constantly under review.
- 6.16 Appropriate steps are taken to ensure the health and well-being of pupils. The school has detailed anti-bullying and child protection policies. Bullying is not seen as an issue by pupils. If it takes place, remedial action is swift and effective. The playground is supervised by duty staff during break and lunchtime by duty staff and a duty senior manager is available. One of the two deputy heads acts as child protection officer, and a number of other senior staff are trained in child protection.
- 6.17 The Chaplain is available to all pupils, staff and parents to provide pastoral and spiritual guidance. For pupils wishing to seek counselling outside school, the Childline number is available beside the telephones they may use and on year group notice boards.
- 6.18 The accessibility plan required by the Special Educational Needs & Disability Act has been written, with a timetable for its implementation. An equal opportunities policy helps to ensure that girls entering the sixth form soon feel very much part of the school. A full-time nurse on site is available to cover medical emergencies. Separate medical facilities for boys and girls are provided. Information about individual pupils' medical problems is readily available to staff.
- 6.19 Catering is contracted out. Food is provided at breakfast, morning break and lunchtime. The service is canteen-style with a choice between several hot dishes and salad. The menu is varied daily and weekly, and the meals are of sound quality.