

Prospectus  
2024/2025



learn to succeed





# Welcome from the **Principal**

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be able to write to you as Principal and welcome you to Penwortham Priory Academy. I have always believed that there are few jobs that are more important or rewarding as working in education. To be the Principal of Priory, leading a group of highly creative professionals and equally creative and progressive young people is, for me, a great privilege.

I have a passion for Priory, a passion for the pupils who attend and a strong belief that Penwortham Priory Academy can, and does, make a positive difference to the lives of our young people, parents, staff and our local community. As Principal, one of my key roles is not only to provide stability and consolidation of all that is good about Priory, but to deliver the future direction of the school. It is my belief that this future direction should be based solely on the interests and needs of each individual pupil and the community in which they live.

Our **culture** at Priory therefore; the way we work and what makes us unique; is having a school where, first and foremost, all pupils feel safe, feel happy and feel that they belong to our school community. **Their pastoral care.**

When we have pupils, who feel safe and happy in school, we can focus on providing each with a varied and rich curriculum in order for them to gain good individual results as a stepping-stone into their futures. **Their academic care.**

Whilst all the time, gaining opportunities, from reliable adults, on how to become good citizens of the future. **Their 'Learning for Life'.**

In other words, a school where the attention we give to the **pastoral care** of our pupils is just as important as the attention we give to their **academic progress** and to the development of those skills we know our pupils are going to need to be **successful in their lives beyond Priory – their 'Learning for Life'.**

So, here at Priory, we have our **Vertical Pastoral House System**, to ensure the best pastoral care for each of our pupils, overseen by our **House Leaders**.

The **House Leaders** work closely with all staff in school, to track and monitor our pupils' ongoing **Personal Development** – their **Character and Culture** development, our **Personal Development Award Programme** and our **Inter-House Competitions**, allowing pupils to contribute to, and feel a valued part of, not only the whole school community and their own particular year group, but their own house – Calder, Douglas, Hodder or Ribble.

We also have our **Academic Year Group System**, to ensure the best academic care and progress for our pupils. This means that your child will have a specialist Head of Year who works closely with their team of form staff first thing each morning, to track and monitor your child's attendance and punctuality to school every day, as well as ensuring they are 'Ready to Succeed' for the day ahead. Then, when in school, they liaise with subject leads, teaching staff, learning support staff and our Pastoral Managers, to ensure they have the right '**Attitude to Learning**' in lessons. In so doing, they coordinate with those staff, any further intervention strategies that might be necessary to ensure each and every pupil achieves their full potential.

Complementing both, we have our '**Learning for Life**' programme.

This consists of our taught **Character Development** sessions, teaching our pupils the skills, knowledge, and competencies, distinct from their academic work, but essential for employability – the **skills** of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC).

Our taught **Personal Development** sessions, delivered through our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and our taught **Culture Development** sessions, shape our pupils' understanding and **attitudes** towards the importance of community cohesion and how we can truly live together more harmoniously through a focus on kindness, respect and living without harm.

To ensure our young people have a teacher who knows them well, their form tutor will be their Learning for Life teacher too. This ensures consistency across the day, as your son/daughter's form tutor will register them in the morning and will see them again in the afternoon to teach them Learning for Life lessons as well.

Not only does this mean form tutors will have much more contact time with pupils in their forms, but it will also enable each form tutor to really get to know each pupil so they can thrive, both pastorally and academically.

Of course, I know that teaching a skill or an attitude is one thing, seeing that become a reality in our pupils is another. So, when pupils put their Character, Personal Development, and Culture learning into practice, when they demonstrate those LORIC skills needed to help them succeed in their future employability and actively behave in ways that demonstrate what they have learnt in their personal development and culture sessions, this will be noticed, valued and accredited through our PIXL Edge certification process, our Priory+ Award scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme: rewarding pupils for engaging in other activities that contribute further to their own personal development, just as academic progress is accredited through the awarding of GCSEs or other equivalent certificates of achievement.

I believe therefore that the curriculum offered to all our pupils, delivered in a caring and creative environment, by means of innovative resources and facilities, should reflect individual needs and aspirations and maximise our pupils' chances to achieve, not only in the time they are with us in school, but in their life beyond Priory too.

So, it's our combined, equal focus on a curriculum that best supports the **pastoral progress** of all our pupils, the **academic progress** of all our pupils, their **personal development** through PSHE and Citizenship, as well as the development of their **Character and Culture**, that I believe makes Priory **unique** and what I believe makes Priory pupils **unique**.

It is this outstanding care and guidance, coupled with the learning experience each individual pupil receives, that is of the utmost importance to me as Principal.

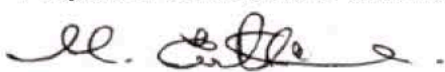
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, pupils, parents and members of our local community for their dedication, commitment and hard work in ensuring that all our young people leave Priory with not only excellent results, but with rich and meaningful experiences that are guaranteed to help them in what are sure to be their exciting and bright futures.

There is no doubt that our pupils' achievements continue to strengthen our local and national recognition as a school, where both girls and boys thrive, succeed academically, and excel in all areas.

I hope you find this prospectus and the school's website informative, although the best way to experience Priory is to come and see for yourselves on our Open Evening. Alternatively, you are more than welcome to make an appointment and visit at any time during the normal school day.

In choosing Penwortham Priory Academy as your school, you can be sure that we will provide access to the best possible all round education for every pupil in our care, in order to secure high standards in their learning journey with us.

I very much look forward to welcoming you to our school, a great school where every pupil '**Learns to Succeed**'.



Yours faithfully,  
Mr M Eastham - Principal





Our Mission: **Learn to Succeed**

“To uphold our ‘Priory Standard’ - ensuring the highest expectations of all from all, so that all pupils ‘Learn to Succeed’ and leave Priory, equipped with the right **skills** and **attitudes** to help them succeed in life, contribute positively to society and go on to further education, employment or training.”





## The history of the Penwortham Priory Academy Estate

Priory was first a Benedictine priory dedicated to St Mary until its lands were sold to the Fleetwood family at a price of £3,088. The Fleetwood family then built a mansion in its place which became known as Penwortham priory and lived there until 1749. The Rawsthorne family lived at the priory from 1783 until it was demolished in 1925.

It became a victim of the 1920's expansion of Penwortham when the land that once accommodated the majestic mansion house and its grounds made way for housing. The school was built in the 1950s for the local community and sits peacefully in its tranquil, leafy surroundings, continuing to proudly serve our local communities.

## The present and the future of the Penwortham Priory Academy Estate

We continually strive for the Penwortham Priory Estate to be one that gives an exceptional, lasting impression to all users.

As a result, the year 2000 saw the start of massive change at Priory. In recognition at the time of our new status as a Specialist Technology College, two innovative ICT rooms were purpose built to integrate the new media age into school.

Following this in 2003, the Science facilities were increased two fold to include three new purpose built laboratories and one room devoted to the use of ICT in Science.

In 2005 Priory became the first school in Lancashire to gain a second specialism - Sport - and from this development we linked the sports hall to a new PE classroom to allow students to connect the practical and theoretical aspects of sport more easily.

2008 saw the next big leap in the facilities at Priory. A brand new multimillion pound Technology block was created that is the envy of many technology teachers and their students across the country. Innovative design, linked to a creative use of technology, has produced a building that in itself is a teaching resource.

Running alongside these wonderful facilities, all the Maths and English classrooms have been enlarged, re-equipped and completely changed to produce modern, bright and creative learning spaces with all the relevant technologies.

2010 then saw a complete change to the resource centre alongside our advice and guidance area, with new redesigned rooms to support young people through the difficult choice process for post 16.

2010 also saw the completion of the new tennis courts as part of the agreement with the local borough council.

In 2013 we completed the redevelopment of our innovative Humanities, Languages and Creative Arts learning areas, followed closely in 2014 by the completion of our cutting edge Science block and 3G AstroTurf pitch.

During the summer term of 2016, we were able to secure £1 million worth of funding to replace the roofs and windows across the entire school site whilst at the same time, completely refurbishing our old gymnasium into a bright, modern, multifunctional facility.



Having secured a further £1.4 million worth of funding, October 2018 saw a brand new, state of the art IT block, named The Hex, built where the former Raising of the School Leaving Age block (ROSLA) stood. Meanwhile in the main school building, a £320K grant from the Education & Skills Funding Agency meant an overhaul of the kitchen and dining facilities to enable us to focus on the best provision of healthy food and eating.

From April 2021, following the end of the existing dual use leisure service contract, Priory took back ownership, management, and operation of the 3G football pitch, sports hall and netball courts. As part of the handover the school sports hall was completely refurbished. New lighting was mounted, and a new floor was installed. By providing more of our school facilities for use by more people in our local community after school hours, we have been able to contribute to the borough-wide ambition of 'Leisure Local' and 'More People More Active'. We continue to have exciting and ambitious plans to further develop and improve our offer to the local community, by providing the best leisure facilities and the best user experience at a local level.

2022 saw the opening of our two Conference Suites, allowing staff, pupils and other organisations to benefit from a comfortable base for meetings which boast the very latest IT conferencing technology.

2024 will see the completion of our 'Priory Pod', an outdoor food outlet with a landscaped seating area, providing pupils with an even better break and lunchtime experience, within our outstanding outdoor spaces.

Life doesn't stand still and neither does Priory!







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*School facilities are designed thoughtfully and maintained immaculately.*

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**Ofsted**



## We believe

- That all members of our school community uphold our Priory Standard, every day
- That **all pupils** who attend Priory, should 'Learn to Succeed' in their lives
- In the highest expectations of all from all, so that all pupils leave Priory, equipped with the right **skills** and **attitudes** to help them succeed in life, contribute positively to society, and go on to further education, employment, or training
- In a combined, equal focus on the development of our pupils':
  - Pastoral care
  - Their academic progress
  - Their personal development
  - Their character and culture development
- It is this approach, that makes Penwortham Priory Academy **unique**
- It is this approach, that makes Penwortham Priory Academy pupils **unique**







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*We are really pleased with our daughter's progress during her first year at Priory. We feel she has settled in well, and is always happy to go to school. She seems to enjoy all her subjects and is keen to do well.*

”

**Parent**

## So, we focus on:

- Governance that ensures the school is managed effectively and that every pupil gets the best possible education
- Pupils having the right attitude to learning in lessons, and the right attitude to behaviour at all times
- Overcoming individual pupils' barriers to success – their Pastoral progress
- Nurturing every pupil's personal development
- Nurturing the skills needed to help our pupils succeed in life
- Nurturing the attitudes needed to help our pupils contribute positively to society
- Making every learning encounter matter – with the best teaching, teaching support and therefore learning in lessons, delivered by the best leaders, teachers and teaching assistants
- Ensuring all pupils achieve the best possible academic outcomes – their Academic progress
- Ensuring Priory is a great place to work through a focus on Team Care and Self Care
- Empowering all staff and pupils to engage in the very best teaching and learning through the use of cutting-edge technologies
- An estate that gives an exceptional, lasting impression to all users
- Providing a supportive and seamless communication service to all
- Delivering a professional and personable business and finance service to all
- Providing our pupils, staff and visitors with a truly great dining experience
- Combining the best leisure and well-being facilities with the best user experience at a local level
- Creating inspiring learning spaces and experiences for our current and future generations of pupils

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*Pupils are typically happy and feel safe at Penwortham Priory Academy.*

Ofsted

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# Pastoral Care

- We focus on having the best pastoral care for every one of our pupils, regardless of ability or background
- We strive, every day, to overcome each individual pupils' barriers to success
- All pupils have ongoing mentoring to check on their pastoral and academic progress
- We know pupils feel safe and happy at Priory
- To make sure this is the case, we have a strong and effective pastoral department
- As well as a great learning support department
- And a wider pastoral team ensuring great care and guidance is provided to all our pupils so that every individual in school feels supported and is happy
- Your child will be in the same House, with the same House Leader for the five years they are with us, allowing us to really get to know each family
- All pupils have a locker in their year group area
- We have designated year group areas, designated year group outdoor spaces as well as designated year group dining areas where pupils can go at break and lunch to spend time with other pupils from just their year group
- We also have communal areas around school where pupils have the opportunity to meet up with friends or family members from other year groups

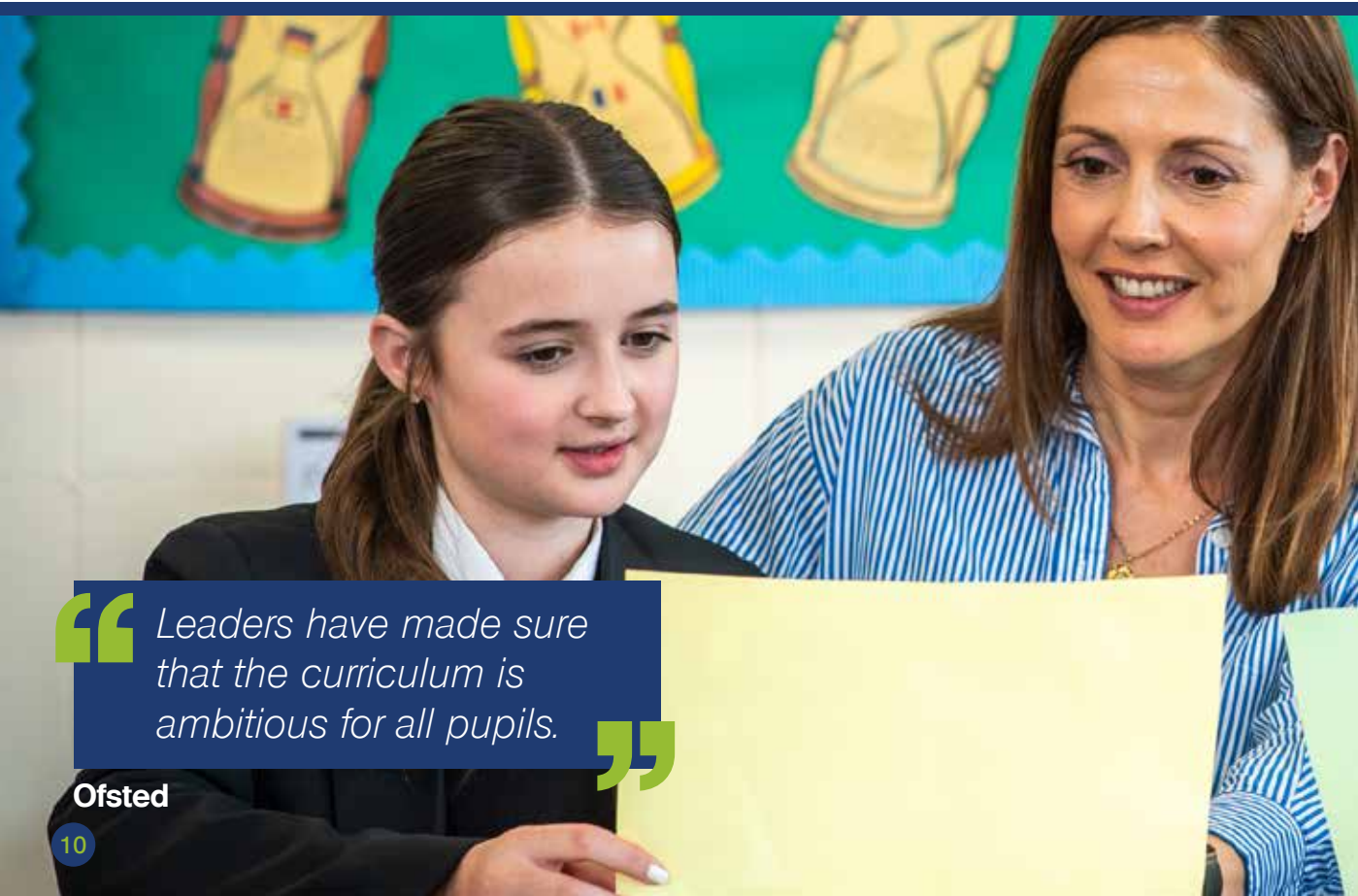


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# Academic Progress

- We have our **Academic Year Group System**, to ensure the best academic care and progress for our pupils. This means that your child will have a specialist Head of Year who works closely with their team of form staff first thing each morning, to track and monitor your child's attendance and punctuality to school every day, as well as ensuring they are 'Ready to Succeed' for the day ahead. Then, when in school, they liaise with subject leads, teaching staff, learning support staff and our Pastoral Managers, to ensure they have the right '**Attitude to Learning**' in lessons. In so doing, they coordinate with those staff, any further intervention strategies that might be necessary to ensure each and every pupil achieves their full potential.
- We take pride in making every learning encounter matter for our pupils
- We make sure that our pupils receive the best teaching, teaching support and therefore learning in lessons, delivered by the best teachers and teaching assistants
- We insist that all our pupils are challenged to learn and progress well in every lesson through mixed ability teaching – ensuring stretch and challenge is high, teachers always 'teach to the top' and then support lower attaining pupils by scaffolding up to this point
- We pride ourselves on delivering lessons that not only meet the range of all the pupils needs, but where different teaching styles are used to suit how girls learn best, how boys learn best and how boys and girls learn best together
- So that boys and girls thrive in their learning together
- Our curriculum supports the core academic subjects of English, Maths and Science
- But also values and recognises the contribution that other subjects can have on the lives of our young people
- Our curriculum gives our young people the chance to appreciate art and culture, to enjoy music and drama, to participate in sport and games, and provides a secure grounding in the practical skills the modern world requires
- A curriculum supplemented by trips and visits, clubs, and practices
- We offer a personalised curriculum in Year 10 and 11 to allow our pupils the greatest flexibility in choosing subjects that best prepare them for their life beyond Priory
- We set aspirational academic targets to challenge all pupils to aim high
- We achieve great results, great results for the individual pupils that learn with us, and continually strive for improvement
- Great results for girls, and great results for boys
- Priory achieves the best possible academic outcomes for our pupils dependent on their individual abilities
- If your daughter or son is academic, they will achieve here at Priory. They will fulfil their potential
- Priory is an academic school



*“ Leaders have made sure that the curriculum is ambitious for all pupils. ”*



# Character Development

- We have a strong and effective team of staff in school to coordinate our pupils' 'Learning for Life Programme'
- This consists of our taught **Character Development** sessions, delivered through our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum
- We teach our pupils the skills, knowledge and competencies, distinct from their academic work, which will help them succeed in their future employability
- We believe it's our job to excite, engage, challenge and support our pupils so that once they leave Priory, we have shaped young people that are resilient, independent and successful learners who go on to do what **they** want to do
- We instil in our pupils the strength of character to withstand life's adversities
- They develop the **skills** of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC)
- When pupils demonstrate LORIC skills, this will be noticed, valued and accredited through our Pixl Edge certification process
- Our pupils benefit from our extensive links with business and enterprise
- Our pupils benefit from our strong links with local associations and sports clubs
- Our pupils leave Priory, equipped with the right **skills** to help them go on to further education, employment or training





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*Many pupils take advantage of the extra-curricular opportunities on offer.*

Ofsted

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## Personal Development



- This consists of our taught **Personal Development** sessions, delivered through our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum
- Ensuring we focus as much attention on preparing our pupils for the next stage of their lives beyond Priory, as we do on their academic progress and achievements
- We enjoy great links with universities, FE colleges and our partner primaries and secondary schools
- We nurture our pupils' talents
- We prepare them for the world of work and adult responsibility
- Our pupils are proud to attend Priory and accept responsibility for their part in being ambassadors for the school
- Our pupils respect their local community and respect their local environment
- Our pupils are locally respected in the community, raising funds for a variety of charitable causes throughout the year
- Our pupils uphold the 'Priory Standard' both in lessons, via the pupils 'Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter' and in their social and well-being time





## Culture Development

- This consists of our taught **Culture Development** sessions, delivered through our PSHE and Citizenship curriculum
- We shape our pupils' understanding and **attitudes** towards the importance of community cohesion and how we can truly live together more harmoniously through a focus on kindness, respect and living without harm
- We teach our pupils to understand the importance of treating other humans with courtesy and dignity
- Pupils respect the multi-cultural and multi-faith nature of the school
- Pupils display respect for themselves, other pupils, their teachers and their community

- Relationships with each other and with teachers are strong
- When pupils demonstrate what they have learnt in their culture sessions, this will be noticed, valued, and accredited through our Priory+ Award scheme
- Our pupils leave equipped with the right **attitudes** to help them contribute positively to society



*Leaders have skilfully overseen the improvements made. The staff are extremely motivated and keen to improve the school further.*

**Ofsted**





# Unique

Our combined, equal focus on a curriculum that best supports the **pastoral progress** of all our pupils, the **academic progress** of all our pupils, their **personal development** through PSHE and Citizenship, as well as the development of their **Character** and **Culture**, is what makes Penwortham Priory Academy **unique** and what makes our pupils **unique**.

## So, what makes a Priory pupil?

Young people who are:

- Punctual, polite and well mannered
- Respectful to all members of our school and local community
- Respectful to their local environment
- Willing to embrace challenging tasks
- Enthusiastic about learning
- Resilient – never giving up when learning gets challenging
- Confident to actively seek and respond to feedback to improve their learning
- Willing to work hard to achieve the best they can
- Independent with control over their own learning
- Equipped with the right skills and attitudes to help them succeed in life, contribute positively to society and go on to further education, employment or training







**To all Priory staff past and present,**

It seems barely five minutes, let alone five years since I visited Priory with my daughter, and we jointly selected it as the school she would attend. I remember the hopes and the fears of where those five years might lead and what might be their outcome. The five years are ending with hopes realised and fears dispelled.

I'd like to give a big thank you to all of the Priory staff, past and present for all of their work, kindness and support over the past five years. My daughter has had a wonderful time at school and although she will of course miss all of the friends she has made, she is now fully ready for the adventures that lay ahead.

For me the purpose of school is to play its part in creating fully formed and rounded people who can play an active role in all of the aspects required to be a fully engaged, caring and contributing member of society.

In addition to the academic pursuits then, my daughter has joyfully taken advantage of the wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities offered by the school, and these have played a crucial part in her development and preparing her, not just for work, but for life. She has also benefitted from the safe and supportive environment created amongst the student community at the school and the circle of friends she has been part of.

I know a little of the external pressures that schools and their staff come under and would like to offer my thanks and congratulations for a job very well done, and my hope that despite these external pressures, your good work will continue to provide children with a platform from which they can embark on fulfilling lives.

I think you can feel proud of what you have jointly achieved.

**Parent of a Year 11 pupil**







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want to know more...

call us on **01772 320250**  
or visit **priory.lancs.sch.uk**

Penwortham Priory Academy Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England with Company number 08133703 and has a registered office at Penwortham Priory Academy, Crow Hills Road, Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire PR1 0JE.

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