



Welcome to

Penwortham Priory Academy

welcome to



Penwortham Priory Academy



From the Principal, Mr Eastham

As Principal, it is a privilege to welcome you to Penwortham Priory Academy – a school where we are passionate about education, proud of our pupils, and committed to making a lasting difference in our community.

At Priory, we believe that a truly successful education supports the whole child. That's why we place equal emphasis on pastoral care, academic progress, and personal development. We are proud to offer a warm, inclusive environment where every pupil feels safe, supported, and inspired to succeed.

Our unique structure combines the strengths of two key systems:

- ◆ **Vertical Pastoral House System**, led by dedicated House Leaders who oversee each pupil's wellbeing and personal development through initiatives such as the Priory+ Award, PiXL Edge, Duke of Edinburgh, and inter-house competitions.
- ◆ **Academic Year Group System**, guided by experienced Heads of Year who work alongside teaching and support staff to ensure pupils are achieving academically and prepared to meet daily challenges with confidence.

Supporting both is our innovative **Learning for Life** programme, which helps pupils build essential life skills beyond the classroom. Taught by their form tutors, these sessions focus on leadership, resilience, communication, and citizenship – nurturing the character and cultural awareness young people need to thrive in modern society.

Our expectations are high. Through the 'Priory Standard' – *the highest expectations of all, from all* – we challenge every pupil to:

- ◆ Be **Ready to Succeed**
- ◆ Show a strong **Attitude to Learning**
- ◆ Demonstrate positive **Character and Culture**

We reward not only academic achievement but also the behaviours and values that shape confident, compassionate, and capable young adults.

Penwortham Priory Academy offers a creative and caring learning environment where pupils are known as individuals and encouraged to achieve their full potential – both during their time with us and in life beyond school.

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, parents, and members of our community whose dedication



welcome



ensures that Priory continues to be a place where boys and girls flourish, excel, and succeed.

I hope you find our prospectus and website informative. To truly experience what makes Priory special, we invite you to join us at our Open Evening or book a visit on one of our Open Days.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school – a great place to *Learn to Succeed*.

Yours faithfully,

Mr M Eastham - Principal

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The school creates an environment where pupils feel safe and happy. For example, staff foster respectful and caring relationships with pupils. This helps pupils to feel secure and valued. Pupils express pride in attending this school.

Ofsted, March 2025

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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 Penwortham Priory Academy Estate:

Past, Present and Future



Our Heritage

The Penwortham Priory Academy estate has a rich and fascinating history. Originally a Benedictine priory dedicated to St Mary, the site was later sold to the Fleetwood family, who built a grand mansion known as Penwortham Priory. The estate remained a family home, passing to the Rawstorne family until its demolition in 1925, making way for the growing town of Penwortham.

In the 1950s, the site was reborn as a school, set in tranquil, leafy surroundings – a peaceful environment in which generations of young people have been educated ever since.

Our Evolution

Since the turn of the millennium, Penwortham Priory Academy has undergone a transformational journey, driven by a commitment to innovation and excellence.

- ◆ In **2000**, we became a Specialist Technology College, with state-of-the-art ICT rooms to embrace the digital age.
- ◆ By **2003**, our Science facilities were significantly expanded, adding modern labs and ICT resources.
- ◆ In **2005**, we became Lancashire's first school to gain a second specialism – Sport – prompting a redesign that better linked theory and practical PE learning.
- ◆ **2008** marked the opening of a multimillion-pound Technology block, celebrated nationally for its forward-thinking design and educational impact.
- ◆ In **2010**, a new resource centre and careers advice hub were launched, alongside new tennis courts in partnership with the local council.
- ◆ By **2013**, our Humanities, Languages and Creative Arts departments were redeveloped, followed by our cutting-edge Science block and 3G AstroTurf pitch in **2014**.

The History – The Future



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School facilities are
designed thoughtfully
and maintained
immaculately.

Ofsted

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- ◆ In **2016**, we secured £1 million for roof and window replacements and transformed the original gym into a modern, multi-functional space.
- ◆ A further £1.4 million in **2018** delivered *The Hex* – our state-of-the-art IT block – and a £320,000 kitchen and dining upgrade to support healthy, high-quality food provision.

Our Community Focus

In **2021**, we took full control of our 3G pitch, sports hall and netball courts, investing in new flooring and lighting to support the borough's 'Leisure Local' initiative and increase access for community use.

Continued Investment

- ◆ **2022** saw the opening of two fully equipped Conference Suites for staff, pupils, and local organisations.

- ◆ In **2024**, we proudly introduced the 'Priory Pod', an outdoor food outlet with landscaped seating, enhancing the lunchtime experience within our award-winning outdoor environment.
- ◆ In **2025**, we opened our fully refurbished toilet facilities – a significant investment in the daily experience and wellbeing of our pupils. We also added two new changing rooms alongside them which are a superb use for community clubs.
- ◆ In **2026**, a £500,000 complete rebuild of our FA-accredited 3G pitch was delivered to meet the growing community demand, alongside a £120,000 refurbishment of the PE changing facilities, including new showers and toilets.

At Priory, we believe in continuous improvement. Our estate reflects our values – evolving, future-focused, and deeply rooted in service to our pupils and our wider community.

Life doesn't stand still – and neither does Priory.



We believe...



- ◆ That all members of our school community uphold our Priori Standard, every day
- ◆ That **all pupils** who attend Priori, should 'Learn to Succeed' in their lives
- ◆ In the highest expectations of all from all, so that all pupils leave Priori, 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 Priori Academy **unique**
- ◆ It is this approach, that makes Penwortham Priori Academy pupils **unique**



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We are really pleased with our daughter's progress during her first year at Priori. 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

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We believe

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- ◆ 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

we focus on...



Pastoral Cave

- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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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The school has improved its approach to support pupils who struggle to regulate their behaviour.

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Pastoral Care

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

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The school sets high expectations of pupils' behaviour and their academic achievement.

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Trustees provide effective oversight to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities.

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Personal Development

- ◆ 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
- ◆ This consists of taught Character & Culture Development sessions, PSHE, Citizenship and Careers curriculum
- ◆ We nurture our pupils' talents
- ◆ Our pupils are proud to attend Priory and accept responsibility for their part in being ambassadors for the school
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ We enjoy great links with universities, FE colleges and our partner primaries and secondary schools
- ◆ We prepare them for the world of work and adult responsibility
- ◆ At Priory we offer an extensive range of clubs, trips and visits. Some clubs are created and managed by pupils who want responsibility
- ◆ Our pupils learn and engage in activities associated with the Fundamental British Values (FBV) and Citizenship
- ◆ Pupils learn about the Protected Characteristics and aspects of Diversity and Equality. Pupils at Priory are provided with opportunities to express their diversity, are supported by the school community and thrive here
- ◆ Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) understanding is promoted in the whole school ethos, school community activities and across curriculum subjects



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Pupils are
motivated to
reach their
potential.

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Character Development

- ◆ This is taught in Learning for Life sessions and supplemented by other subjects
- ◆ 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)
- ◆ 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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Pupils enjoy visiting colleges and completing work experience. This helps pupils to plan for their next steps and prepare for adulthood.

Ofsted

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Culture

Development

- ◆ This is taught in Learning for Life sessions and supplemented by other subjects
- ◆ 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

We are 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

Our Priory pupils



Learn to succeed

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We always tell everyone we are so happy we chose Priory Academy. We wanted a well-rounded experience for our daughter and somewhere she could thrive. It's safe to say that's what has happened so far.

Parent

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Learn to succeed

Want to know more?



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