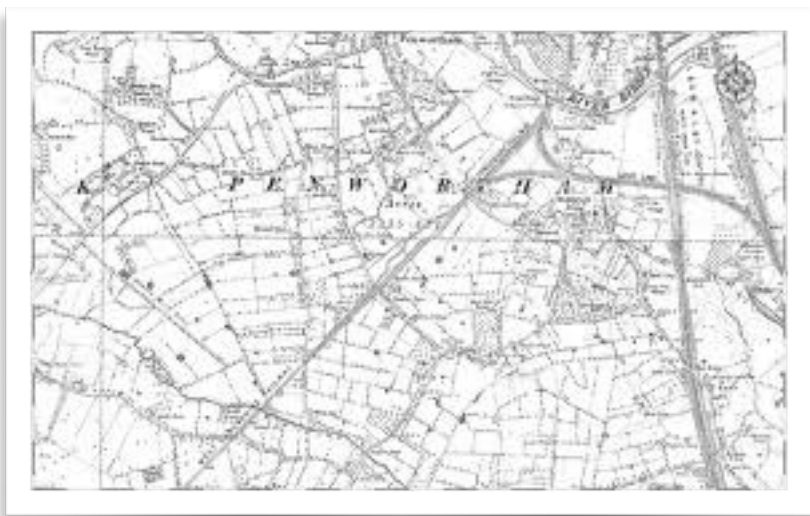


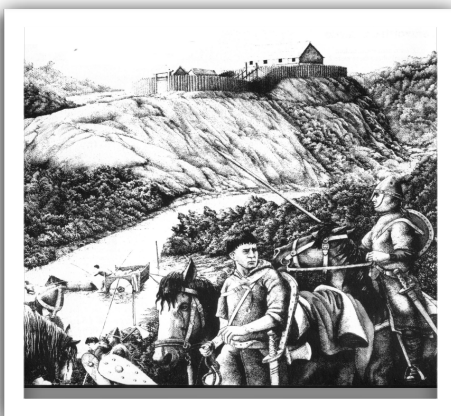


## THE PRIORY OF PENWORTHAM

After 1066, William the Conqueror gave this area of Lancashire to his relative, Roger de Poicteau, for his valour at Hastings.



*William the Conqueror*



A small castle was built on the hill in Penwortham (meaning an enclosed settlement on a hill) overlooking the river crossing and the castle mound (the motte) can still be seen behind St Mary's church.

## The History of Priory



Roger gave land to the Benedictine Evesham Abbey and a small daughter cell was built at Penwortham, starting in 1075. This cell of the great Benedictine abbey of Evesham was established by agreement between the abbot and Warin Bussel, Baron of Penwortham.

*Evesham Abbey Bell Tower as it looks today*



*A Small Daughter Cell - Penwortham Priory*

## The History of Priory

The **Priory**, dedicated to St Mary, had no independence from Evesham but functioned until the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1535.

Bussel transferred to the abbey the whole township of Farington and part of Great Marton in Amounderness, the church of Penwortham with its tithes, and pensions from the church of Leyland and the chapel of (North) Meols. In return the abbey undertook to have Penwortham church served by three of its monks and a chaplain and to receive the profession of Bussel's son, Warin, should he desire to become a monk.

The abbot, who made the agreement, was called Robert in the Evesham Chartulary, and, as the only known abbot of that name within possible limits, ruled the house from 1086 to 1096.



The foundation of the **Priory** has usually been assigned to the reign of Rufus, but the fact that sons of Warin, who are described as children in the agreement, were alive after 1189 is inconsistent with so early a date. We must suppose either that a later abbot, Robert, is omitted from the list of heads of the house or, with much greater probability, that the copyist of the chartulary wrongly extended the initial of Reginald, who was abbot in the second quarter of the twelfth century.

The mention of Warin's children and other indications point to a date in the reign of Stephen and not much, if at all, earlier than 1140. Bussel's liberality to the distant abbey of Evesham might seem to be sufficiently explained by the fact that it already owned land in his neighbourhood, the village of Howick adjoining Penwortham, having been given to it by Count Roger the Poitevin; but there was a closer connexion: his wife held land in Evesham itself and probably belonged to a Worcestershire family.



## The History of Priory

Before his death, Bussel added further gifts. The whole, with the exception of the Marton estate, were confirmed between 1153 and 1160 by his eldest son Richard, who himself gave several parcels of land, the adyowsons of Leyland and North Meols, and a fourth share of his fishing rights in the Ribble.

Charters of confirmation were afterwards obtained by the abbey from Richard's younger brother and successor Albert, from his son Hugh, and from Pope Alexander III. In the fourteenth century Queen Isabella, mother of Edward III, who had a grant for life of the Penwortham area, and subsequently Henry, duke of Lancaster, confirmed the monks of Evesham in their Lancashire possessions.



*Queen Isabella*



*Henry, Duke of Lancaster*



## The History of Priory

The **Priory** never became an independent, or even quasi-independent, house. From first to last it remained a small cell or 'obedience' of the parent monastery, which left it no freedom of action. Its inmates were always monks of Evesham, and their head, though commonly called prior, was often given the more lowly title of 'custos.' The abbey appointed him without presentation to and institution by the bishop and could at any time recall him or his brethren at Penwortham and substitute others.

Legally the **Priory** had no separate property, though a part of the Lancashire estates might be appropriated to its maintenance, and occasionally a benefactor, in earmarking a portion of his gift for this purpose, seems at first sight to be treating the cell as a distinct legal person.

Throughout the sixteenth century, the **Priory** paid over to the abbey a fixed sum annually, amounting to more than half the gross income, and had to provide money to pay the fixed charges from the rest. How far back this arrangement went does not appear. The **Priory** granted leases and entered into agreements, but he did so as proctor for the abbey, and usually this was made clear in the deed, which he sealed with one of the Evesham seals, for the **Priory** had none of its own.

As often as not, the deed was drawn and signed at Evesham. The abbot and convent, not the **Priory**, exercised the patronage of the Leyland and North Meols livings. Down to 1331 they presented rectors to both, but in that year they obtained the appropriation of the rectory of Leyland to their own uses, subject to a suitable provision for a perpetual vicar. Penwortham church had been appropriated from the first without obligation to endow a vicarage, being served by monks of the **Priory** or by paid chaplains.



## The History of Priory

Owing to the humble status of the **Priory** its history is little more than a record of land conveyances. With but one or two exceptions, its priors are mere names to us. Nor do the others stand out from these shadows by reason of their virtues, unless we may credit Prior Wilcote with a good heart on the strength of his bequest towards the expense of feeding up the monks of the abbey after the periodical blood-letting. They were certainly treated very differently by Penwortham's best-known prior.

Residence in monastic cells was generally regarded as banishment and often used as a punishment for monks who had made the mother house too hot to hold them. To this practice Penwortham owed the dubious honour of the headship of Roger Norris, of whom his contemporary and opponent Thomas of Marlborough, has left a graphic portrait.

*A glutton, wine-bibber, and loose-liver, he was able, unscrupulous, courtly in manner, and his eloquence gave him a show of learning.*

Originally a monk of Christ Church, Canterbury, he betrayed his brethren in their quarrel with Archbishop Baldwin, and was imprisoned by them, but escaped through a sewer. Thrust into Evesham as abbot by Richard I he dissipated its revenues until the monks were reduced to a diet of bread and water, varied occasionally by bread and beer 'which differed little from water,' and for lack of decent clothing many of them could not appear in choir and chapter-house.

The learned Adam Sortes was so persecuted by him that in 1207 he retired to be prior of Penwortham.

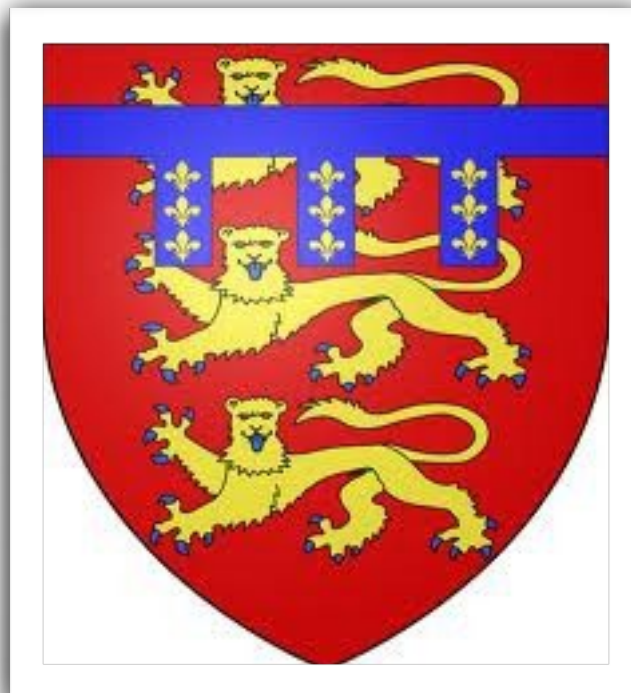
For many years Norris defied or evaded protests and visitations, but at last in 1213 the papal legate, Cardinal Nicholas of Tusculum, deposed him, 'whom,' adds Thomas of Marlborough, 'may God for ever destroy.'

Nevertheless the convent had no scruples in persuading the legate to make him prior of Penwortham. In five months his excesses obliged Nicholas to deprive him of this post too, but about five years later the legate Pandulf, out of pity and to prevent his becoming one of the vagabond monks condemned by St. Benedict, again invested him with the priorship.

## The History of Priory

He remained at Penwortham until his death in July, 1223, refusing to the end to be reconciled to the abbot and convent of Evesham and withholding certain revenues which belonged to them.

Between this date and the dissolution, the only outstanding events in the history of the **Priory** are an inquiry by Bishop Northburgh as to its status, a dispute with Queen Isabella's steward at Penwortham, who from 1340 to 1343 exacted from the **Priory** 'puture' or entertainment for himself and his train during the holding of the three weeks' court there, and the claim of the sheriff to similar hospitality. A local jury found that the queen's steward had no such right, and on 9 June, 1343, the royal commissioners of inquiry into the oppressions of officers awarded the abbot of Evesham damages. Seven years later (25 November, 1350) Henry, earl of Lancaster, abandoned his claim to puture for the sheriff and his servants.



*Henry Plantagenet, 3rd Earl of Lancaster*

## The History of Priory

The visitors in the reign of Henry VIII in 1535 accused Prior Hawkesbury, who had been appointed by Wolsey, of incontinence. The number of monks in the priory is not stated. Originally there had been three, but at the time of Northburgh's inquiry there were only two, including the prior.

The gross income of the **Priory** when valued for the tenth in 1535 was £114 16s. 10d. Its lands had a rental of a little over £30, the rectory of Penwortham was worth £36 11s. 10d. a year and that of Leyland £48 12s. 11d.

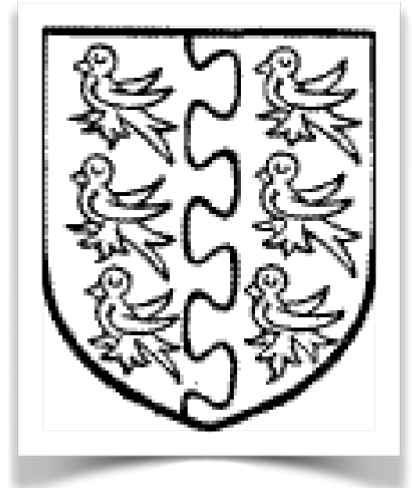
More than half this income, £63 1s. 10d., was paid over to Evesham, and with other fixed charges reduced the net annual revenue of the cell to £29 18s. 7d. The deductions included £3 6s. 8d. for the fee of the earl of Derby, who was seneschal of this as of some other Lancashire monasteries, and £3 each to the bailiffs of Penwortham and Leyland. Twenty shillings a year were given in alms to the Leper Hospital of Preston, and £7 13s. 4d. to the poor at Penwortham and Leyland, the latter by direction of the founder.





## The History of Priory

Between 1535 and 1539 the abbot and convent of Evesham must have withdrawn the monks, for on 20 February in the latter year they leased the priory or manor and rectory of Penwortham and the rectory of Leyland to John Fleetwood, gentleman, of London, for ninety-nine years at a rent of £99 5s. 3d. Fleetwood undertook to repair the chancels of the two churches and find an honest priest to serve Penwortham. Hawkesbury is mentioned in the deed as 'late fermour, custos or [prior] of Penwortham.'



*Fleetwood Family Coat of Arms*

Evesham Abbey being surrendered to the king nine months after its lease of the priory estates to Fleetwood, the lessee from November, 1539, paid his rent to the crown.

In January 1543, however, he bought the **Priory** and its lands and built a mansion which became known as **Penwortham Priory** and lived there from the dissolution until 1749, when it was sold to John Aspinall.



*Penwortham Priory*



The History of Priory



*Penwortham Priory*



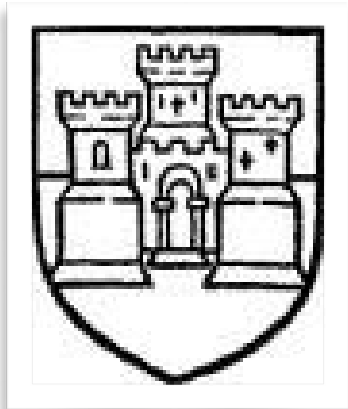
*Penwortham Priory, Preston*



The History of Priory



## The History of Priory



The Rawstorne family then lived at **Penwortham Priory** from 1783 until it was demolished in 1925, employing architect, George Webster, to redesign the **Priory** in the mid-19th century to a Jacobean style. Rawstorne Road can still be found in Penwortham today.

*Rawstorne Family Coat of Arms*

The Lodge was taken down in 1912 and rebuilt in Tolsey Drive, Hutton, where it can still be seen to this day.



**Penwortham Priory** itself became a victim of the 1920s expansion of Penwortham when it was demolished to make way for housing. As part of this development, in 1953, our school, **Priory**, so called because of our local history, was built to serve the children and families of our local community.

It is likely that the very first school coat of arms reflected this history by incorporating in its design symbols that reflected the previous owners of **Penwortham Priory**.

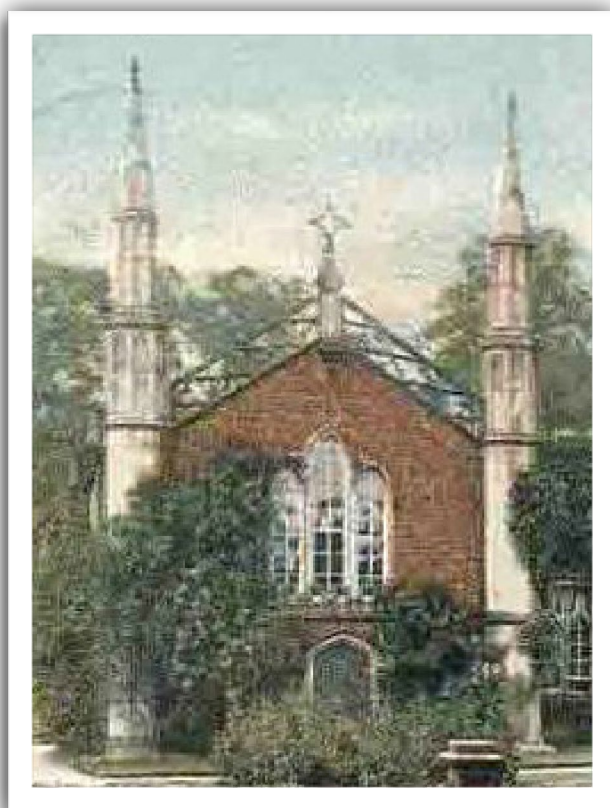
## The History of Priory



The black lion or panther head from the original **Priory** lodge and still visible on the Lodge today.

The castle representing the Rawstorne family coat of arms.

The martlet, a bird like a swallow, representing the Fleetwood family coat of arms.





## The History of Priory

Even the school badge, updated in 1977, owes its design to that of the original **Priory**.

The original **Priory** is clearly the main focal point of the badge.

However, it also incorporates Penwortham Bridge over the River Ribble. The original small castle built on the hill overlooking the river.

As well as the River itself.



This new school badge, designed by Mrs. Blundell, art teacher at that time, was introduced to mark the transition of the school from a secondary modern, as it had been from its opening in 1953, to a reorganised comprehensive school from 1977. It was this reorganisation that prompted work to start on the building of the science labs but also the Sports Hall and Squash courts as part of a dual use agreement between the school and the local borough council. Later, this agreement saw the building of the swimming pool and the astro turf facilities.

The year 2000 saw the start of the next big change at **Priory**. We were awarded Specialist Technology College status, and in recognition of this, we became **Priory Technology College**. Two purpose built, innovative ICT rooms were developed to integrate the new media age in school.



## The History of Priory

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.

**Priory**, now with an established reputation of a school that is both forward thinking and innovative in its approach to education, gained further credit in 2005 becoming the first school in Lancashire to gain a second specialism in Sport. In recognition of this, we changed our name to **Priory Sports and Technology College** in order to reflect our dual specialist status.



From this development came the linking of the Sports Hall to a new P.E. and School Sport Independent Study Centre, to allow students, as part of their lessons, to make the connection between the practical and theoretical aspects of sport more easily.

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



## The History of Priory

Running alongside these wonderful new facilities came the development of the Maths and English classrooms. All were enlarged, re-equipped and completely changed to produce modern, bright and creative learning spaces incorporating all the latest relevant technologies.



Additionally, the dining room had a complete overhaul at this time to improve the eating experience for all our students and staff.

2010 then saw a complete change to the resource centre area with the creation of our Accessible Resource Centre - the 'ARC'. With new, redesigned rooms and corridors, the ARC fulfilled our vision to have an information, advice and guidance area in school that was accessible to all our students as and when they needed it, but particularly in supporting them through the difficult choice processes for their post 16 learning journey.





## The History of Priory



2010 also saw the completion of the new tennis courts as part of the renegotiated dual use 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 for 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.



## **The History of Priory**

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 saw 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.

In spite of all these more recent developments, and our plans for the future, we remain proud of where we have come from.

Our very first Headmaster of the school, Mr. R.E. Summers, remained head for 25 years, from 1952, just before the school officially opened, until his retirement on December 22nd, 1977.

Mr. A. Pearce then served as Head from January 3rd, 1978, until his retirement on August 31st, 1989.

Mr. R. Stringer, Deputy Headteacher, spent a short time as acting Headmaster from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1989 until December 31st 1989.

2 original school logbooks, dating from the schools opening in 1953 until this date in 1989, detailing the school's day to day ongoings, are still in existence today in the school's archives and can be viewed on request.

Mr. P. Young then took up post as Head from the 1st January 1990 until his retirement on 31st August 2006.

Mr. J. Hourigan was then appointed from 1st September 2006 retiring on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

## The History of Priory

Mr Eastham was appointed as the Principal of the school from September 2014.

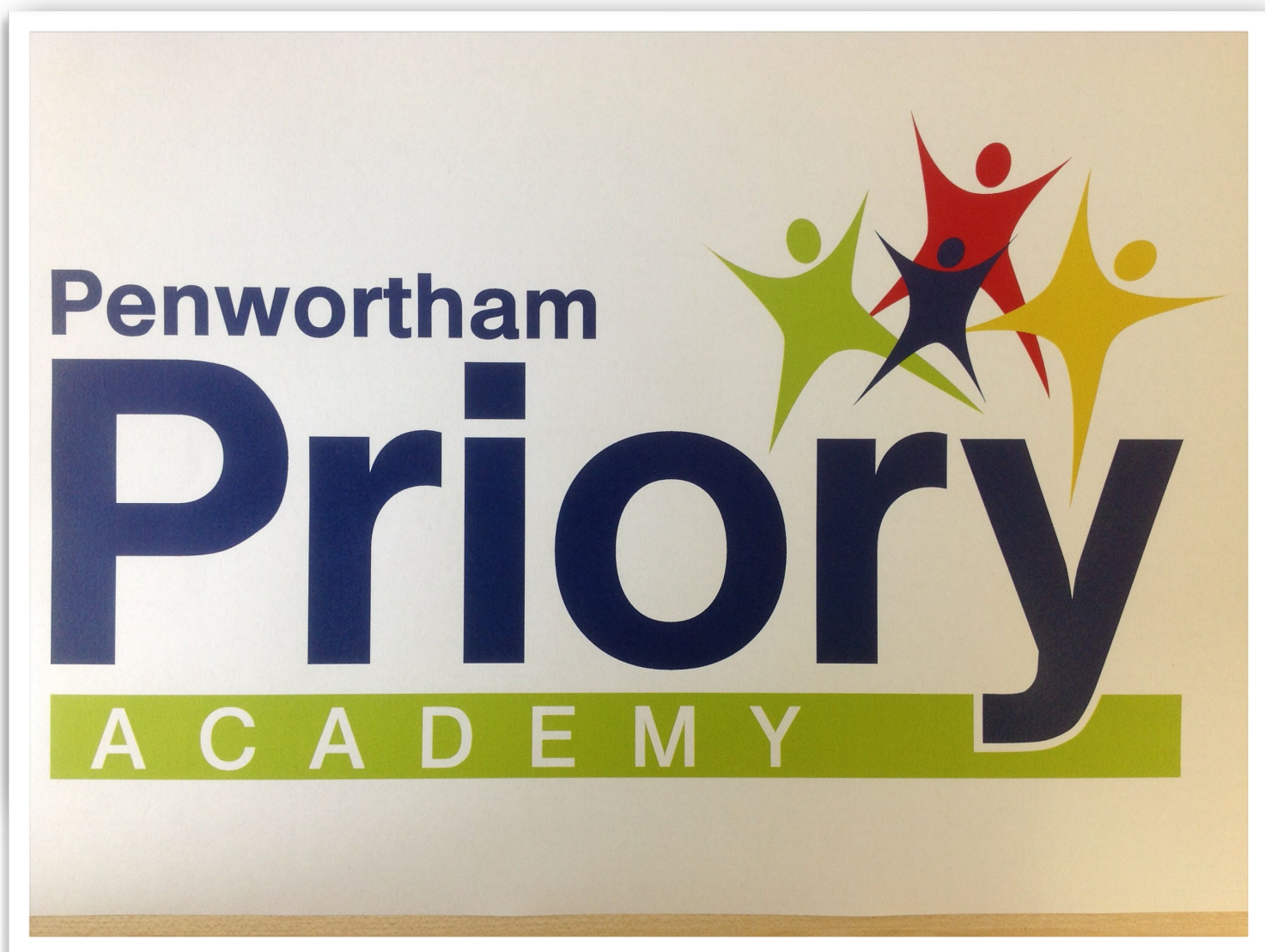
We are ever grateful to all the staff, pupils, members of the local community and parents who have influenced our development over the years since 1953. We believe passionately that these components are vital in contributing to making our school outstanding, and as such, were proud to have all of them incorporated into our **Priory** logo in 2011.



*The New Priory Logo 2011*

## The History of Priory

They remain prominent as a focal point in our new logo of 2012, introduced to reflect our new Academy status.



Although the Headmasters, the staff, the students, the coat of arms, the badges, the buildings and the logos of the school may change and evolve over time, it is the name **Priory** that will always reflect our long and established history.

Life doesn't stand still and neither does Priory!