

Welcome to our monthly Learning Newsletter where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child in their education, in order to benefit your child and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

## What do people mean by 'personal development' in schools?



1. It means that the school's curriculum extends beyond the academic, technical or vocational. It provides for learners' broader development, enabling them to develop and discover their interests and talents
2. It means that the school's curriculum and the school's wider work support learners to develop their character – including their resilience, confidence and independence – and help them know how to keep physically and mentally healthy
3. It means that at each stage of education, the school prepares learners for future success in their next steps
4. It means that the school prepares learners for life in modern Britain by:
  - equipping them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens who contribute positively to society
  - developing their understanding of fundamental British values and appreciation of diversity
  - celebrating what we have in common and promoting respect for the different protected characteristics as defined in law.

## At Priory we provide lots of opportunities for personal development:

### Learning for Life each afternoon / Everybody Reading



Pupils have a 20 minute Learning for Life lesson at the end of each day where they are taught about themes such as healthy relationships, kindness, respect, resilience, organisation and events such as the British Nutrition Foundations' healthy eating week.

We also run our Everybody Reading scheme on these afternoons and pupils are introduced to non-fiction texts that build cultural capital and add breadth to the curriculum.

### Learning for Life Days

On 5 days a year, pupils are provided with challenging topics and meaningful learning experiences which can be applied to their own lives in a timely and age appropriate way. Here are just a handful of the topics covered:

- Positive mental health development
- Financial awareness
- First aid
- Fundamental British values
- Substance abuse and the law
- Sexual health
- Employability skills
- Revision skills



## Assemblies

*In the formal assembly space once a week.*

The start of each half term is led by the Head of Year and focuses on expectations and standards for the forthcoming weeks. The final assembly of every half term is a celebration event to reward pupils for their efforts in the last few weeks. In between these there is a set programme of assemblies for Years 7 to 10 focusing on National Awareness Days, charities, and other Learning for Life themes, exams, college applications and well-being. Guest speakers and colleges are often invited in too.

## Visiting speakers, workshops and performances

The school also provides regular additional activities, workshops and lectures from visiting performance groups and speakers to support their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development and understanding of the Fundamental British Values.



In recent months we have invited in, County Lines, Street Wise, Wasted Lives, Squad Goals, Lancashire Mind, The National Citizenship Service, The Royal British Legion, Fair Trade, and many more.

## Trips and visits/volunteering

In addition to the diverse and rich opportunities offered through lessons, we value opportunities to take pupils out on trips and visits of value.

### Field Trip!



These have included but are not limited to: The Great British Clean Up every year; The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, working with the local Army Cadets, The Big Bang Fair, Geography field trips, cultural trips abroad.

Volunteering opportunities in the community are advertised to pupils and attendance usually requires adult supervision: Our pupils volunteer at The Venue Penwortham, Bamber Bridge Football Club, for Galloway's support for the blind and The Hurst Grange Park Trust to name a few. Pupils can also volunteer to help out at school events such as the annual Open Evening.

## Workshops and larger events

Heads of departments organise subject specific opportunities for personal development through inclusion in workshops such as the Anne Frank exhibition, 3D printing workshops, working with visiting artists and musicians, and working with PE specialists on sports that aren't delivered in school.

Pupils are also invited to get involved with large events such as the drama productions, summer school and arts evenings.

## Work experience and college visits

Year 10 pupils have the opportunity to plan their next life goals by visiting local colleges and attending work experience placements.



## Competitions and extra curricular clubs

All departments run clubs and competitions for the pupils to engage with and pupils have the opportunity to suggest things they'd like to do as well.

Just some of the things on offer are:

- Homework club
- PE clubs and teams
- Film club
- Debate club leading to national debate competitions
- Equality and diversity club
- Creative cookery club
- Astronomy club - this can lead to a GCSE
- Gardening

Read more about >>

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/what-s-on](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/what-s-on)

## Read more about Priory's personal development offer on our website at:

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/learning-for-life](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/learning-for-life)

Click on the pale blue tabs at the top of the page to read more detail about specific aspects.

If there's anything a child would like to do that they don't feel is covered by school at present, please do ask them to see Mrs Hopes with their suggestion.

