2 November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

ODYSSEY ACADEMY TRUST – A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

Over the past year, I have written to you at various stages to keep you updated on our plans for Penwortham Priory Academy to work in partnership with Lostock Hall Academy and Penwortham Primary School through the formation of our new Multi Academy Trust.

In my most recent update, I confirmed that our new Trust would be known as Odyssey Academy Trust and that, following the completion of the necessary formal processes, it would formally commence on 1 November 2026.

I am therefore delighted to now confirm that, as of today, 1 November 2026, Odyssey Academy Trust is officially established, and Penwortham Priory Academy is now formally a partner within the Trust alongside Lostock Hall Academy and Penwortham Primary School.

It is an important moment for all three schools and, for Priory, represents the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

As I have said throughout this process, however, Priory remains Priory. Our name, identity, values and commitment to our pupils and community remain at the heart of who we are. What changes is that we now have the opportunity to build upon those strengths as part of something wider, working alongside two partner schools with whom we already share strong relationships and a common ambition for the children and young people we serve. This reflects the approach set out in my previous update, where I explained that each school would retain its own identity and character while working more closely together through the Trust.

For our pupils and families, I would not expect 1 November suddenly to feel dramatically different. Indeed, that has never been the intention. The development of Odyssey has been about creating a strong foundation for the future rather than changing those things that already work well within our schools.

Over time, however, being part of the Trust will create increasing opportunities for our schools to share expertise, learn from one another, develop our staff and work collaboratively to provide the very best education and opportunities for all of our pupils. That principle of collaboration has been central to the vision for Odyssey from the outset.

There is something particularly fitting about the name Odyssey as we reach this point. When I first shared the name with you, I explained that an odyssey represents a journey of growth, discovery, challenge and achievement. I also said that becoming a Trust was not the end point of our schools' journey together, but the beginning of its next stage.

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Today, that next stage begins.

I would like to thank our parents/carers, staff, pupils, governors and wider school community for the support and confidence you have shown throughout this process. There has been a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to reach this point, but throughout it all our focus has remained very simple: ensuring that this development strengthens our schools and creates even greater opportunities for the young people and communities we serve.

We are immensely proud of Priory and everything our school stands for. We now look forward to continuing that journey as part of Odyssey Academy Trust, working together with our partner schools with ambition, purpose and a shared commitment to an exciting future.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Eastham
Chief Executive Officer
Odyssey Academy Trust

Principal
Penwortham Priory Academy