

5 September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Important Curriculum Update for Year 11 – Change from GCSE PE to NCFE Health & Fitness**

I am writing to inform you of an important change to your child's curriculum in Year 11.

After a thorough review of student performance data and curriculum outcomes, we have made the decision to transition pupils currently studying GCSE Physical Education to the **NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health & Fitness**.

This decision has been made with your child's best interests at heart. Our analysis of practical grades, exam performance, and results from the past three years - particularly this summer - clearly shows that students in similar cohorts have achieved significantly higher outcomes on the NCFE course. We are confident that this change will place your child in a stronger position when applying for college or post-16 training.

#### **Why the NCFE Health & Fitness course?**

- **Higher Achievement Potential** – Based on our data, students are more likely to achieve higher grades on this course.
- **Relevant, Real-World Skills** – The course focuses on health, fitness, and wellbeing in everyday life, equipping students with knowledge that extends beyond the classroom.
- **Balanced Assessment** – With a mix of internal coursework and external exams, students can demonstrate their strengths in a variety of ways.
- **Seamless Transition** – Both GCSE PE and NCFE Health & Fitness share similar theoretical content. As students have already covered the same material in Year 10, the switch will be smooth and uninterrupted.
- **Recognised by Colleges** – The NCFE qualification is accepted by colleges in the same way as GCSE PE and provides clear progression routes into further education, apprenticeships, and careers in sport, fitness, and health-related industries.

We understand that this change may be disappointing for a small number of pupils who were particularly passionate about GCSE PE. If your child still wishes to pursue GCSE PE, please ask them to speak with me directly, as we may be able to offer it as an additional subject alongside the NCFE course.

PTO



**Penwortham Priory Academy** Crow Hills Road Penwortham Preston PR1 0JE

**Phone:** 01772 320250

**Email:** [enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

**Visit:** [priory.lancs.sch.uk](http://priory.lancs.sch.uk)

2.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me at school or via email at [m.bullock@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:m.bullock@priory.lancs.sch.uk).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Bullock".

**Mr M Bullock**  
**Curriculum Leader for PE**