

# Spring 2023



*Learn to Succeed*



# An introduction from the Principal...

Dear all,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Penwortham Priory Academy 'Priory Post'.

As ever, this edition brings together in one place, all the key stories from this term as they appeared in our weekly newsletters, highlighting the wide-ranging opportunities and activities all our pupils have to contribute to our daily mission:

*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.*

Here at Priory, we pride ourselves on having a school where, first and foremost, pupils feel safe and happy. *Their pastoral care.*

When we have pupils, who feel safe and happy in school, we can focus on providing each with a varied and rich curriculum for them to gain good individual results as a stepping-stone into their futures. *Their academic care.*

Whilst all the time, gaining opportunities, from reliable adults, on how to become good citizens of the future. *Their 'Learning for Life'.*

In other words, a school where the attention we give to the pastoral care of our pupils is just as important as the attention we give to their academic progress and to the development of those skills we know our pupils are going to need to be successful in their lives beyond Priory – their 'Learning for Life'.

This edition then, once again highlights the wide-ranging learning activities that our pupils have been undertaking, to maximise their chances to achieve, not only in the time they are with us here in school, but in their life beyond Priory too.

A big thank you then to all the staff, pupils, parents and members of our local community for their dedication, commitment and hard work in ensuring that all our pupils leave Priory with not only excellent results, but with these rich and meaningful experiences that are guaranteed to help them in what are sure to be their exciting and bright futures.

We hope you enjoy reading our key stories from this term at Priory, a great school where every pupil *'Learns to Succeed'.*



Mr Matt Eastham, Principal  
Penwortham Priory Academy



# Year 9 Pupils Put Languages To Work

In December we hosted a careers event for Year 9 pupils to 'Make Languages Work'.

Head of Languages, Mrs Scully, explained "*The objective of the event was to expose pupils to the range of different careers for which a language would be useful.*"



Pupils took part in three very diverse taster sessions using different languages: Chinese with the Confucius Institute at UCLan, a 'hands on' session with British Sign Language, and a presentation from Médecins Sans Frontières.

In addition to the presentations, pupils took part in career speed-dating. The hall was filled with tables and the Year 9 pupils moved around to engage with each of the visiting organisations. We were also fortunate to have Daniela Flint, a senior lecturer in German from UCLan, launch the sessions with a talk about the different language pathways available at the university.

Sarah from **Sarah Cutts Translation**, who specialises in Spanish and French to English translation of legal, academic and commercial documents, replied by saying:

*"It was a privilege to be invited to Penwortham Priory Academy to take part in a "Making Languages Work" day with the Year 9 students exploring the different careers available with languages.*

*"Hopefully they were inspired and thank you very much for having me!"*



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## Year 9 Pupils Put Languages To Work

There were many careers and languages represented at the well-received event.

- TESOL from UCLAN (teaching English as a second language)
- Sarah Cutts, legal translator
- Arabic with Nadja L'Bakkari
- World Wise Languages, Sofia Anysiadou, UCLAN
- NHS translator, Lucy Booth
- Memoirs of a year Spain, Sarah Eastham
- The food and wine from France - Mr and Mrs Taylor
- Life as a lead languages teacher in a primary school - Rebecca Benson, Broad Oak Primary School
- Video producer and director, Lee Deaville
- Restaurateur, Irène Monteleone, from Pane e Vino

A huge thank you to all our guests who made this a very successful event for our pupils.



**The Worldwide Centre said:**

*"We had an amazing day attending the 'Languages at Work' event. Our amazing UCLan TESOL and Modern Languages students shared their experience and career plans with 180 Year 9 students. What a day! Thank you for the invitation!"*



Photo credit:

Thank you to keen photographer Ameer A-H, Year 11, who kindly stepped in to take these images.

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# Mary Poppins - And that's a wrap!

***"What an amazing show!", "Loved every minute of it!" and "Such talented young people!"*** were just some of the words used by those who came to watch the school's production.



After months of rehearsals, Mary Poppins finally made it to the stage last Tuesday and Wednesday as our doors opened to pupils, parents, extended family, staff and members of the public. A matinee performance was also specially arranged as a treat for some of our feeder primary school pupils, with great feedback.

The school production is an annual tradition at Priory and a lot of hard work and dedication goes into making them a success. Thirty-five pupils took part – either on stage or backstage – with Drama teacher, Miss Howell, leading the talented bunch.

Lines, dance routines and songs had to be learned, props made and lighting perfected - all of which delivered a superb performance - but it was difficult to say who stole the show as there were so many stars!

Lead Teacher for Drama, Miss Howell, added: "At Priory we really value the Arts and the difference these can make to our pupils' lives. These productions are an integral part of our pupils' development both academically and personally too. A student once said to me *"No one understands that this is the only place I feel I belong"*. So many young people struggle to find where they fit into but these productions bring everyone together regardless. It is a place they feel safe.

"For some of our pupils it will be their last production and as much as this is sad, they have gained so many precious memories from this that will last them a lifetime.

"Thank you to all our stagehands, designers and our technical team. They have a vital role to play to create such visuals and again are such talented pupils of ours. I am so proud of everyone who was involved and the talent of our pupils amazes me every year."

Well done to everyone involved for providing us with the most perfect evening entertainment; from cast and crew to the teachers - Mr Taylor and Miss Howell, for taking charge.

The ensemble will meet at Salvatores for their end of show 'wrap' meal on 12 January.



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# Priory In The Community

## Penwortham Christmas Markets

It was fantastic to be out in the community at Wednesday night's Penwortham Christmas Markets. It was a chilly evening for Mrs Cowell, Mrs Massey and Mrs Bullock who braved the sub-zero temperatures under Priory's new gazebo. A massive thank you to the Technology Department's staff and pupils who produced some amazing hand-crafted decorations which sold like hot cakes.



PENWORTHAM  
TOWN COUNCIL



Vice Principal, Mrs Cowell said, *"The markets were heaving and our home-made Christmas decorations were a hit. It was lovely to see lots of ex-staff stop and chat, and also lots of pupils and parents having a lovely time."*



## Dinner is served!

Christmas dinner was served on Wednesday and, as tradition dictates at Priory, the senior leaders donned their aprons to serve the roast turkey dinner with all trimmings to a stream of hungry pupils.

Coinciding with our Christmas Jumper Day, the festive atmosphere in the dining room was heightened along with the free Christmas crackers handed out by the catering staff.

Thank you to the catering team for putting on such a delicious feast.



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# When The Universe Came To Priory



**It is thanks to one of our Year 10 astronomy pupils that we discovered the universe could come to Priory.**

After sending Astronomy Club teacher and Science Technician, Mr Evans, details about the touring planetarium, Lancaster University's inflatable dome was booked to come to Priory. In addition, the Science department leaders also decided to extend the visit and open it up to keen Year 7 and 8 pupils who put their name forward to experience the concept.

The LUniverse mobile planetarium, is an exciting educational resource that uses state-of-the-art equipment to present an immersive journey through astrophysics and space. Pupils are taken on a tour of the night sky, view other planets and galaxies up close, visit astronomical telescopes around the globe, land on the surface of other worlds, or view a solar eclipse.

Mr Evans said, "I originally booked them for just my after school Year 10 astronomy group but Mr Bedford and Miss Nouraghaei thought it would be a good opportunity to inspire more students."

Explaining what it is all about, Mr Evans went on to say, "It's an inflatable planetarium that you can stand inside and images are projected onto its ceiling. Staff and students from the university also do a 30-minute talk about the celestial objects that are shown in the planetarium."

"I really enjoyed learning about different planets, and that they also included Pluto and the dwarf planets" said Sam D, Year 8.

"It was a good experience and I liked the feeling of travelling around space" said Cameron B, Year 8.

Mr Evans  
Science Technician and  
Astronomy Teacher



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# Priory In The Community

## Priory's Singers Bring Festive Cheer to Penwortham



Tuesday this week saw Priory singers spread some Christmas cheer to residents at Longton Rest Home and Booth's Supermarket in Penwortham.

It is important to recognise that at this time of year, there are a number of people who may not be able to enjoy Christmas as others can. A group 30-strong dressed in Christmas outfits and journeyed to perform for members of the community who may not otherwise be able to access Creative Arts events by coming into Priory.

The pupils were a credit to the school and received a number of positive comments from both the residents and the passing shoppers.



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# Priory's ambassador to the Anne Frank Trust continues her impressive work at launch event

Year 10 Jessica was invited to be the guest speaker at the Anne Frank Trust's Cumbrian launch event last Thursday, 8 December.

Alongside a local rabbi and Holocaust survivor Dr Martin Stern, Jessica stood in front of a over a hundred invited guests to speak about the importance of the Trust's work. Jessica went on to talk about how she has ambitions to work with local primary school children in the Penwortham area about the dangers of racism and anti-Semitism.

History teachers, Mr Eccles and Miss Makinson, attended the event in Millom to support Jessica and were so proud of, not just her speech, but her continued efforts.

Well done Jessica.

Mr Eccles  
Lead Teacher of History



## Winter Water Safety

**Stay safe in winter – the dangers of frozen waters**

Areas with frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can be beautiful places to visit during the winter months but all too often many people risk their lives by venturing onto frozen water.

Children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Following the tragic news of the children losing their lives after falling through ice on a lake, we are sharing a link for a winter safety information and activity booklet. Please use it to help start conversations with children about water safety in winter.



[www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety](http://www.rlss.org.uk/winter-water-safety)

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It's been a busy term for the ICT & Computer Science department with three exciting enrichment events for our pupils. From a **CyberFirst Empower** event promoting STEM Careers for Year 8 girls to **STEM career talks** for Year 9s. This week we highlight a **3D Design workshop** for our Year 10s at Runshaw College.



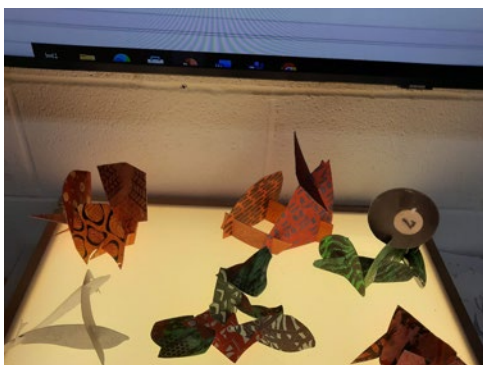
At the start of November, Head of Department Mrs Qadri, invited her Year 10 Computer Science pupils to attend a 3D Design: 'Design to Make' workshop at Runshaw College.

This event meant that pupils could put into practice the skills they have learnt in their GCSE Computer Science lessons and take them to a higher level.

Using creative inspirational concepts and source, pupils were guided through a mini design cycle, using drawing, analysis and material exploration to create their very own designs for what will end as a final finished outcome.



Mrs Qadri added, *"The pupils had a great time at Runshaw College and the event helped them to think about the different courses that they could pick when applying for college. They had a chance to look around the workshops and see examples of work students at the college had created. We even met a few of our ex-pupils whilst we were there!"*



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It was a busy half term for the ICT & Computer Science department with three exciting enrichment events for our pupils. From a **CyberFirst Empower** event promoting STEM Careers for Year 8 girls to a **3D Design workshop** for our Year 10s at Runshaw College. This week we highlight a **STEM career talk** for Year 9s.



Before the Christmas break, Year 9 girls attended an engaging and interactive workshop which focussed on careers in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Previously the girls had been involved in a 3D printing event at the end of Year 8 and we aimed to build upon that and introduce them to two women who have successful careers in the sector.

Head of ICT, Mrs Qadri, said, *"By introducing girls to STEM careers in Year 8 and 9, this will hopefully inspire them to start thinking about which options to choose for GCSE and the different careers opportunities they can lead to."*

The session was led by Jenny Allton-Twist who is a Software Engineer at Brandwatch.com (a social listening company) and also Colette Weston who is Head of Scoping at PenTestPartners who test security on different devices and organisations.

The girls had to complete various group activities involving skills such as Organisation, Creative Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, Timekeeping, Problem Solving, Leadership and Negotiation.

Pupils looked into the many and varied careers including 3D Printing Technician, Cyber Security Programmer, Computer Games Tester, Robotics Engineer, Social Media Manager, Data Scientist, Vlogger, Web Designer, Digital Librarian, Computer Programmer and Forensic Computer Analyst. They also learnt that many of them would be doing jobs in the future that currently don't exist as technology advances at a very fast pace.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

The girls took part in a quiz where they discovered that...

- Only 14% of ICT professionals are female
- 1.5 million more ICT professionals will be needed in the UK by 2026
- 90% of the world's data was created in the last 2 years
- 65% of school aged children will be doing a job that doesn't yet exist



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# Year 7 Speak Out At Competition



Last half term, all of Year 7 worked hard to write and deliver a speech on a topic that's important to them. These speeches were then delivered to their class peers where the best were chosen to compete in the grand final on the 14th December 2022.



Assistant Leader of English, Mrs Robinson-Ali, said, "Every single pupil performed to the best of their ability in the semi-finals in class. It was a very tricky to judge who would go through to the finals!"

Throughout the process, all pupils demonstrated incredible confidence and resilience. Some were genuinely daunted but overcame their nerves and presented engaging speeches. It was great not just to see the relief, but also the pride the pupils clearly felt in themselves and their achievement.

**Our winner was Oliver C who talked passionately about Rockets. 1st runner up was Jacob R and 2nd runner up was Noah J who spoke about the World Cup.**

The finals took place in the Auditorio, which was fantastic after hosting the competition online over the last two years. Because all of the students were there together there was a lively atmosphere and it was a pleasure to see and hear the other Year 7 pupils cheer on and encourage their peers.

The competition was extremely close, as the judges began their deliberations, with some very intense discussions going on before deciding a winner.

For their triumph, Mr Taylor and Mrs Robinson-Ali presented the three winners with their certificates, vouchers and chocolate goodies - winner Oliver also took away the glamorous trophy!

Mrs Robinson-Ali, said, *"I have two Year 7 classes and I was bursting with pride as the contestants stood up to perform their speeches. I was blown away by how supportive and encouraging the other Year 7 pupils were and was swept along by the buzz that the Christmas speech competition always creates. It was difficult to choose a winner, but in the end we all agreed that Oliver's speech was passionate, engaging and included lots of rhetorical devices. The staff and students did an incredible job! I can't wait for next year!"*

**Well done to all our finalists:**  
Megan B, Oliver C, Tancho T, Jazmn K, Naeem K, Esa B, Noah J, Jacob R, Zara W and Lucy H.



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# Priory In The Community

## Christmas Collections For Kindness



Each December, we launch our collections to support key communities in our local area. We understand that it's a tough time for many families at the moment and so we were amazed by the response to our campaign.

We asked for collections for the homeless, for Penwortham Food Bank, and decorated shoe boxes for disadvantaged children in our community. The Learning Centre was jam-packed with your kind donations!

On the last day of term, Mrs Hopes, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, filled up her car to journey off to the three drop-off points and paused for a photo at the Salvation Army.



Mrs Hopes said,

*"Given the economic climate in the run up to Christmas, I was delighted to see the total of donations brought into school. This was yet another example of how Priory pupils care about others, are kind and want to make other people's lives better. All organisations who received items were very grateful for our donations and would be making good use of them over the Christmas period."*



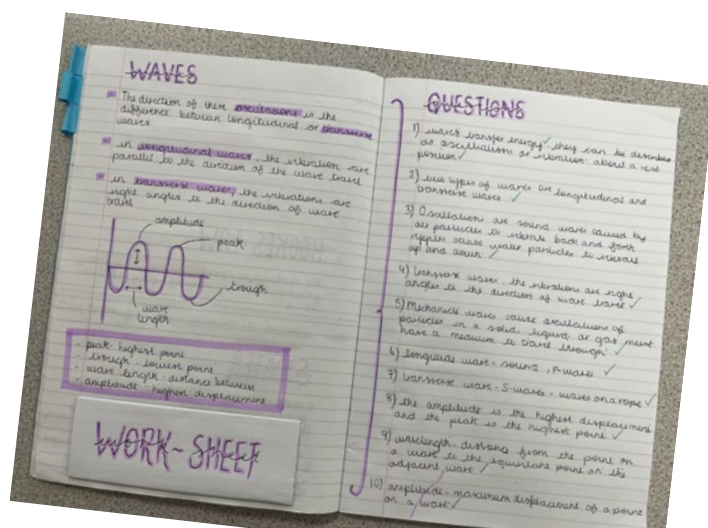
## Work Of The Week

### Amelia S (Year 11)

This week's work of the week is from Amelia (Year 11).

This is Amelia's first lesson on Waves. As you can see she's included highlighted boxes for key information, she has completed the task set and has marked this using green pen.

Miss Nouraghaei  
Assistant Head of Science



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# Mrs Gidden's Cool Readers Club

## Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

## Introducing, Rhea...

**Talented Rhea enjoys reading but also has a love of textiles.**

The Year 9 pupil has just started 'Holes' by Louis Sachar which was made into a Walt Disney film in 2003.



It's about a boy who was sent to a correctional boot camp in a desert after being falsely accused of theft and explores issues of racism, homelessness, illiteracy and arranged marriage.

"I am interested to read this," said Rhea. "I generally like books on love and fantasy."

"My favourite authors are Colleen Hoover, whose books are love stories with some danger, and David Walliams as his books are just funny."

"My favourite subjects in school are history and maths, I enjoy them both."

On Saturdays, Rhea attends a Fashion and Illustration course at UCLAN. "At the moment we have to design a dress using a famous artist and put your own twist on it."

"I chose Vincent van Gogh and his painting 'Starry Nights'. It's something I enjoy but I am not sure how far I want to take it."

**Rhea's English Teacher, Miss Nicholls added,** "Rhea has always been an enthusiastic reader (now turned librarian!) and has filled in at least three reading logs, front and back!

Her Accelerated Reader word count is well into the thousands and continues to grow. Rhea is always on the hunt for a new books and when she isn't doing that, she's making sure that the library is spic and span!"

Mrs Gidden  
Head of English

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# Year 7 & 8 Pupils Are Leading The Way



Priory's Lead Learners are taking their roles seriously under the watchful eye of Assistant Head of Maths, Mr Henshaw.

Teachers nominated Lead Learners from Years 7 and 8 not necessarily for their academic achievements but primarily for their resilience, behaviour and helpfulness.

Mr Henshaw said: "The job of the Lead Learners is ultimately to try and promote good classroom behaviour and we identified which pupils embody this by getting teachers to nominate pupils.

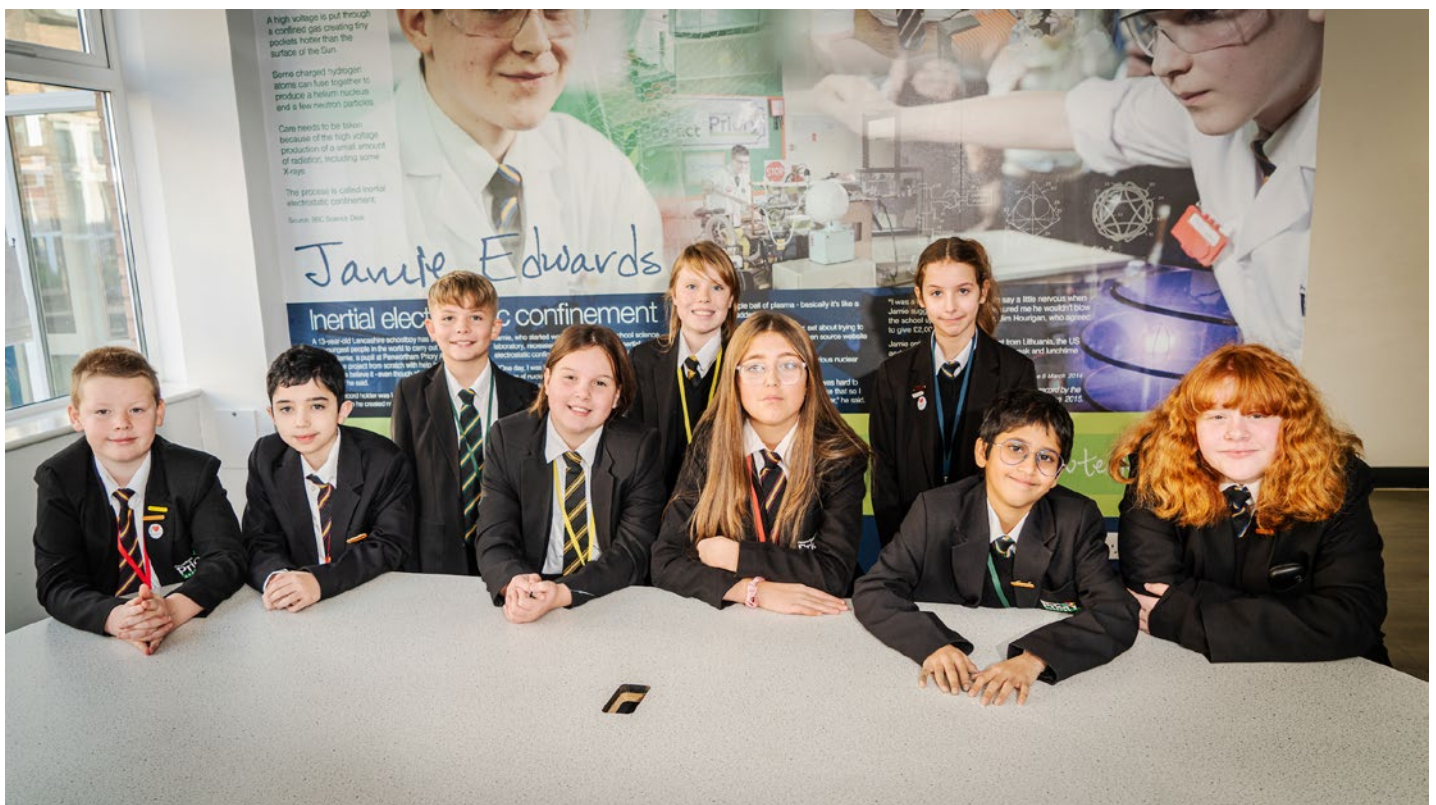
"They aren't always the brainiest pupils but are the ones who are resilient, who never give up and who are role models in terms of their behaviour which other pupils can aspire to.

***"Their purpose is to promote a sense of belonging within school; celebrate a wider range of abilities rather than just high attainers and to give pupils someone to emulate in terms of behaviour, attendance and resilience."***

"We want to celebrate their behaviour so they have a badge and we will have a get together where they will receive donuts!"

**The job description of a Lead Learner is:** will turn up to lesson on time and ready to learn; may wish to have additional classroom responsibilities; will model resilience and other qualities of great behaviour for learning; will not always be a high attainer in every subject but will always be willing to try; and will be a great ambassador and custodian of the badge.

*Continued next page...*



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Continued from overleaf



## Year 7 & 8 Pupils Are Leading The Way

### Here's what we said:

**Year 7 Esa** was described as: 'Engages in every lesson, has a great personality and wants to do well.' He said: "I am proud to be a Lead Learner, it's been explained what I have to do and I am happy."

**Year 7 Thomas** was described as: 'Hardworking, willing to help and supportive of other pupils.' Thomas said: "I am always willing to help, I will offer a helping hand when needed with giving out books or with school work."

**Year 7 Jacob** is described as 'very hard working and resilient.'

"I have read two million words on Accelerated Reader and I also like maths and recently got 20 out of 20 on a test. I hope I am a good role model."

**Year 8 Callum** has a 'positive approach to every lesson.' He said: "I like to help out."

**Year 8 Kiera** 'likes to get involved with class discussions and is a role model.' She said: "I do have strong opinions and I do like to speak out if I feel strongly about it. I was surprised when I was told I was a Lead Learner but happy as well."

**Year 7:** Alex H, David F, Esa B, Isabel B-S, Jacob R, Jessica J, Phoebe G, Sophie P, Thomas E, Lily E.

**Year 8:** Callum G-V, Charlie W, Ellis T, Harry B, Kacper Z, Keira H, Taejuan S, Toby H, Alex G.



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# Sparx Fly in the Maths Department

**SPARX MATHS**

**Priory pupils are combining their love of maths and their competitive spirit in a new online maths programme called Sparx, which Mr Kenrick has introduced into the school.**

Head of Maths, Mr Kenrick explained: "It's a website which sets bespoke homework for each child and it sets additional homework where they can move up levels. There is a rewards system where pupils get a badge and it encourages them to climb the levels.

"Our pupils use it and then, after about six weeks, it sets an algorithm for each pupil as it gets to know what stage they are at.

"Pupils are working really hard on it and, if they can't solve a problem, they can get additional video help through Teams or through the Sparx Maths Club.

"We have noticed that it motivates pupils to complete levels. It's a national programme so there is a national leaderboard as well. We also have a Sparx Homework Club every Monday and Thursday after school."



Year 8 pupil Skye said: "You have compulsory homework based on the topics you are studying, which for me is line graphs at the moment. Then you can do extra, which is called XP Boost and that's when you get points and can climb levels.

"It boosts your confidence and encourages independent learning. I have 26,000 points at the moment which is Level 2 and I want to get to 30,000, Level 3, where I get another badge and certificate – this is all extra work. I like the challenge of it."

Jane said: "I am nearly at Level 2 and I like it because it is independent learning. If you are stuck, you can watch a video straight away and it can help you understand it. I spend quite a long time on it at home as I enjoy it."

Mr Kenrick  
Head of Maths

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# A Rewarding Time for the Mary Poppins Cast and Crew

Members of the Mary Poppins cast visited Salvatore's Italian restaurant on Thursday evening as a reward for their involvement and commitment to Priory's production.



A turn out of 30 pupils, who were part of both the cast and backstage crew, joined several teaching staff to enjoy a pleasant evening to cap the many, many weeks of hard work in rehearsals and performances.

The ensemble put on a total of three performances and fully deserved an evening of delicious food and lots of laughs. The food went down a treat, so thank you Salvatores!



Mr Taylor  
Lead Teacher of



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# Meet the Teacher: Mrs Roberts, Science

In September we welcomed Mrs Roberts into the Science Department.

Mrs Roberts is from Penwortham and went to Lancaster University, where she completed a degree in Biology, and then to Edge Hill University for her teacher training.

"I always wanted to be a science teacher," said Mrs Roberts, who has been teaching for 15 years.

*"Biology was my favourite subject at school, I love everything about it, and I want to share my knowledge of it!"*

"I am delighted to be at Priory. I was brought up in Penwortham so I knew a lot about the school from living in the area.

"Being closer to home also means I can spend more time with my little girls.

"I have settled in really well. I feel like I have been here forever!"

Head of Department, Mr Bedford, added, *"Mrs Roberts is a brilliant addition to our team, bringing a wealth of experience. She has fit seamlessly into the department and already made a positive impression on many of our students. She will be a valuable member of staff moving forward as we look to build on the outstanding science results of last year."*



Mrs Roberts  
Science Teacher

## What's the best thing you've learnt this week?

Every week, teaching staff venture out of the classroom to chat with our pupils and find out what they've really enjoyed the most about their learning this week.

Year 7 Oscar speaking about his History lessons with Mr Eccles...

*"I've enjoyed a lesson where the class got to create a poster summarising all we had learnt about medieval Britain compared to modern Britain."*

Year 9 Joe and Alex speaking about their Maths lesson with Mr Raynor...

*"I like plotting graphs," said Joe. Alex added: "I've enjoyed doing this in Science too because we gathered data from the class, so it involved everyone."*

Year 7 Oliver speaking about his English lessons with Miss Nicholls...

*"I liked independent reading and then hearing everyone's reviews at the end of the lessons."*



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# Mrs Wragg

## Priory: 1971-1990



Early January we welcomed two special visitors to Penwortham Priory Academy.

Michael Wragg is the husband of former English teacher and Head of Year, Jean Wragg, who passed away in 2021. After her death, it was daughter Michele's idea to bequeath a memorial fund the school. Michele now lives in Australia and whilst currently in England the pair visited Priory to observe Mrs Wragg's memorial.

Michele said, "**My mum was passionate about education and she devoted her whole working life to teaching. She had great affection for Priory.**"

Mrs Wragg was a teacher at Priory from the 1970s to early 1990. When she passed away the family asked friends and family to donate to a memorial fund in her name with the intention of making a bequest to the school she enjoyed a long association with.

An all-weather Magnolia tree was planted by the school's gardener, Mr Farron, in the Priory Garden where there is a bench in her name overlooking it.

Jean's husband Michael said: "**Jean had a particular fondness for the Magnolia tree – especially the one with cream flowers.**" Jean's plaque is placed by the tree.



Image: Principal, Mr Eastham, Gardener Mr Farron, Michael Wragg and Michele Adamson

In addition to this, the family have donated an annual legacy award - The Jean Wragg 'Strive for the Highest' Award - which is given to a Year 11 leaver each year who has demonstrated a sustained aspiration to achieve the highest goals in learning and life skills.

Mrs Yates, who co-ordinates Priory's alumni liaison, said, "*It was a delight to finally welcome Michael and Michele. The rain actually held off so they could enjoy a moment together to reflect on Jean's memory in our garden. The Magnolia tree will be well cared for by Mr Farron and it will become the perfect complement to our outdoor space.*"





# Year 10 are Building Bridges in Engineering

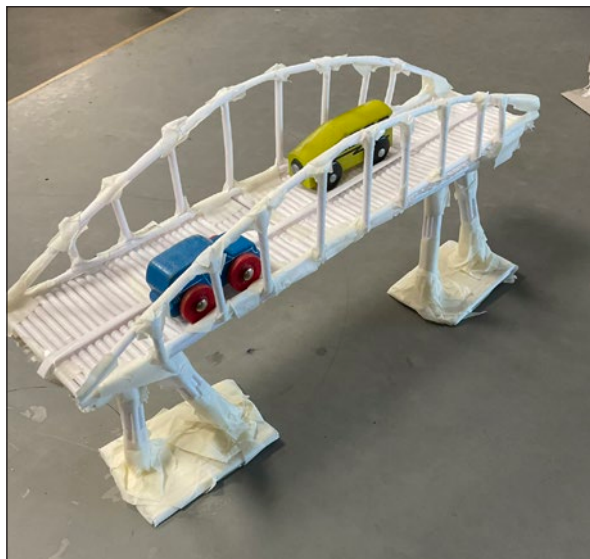
During the first year of their Level 2 Engineering course, Year 10 pupils experience a range of mini-practicals, which run alongside the theory content of the NCFE qualification.



Before the pupils could start to build their bridge, they needed to research bridge construction which involved them looking at famous bridges in the world and who designed them, the materials used and what issues engineers needed to overcome to create a bridge within a certain terrain.

Within the Engineering industry, you have to be able to work on your own as well as in a team. Working with others is called collaboration and is a very important skill in the world of work.

The pupils teamed up and used their knowledge and understanding of their previous learning of Civil Engineering and SI Units of measurement (see next page) to create a model of their chosen bridge construction.



To create the model, pupils used paper straws, card, paper, scissors and tape. It was interesting to see how the pupils worked collaboratively through discussion, problem solving and undertaking different tasks to construct a bridge.

On completion, pupils then used their bridge model to create an independent virtual model in a design program called TinkerCAD. Creating designs on a computer is very much the norm today, so being able to use this program successfully will benefit pupils in future careers in Engineering.



Mrs Shaw  
Design Technology  
Teacher

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Assistant Head of Maths Mr Henshaw, along with the Maths Department, ran a competition asking pupils to say what they particularly enjoy about the subject. Pupils were tasked with completing the following sentence, "**I love Maths because...**"

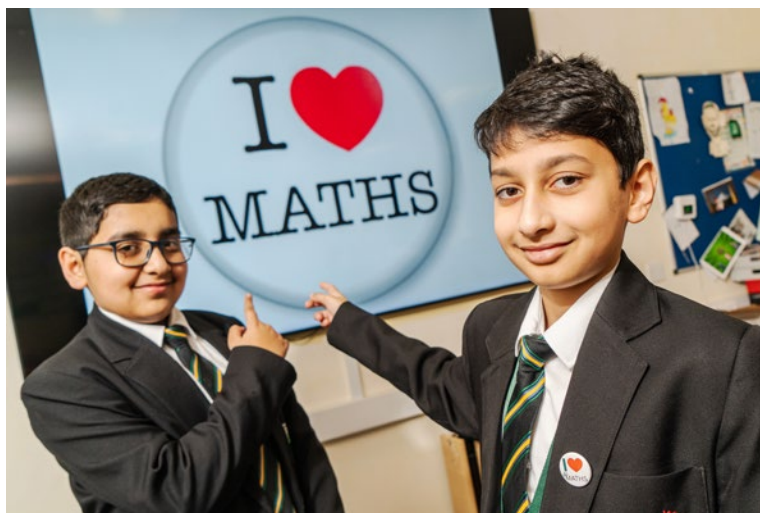
**Here's why Yusuf and Muhammed love Maths:**

### **Yusuf...**

*I really enjoy it as I like complex things like algebra or as some people say, 'algebros'. I would class myself as a maths student because I think it is really fascinating and there is a way you could use maths for a huge variety of problems. I want to also get the highest grade in my Maths GCSE in Year 11.*

### **Muhammed...**

*It is very good to learn about number so that you can use it more in life, for example, like counting your money. My teacher Mr Raynor, is the nicest teacher I've ever seen.*



**Here's why Saachi and Jensen love Maths:**

### **Saachi...**

*I love Maths because all the teachers help us. Mr Henshaw is my favourite Maths teacher.*

*Firstly, when I told Mr Henshaw that I completed all my work and went onto the extension in Mr Kenrick's room I felt proud of myself because I always used to hate it.*

*Secondly, without any of the Maths teachers we wouldn't be able to do addition or subtraction. We use it in our daily lives. This will even help us when we get older as well, like paying for things and checking our balances. When you give us challenge questions it challenges our brains and helps us think. Mr Henshaw encourages me whenever I get things wrong. If I can't count mentally you say you don't mind using our hands. The wages they pay you won't fill any banks but your hard work really matters and you deserve a big THANKS! Thank you so much.*

### **Jensen...**

*It is really fun and I love it because of how much it can help you in life and ALSO because it's THE BEST!*



Mr Henshaw  
Assistant Head of Maths

# 'I love Maths because....'



**Pupils in all year groups have been answering this important question and receiving a coveted badge!**

Assistant Head of Maths Mr Henshaw said: "Originally we ordered 'I Love Maths' badges for the staff and then the pupils started asking if they could have one.

"Last year we set a task for Year 7s to say why they loved maths and we selected the best answers, they got a badge and it was a success.

"This year we opened it to all year groups, they had to fill in a survey and it's created a buzz around maths which is what we wanted to do.

"It's ongoing so pupils now can contribute at any time. They do love the badges!"

Pupils that want to claim one of the coveted badges should simply click the link below to access the survey and

write Mr Henshaw a sentence or two explaining why they love maths. The best responses from each year group will be selected for an 'I Love Maths' badge.



<https://forms.office.com/r/PX8A5GBMzR>

Each week, we'll report what our pupils said. This week it's Yusuf and Muhammed's turn to tell us why they adore the subject. See page 7.

Mr Henshaw  
Assistant Head of Maths



## Vitality Netball International Trip

On Wednesday, 11 January, over twenty Priory girls from Years 7-9 were invited to the AO Arena in Manchester to watch a Vitality Netball International test match.

England's Vitality Roses welcomed Jamaica's Sunshine Girls for a three-match test series. Jamaica were ranked third in the world, one place above England, after winning an historic silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

It was the England team's first international match in Manchester since November 2016 when they also played Jamaica. The Roses had to come from behind to beat Jamaica 73-52 in the first game of their match series which was an amazing game to watch.

After this event England played two more games in London losing the second and then going on to beat Jamaica 63-59 in their final match to wrap up a 2-1 series victory against the Sunshine Girls.

England are now ranked third in the world!

Girls PE teacher and Head of Year 9, Mrs Bullock, said, *"The girls had a fantastic evening, watching the match, getting involved with the sponsors' activities such as The Vitality Photo Booth and the Army reaction challenge. They really enjoyed the whole atmosphere of the evening and we can't wait for another match!"*

*Mrs Bullock  
Girls PE Teacher  
Head of year 9*



# Mrs Gidden's Cool Readers Club

## Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

## Introducing, Maddison...

**Maddison has the drive to succeed – she wants to be a Formula One engineer!**

Aside from her sport ambitions, the Year 9 enjoys romance novels.

"I am reading Colleen Hoover's November at the moment," said Maddison.



"It's about two people who meet and have a five-year agreement to meet each other on that date every year.

"I like a good romance book and Colleen Hoover is my favourite author, I like her books and they are easy to read."

In school, Maddison enjoys drama and art but her dreams lie elsewhere.

"I want to be a Formula One engineer and I am studying engineering at Priory.

I love sport and I have grown up with bikes. I have had a motorbike since I

was young and I have watched Moto GP since I was little as all my family are into motorbikes."

**Maddison's English teacher, Mrs Elliott added,** "Maddison loves the start of her English lessons where she gets to bury her head in her most recent Colleen Hoover novel and has done a stalwart job of encouraging some of her peers to also sample Hoover's work. Maddi is really capable and certainly has the 'drive' to achieve her F1 dream!"

Mrs Gidden  
Head of English

Learn to succeed



# Pupils are energised for Priory's battery recycling campaign



Priory pupils are certainly not running low on batteries! They have been energised to search their homes and also help the environment by Priory's Eco-Committee.

The Eco-Committee launch new projects every half-term with their mission – **'To be a school that cares about the local and wider environment and takes action to improve it.'**

They launched Eco Fashion Club, promoted National Recycling Week and encouraged pupils to enter the Poem for the Planet national competition. This term, the Eco-Committee has entered the school into Duracell's national competition 'The Big Battery Hunt,' with the idea to get everyone to recycle their batteries, with the possibility of winning £3,500 of outdoor equipment.

Committee Leader, Mrs Massey, said, *"The Eco Committee aim to raise awareness about the world around us and ways we can help to support and protect the environment. One of the Eco Committee member's parents suggested we enter the competition, and we all thought it was a great idea."*

Teachers delivered a session during Learning for Life lessons on why it's important for the environment to recycle batteries and encouraged pupils to bring their old and used batteries into school during the campaign.



Mrs Massey continued, *"Recycling is something we can all do. A simple way for us all to start being more aware of what we do with the waste we produce. We have been really impressed with the response we have had. We have a lot of batteries to take to be recycled!"*



**Did you know** that more than 20,000 tonnes of batteries end up in landfill sites and it can take 100 years for a battery to decompose? 400 million batteries are recycled each year – but that's just a small fraction of those sold.

Priory held an inter-class competition to see which Learning for Life group brought in the most old batteries - and so far Science teacher Mr Cox has the winning formula.

"The pupils were really enthusiastic and they enjoyed the challenge of it," said Mr Cox.

"We talked about batteries and the importance of recycling and the pupils embraced it, going home, talking to their families and bringing in their old ones. It fired their imagination although we had to make sure they weren't taking good ones from their remote controls!

"They brought batteries in in huge numbers which was fantastic to see."

*Continued overleaf...*

...Continued from overleaf

Pupil Phoebe said: "I found batteries in a cupboard, there was a massive box that may have been there for years!"

Emily said: "I got some from home and my grandparents also contributed some as well. I never realised how heavy they were!"

Oliver said: "We didn't have so many in our house as I think we must have recycled them recently."

Aiden added: "I picked up a box from home that must have sat there for years! It certainly made me think about recycling and its importance."



**A final count of batteries collected was 1856! Thank you for your support.**

## Year 7 Cookery Club

After school on Thursday our Year 7 pupils were invited to the Food Technology room to make Mexican Quesadillas.

Along with making the cheese and vegetable-filled tortillas, the pupils practised some good basic kitchen skills like opening a tin and navigating the hob.

And it seems our youngest pupils like a bit of spice in their food. Food technology teacher and Vice Principal, Mrs Cowell, commented, "*I was surprised when they asked for more chilli!*"

We hope you had fun - Lucy H, Reese L, Maya L, Eliza G, Zara W, Freya B, Jessica J, Jacob R and Ruth W.



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# Year 8 Are Seeing Eye To Eye in Design Tech



**Who thought that Textiles could be so much fun!**

In Year 8, pupils have the learning opportunity to create a fully functioning product based on their own chosen theme. Pupils learn how to apply a range of hand stitches, use the applique technique and some also having a go at adding embellishment to their final eye mask. During the term, pupils will also learn about the material, 'felt', which they will be using to make their mask as well as natural and man-made fibres and the importance of sustainability.

The theme for their eye mask could be football, cartoons, Pokémon - anything they fancy - which they need to research. They then use this research to create a design, but they also have to use a specification.

## What is a Specification?

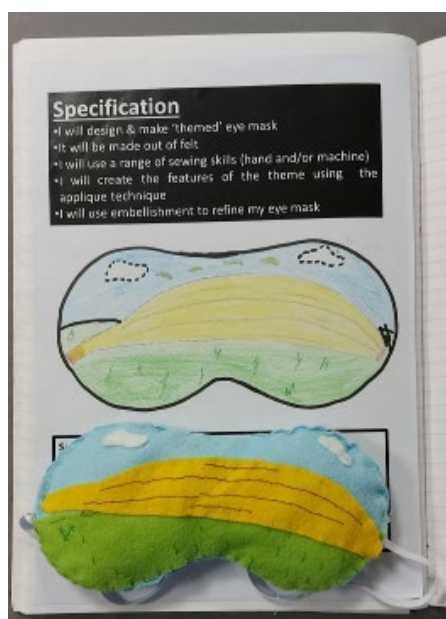
A specification is a list of specific points which the finished item should include. The pupils had to:

- Design and make 'themed' eye mask
- It will be made out of felt
- Use a range of sewing skills (hand and/or machine)
- Create the features of the theme using the applique technique
- Use embellishment to refine the eye mask



The first Year 8 rotation did an amazing job and I wanted to share with you some fantastic, well executed, fully functioning products.

Mrs Shaw  
Design Technology Teacher



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# Priory+ Awards

In a full school assembly, we were pleased to announce that over 100 pupils had achieved their bronze Priory+ Award.



This new initiative was introduced this academic year to encourage and reward pupils for working on their own Personal Development.

At Penwortham Priory Academy we believe that strong Personal Development provision contributes to making a positive difference to pupils' lives. The opportunities provided not only allow them to engage in activities they are interested in, but enables them to explore and build a strong pathway to, and foundation for, a successful future.

Our activities fit into five overarching strands, which supplement our Character and Culture Personal Development sessions in Learning for Life. There are five strands: **Culture & Heritage**, **Future Citizens**, **Health & Well-Being**, **Skill Builders** and **Bright Futures**.



## Rewards

Priory+ is rewarded with a star badge, certificates for pupil's Record of Achievement and Achievement Points towards trips. On completion of activities which are LORIC (see pink text below) in nature, pupils can choose to convert evidence to contribute to the PiXL Edge Award.



## Criteria

Pupils will achieve a star when they: Complete one activity from each of the five strands, in each term, from the activities' spreadsheets. One activity must be a co-curricular club/activity/group from the timetable provided.



## Parental Involvement

We would welcome parents support by:

- encouraging their child to attend clubs in/out of school
- encouraging their child to consult the spreadsheets of activities (accessible via Teams)
- guiding them through completion of any home activities where necessary.
- encouraging them to write-up their learning on A5 for their Personal Development Journey files in school.
- reminding them to show this to their form tutor

**LORIC | Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication**

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# Year 9 Pupils To Judge Lancashire Book of the Year



**Priory's Year 9 pupils will be bookworms over the next few months as they aim to read around ten books each to help to choose the Lancashire Book of the Year.**

Priory has been selected as one of the schools in the county to receive a collection of around 26 new books which a number of Year 9 pupils have volunteered to read.

The pupils' first external meeting about the books was at Lancashire Archives early Friday morning to discuss the novels with pupils from other schools.

English teacher and Chief Librarian, Mrs Elliott said: "There are around 90 books on the list and we have been sent around 26 to read. Many of our keen readers volunteered to take part and they are enjoying the challenge.

"Tom said he read a book he would never have selected on his own but he enjoyed it so this is good as it takes pupils out of their comfort zone with their reading.



"Once we have read them, we have to whittle them down to either a top ten or five and then we go and discuss them with other schools.

"That is a big step, it's about building their confidence and feeling confident to share their views and challenge others about books.

"It's always a good competition and, at the end, there is a big event where the winning authors come to UCLAN and talk about their books and how they got their ideas so our pupils can follow the process through."

Tom said: "I want to read as many of the books as I can. I think we will all try and read at least 10 each but hopefully more. It's a good competition as it means you read books you wouldn't normally read. It will be interesting to see which book wins overall."

**Lancashire Book of the Year (LBOY) is the longest running young people's regional book award in the country.**

The award remains one of the few book awards in which young people themselves are solely responsible for choosing both the shortlist and the overall winning book.

The award is voted for by Year 9 students in selected high schools around the county. Each school is given a collection of books, submitted by publishers as being the best books they had produced for the 12-14 age group. The young people then read and shortlist the books before choosing the overall winner.

The 2022 winner was Cynthia Murphy for her novel Last One To Die.

**Pupils taking part are:**

**Daniel McC, AJ F, Eve F, Thomas M, Jake L, Hannah B, Ethan R, Geetha D-R, Emily J, Tasha C**

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# 70th Anniversary Raffle Prize Draw



And the winners are...

What a joy it was to have two former pupils from Class of 1953 join us on Monday. Mrs Ward and Mr Rich were our very first Head Girl and Boy in our inaugural year, and along with Mr Eastham, they drew out our 70th anniversary raffle prize winners.

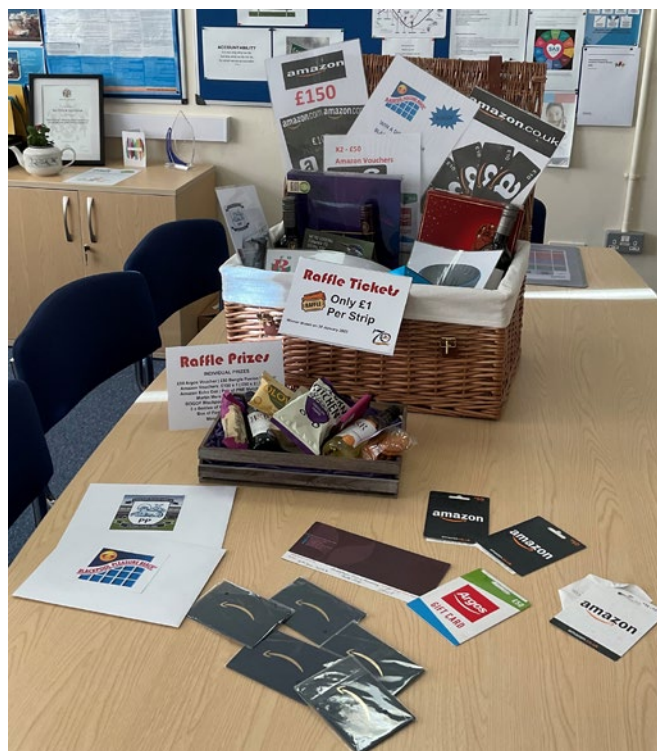
There were 20 prizes to give out and winning ticket numbers are published on our website. Winners have also been informed directly.

Whilst they were with us, Mr Rich and Mrs Ward took a nostalgic look at a photo of the school's very first teachers from 1953 which was recently discovered in our archives, and also caught up with our current Head Prefects.

The winning tickets can be seen at>>

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/fundraising-priory/70th-anniversary-raffle](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/fundraising-priory/70th-anniversary-raffle)

Thank you for your support!



**Win Win Win**  
in our  
**70th Anniversary**  
**Raffle**

**Amazing Prizes!**  
£50 Argos Voucher  
£50 Bangla Fusion Voucher  
Amazon Vouchers: £150 x 1 | £50 x 2 | £10 x 5  
Amazon Echo Dot | Pair of PNE Match Tickets  
Martin Mere Family Admission Voucher  
BOGOF Blackpool Pleasure Beach Ticket  
3 x Bottles of Wine | Box of Milk Tray  
Box of Foxes Biscuit Selection  
Moonpig Mini Hamper

We're kicking off our 70th year with a spectacular raffle with over a dozen amazing prizes up for grabs. The Hamper of goodies is on display at reception and tickets are available to everyone. Tickets are just £1 for a strip and can be purchased via SCOPay or at reception (cash only). The draw will take place at the end of the month and all monies raised will go towards our gardens and outdoor facilities.

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/fundraising-priory/70th-anniversary-raffle

**Penwortham Priory**  
A Catholic School

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# Priory Pupils Achieve a First for South Ribble in Scouting Challenge

Two Priory pupils used their navigation skills and evaded a team of 'hunters' to finish second out of 145 teams in the popular Operation Moonlight, for scout and explorer groups.

The event is similar to a game of manhunt and teams have to navigate from a mystery start and finish point, over around 15 miles.

Year 11 Ben and Year 10 Abigail are part of the Enterprise Explorer Unit and they finished second overall and won the Explorer Section, so they were first in their age group. The team of six were also the first ever team in the South Ribble District to have won this competition.



Ben explained: "We were dropped off at a random location, which was Southport, and we had to navigate to the end which was Skelmersdale.

"We took our phones for emergencies but we weren't allowed to use them for navigating – it was about using OS maps and compasses. I have been a scout for around 10 years so I am ok at navigating.

"We set off at mid-day and we had to finish before 9pm and we got there just in time – it was really tight at the end.

"You are also pursued by leaders of units and you have to make sure they don't catch you.

"It was very wet and cold and to come second out of 145 teams is an achievement, and first in our age group, so we were happy."

Abi admitted: "I found it really hard, my legs are still hurting! I struggled carrying the weight and walking so far because it was the first time I'd done a challenge like this but I am glad I did it. We could have perhaps won two trophies but it was amazing to win one and be the first in the District to get it too!"



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## Voluntary & Community

# Priory Nature Reserve Gets a Fresh Look

Penwortham's Nature Reserve will have a new weatherproof sign perfectly crafted by Technology Technician Mr Lawe.

The old board was looking run down and a new sign was needed for the area, which is on the external part of school grounds and therefore open to the public.

"The old sign has been there for around 10 years so it needed a facelift," said Mr Lawe.

"It probably took me around six/ seven hours to complete it in my spare time, using the laser cutter in school as well as handcutting parts of it myself.

"It's also weatherproof so hopefully it will last a long time. I am really proud of it."

The sign will be fixed into place next week and officially unveiled after the half term break by the PenCon Chair and Secretary.



## SPORTS REPORT

# Lancashire Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to Year 11 Jack T and Year 7 Excellence I on their performances for South Ribble in the Lancashire Cross-Country Championships on Saturday, 4 February.

Held at Witton Park, both runners did fantastic in very competitive races.



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# 70th Anniversary

## Keeping it in the Family

Priory proudly celebrates its 70th anniversary this year and we have been digging through our archives to look at how the school has changed since 1953.



There will be many celebrations and stories over the coming 12 months but firstly we had a chat with current pupils who have had members of their families attend Priory, either as Penwortham County Secondary Modern School or Priory Sports and Technology College before it became an Academy in 2012.



Pupils from Years 7-11 were amazed at the photographs, enjoyed seeing their families on some of the photos as well as spotting teachers who have spent most of their careers at Priory. It certainly means it's always been a family affair at Priory and the school has had a huge impact on its local community over the last 70 years.

Year 7 Connor said: "My mum was in Mrs Simpson's form who is still here now. She said Mrs Simpson was her favourite.

"Both my mum and dad came here – as well as Mrs Simpson, I think Mr Taylor and Mr Faulkner taught my mum and dad as well. It is a bit weird having the same

teachers as your parents!"

Finn said: "I think my grandad came here, I am not sure, but my dad and uncle certainly did. My sister Macie is also here in Year 10."

Year 11 Aimee said: "My dad came here which is one reason I came here. He did well at school and was really into science and works at BAE Systems now. I haven't followed in his footsteps as I am not into science but I am enjoying school life."

Ebony, also in Year 11, said: "My mum has told me stories about

her time at Priory. She loved sports when she was here, she was a gymnast, and also did cross country. I didn't inherit that – I do not enjoy sports! It is nice having some of the same teachers here though."

Holly said: "My mum and grandma came here. My mum is a hairdresser while I am more into drama. My mum came to look around at Open Evening and was impressed with how it had grown."

*Continued overleaf...*



*Learn to succeed*

...Continued from previous page.

Amelie's grandma Joan Frost went on the school's first trip abroad to France in 1961.

"I think my grandma enjoyed geography and history while I am more into graphics," said Year 10 Amelie. "My grandma can still remember a lot about her time at school and we talk about how it has changed."

Lewis said: "My mum came here and my sister, who is six years older than me, also came here. I think Mrs Lewis-Lavender taught us all."

Logan said: "My mum and dad both came here, I don't think my dad was the best behaved. They both have said how the school has changed dramatically building-wise and with the subjects."

Year 8 Evie spotted her dad on one of the school year books.

She said: "He has a shaved head on the picture and it's the same haircut he has now! I also saw his best friend so I have taken a picture and I can embarrass them now. I came to Priory partly because my dad had been here."



## Year 7 & 8 Girls Dance From The Heart

**On Tuesday afternoon we welcomed pupils from some of our feeder primary schools to learn the steps to this year's South Ribble 'Dance From The Heart' routine.**

Following the event, the primary leaders will then take what they've learnt and teach it to the rest of their school.

The young children were enthusiastically supported by Priory's Year 7 & 8 girls for the Disney-themed dance. Well done: Ella B, Maisie C, Lexi S, Kiera H, Emily A, Millie D, Isabella T, Kelsie-Ray D and Maisie W.



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# Priory Welcomes South Ribble MP



**This morning the House of Commons came to Priory when the MP for South Ribble visited the school.**

MP and Women's Minister, Katherine Fletcher, was warmly greeted by Vice Principal Mrs Cowell and pupil ambassadors who were keen to meet the member of parliament.



**House of Commons**



Katherine was happy to take part in a Q&A session with our pupils. Prior to the visit, the Humanities department and Debate Club pupils had put together a list of questions that pupils could pose to Katherine about her work as an MP.

Lead Teacher for Personal Development, Mrs Hopes, said, "The session was ideal experience for pupils who are interested in careers in leadership and forms of public representation, as questions related mainly to Katherine's career."

Questions ranged from "What made you take up a career in politics?" and "Why do we need a women's minister" to more testing questions such as, "What is your stance on fracking?" and "What is the biggest problem facing the Government at this time?"

Accompanying Katherine was former Priory pupil, Dylan Couperthwaite, who is now her Employed Intern. Dylan was pleased to be back at his old school and spoke about his journey of moving on to study Politics at Newman College and Lancaster University before spotting the intern opportunity.



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# Year 7 Motte and Bailey Castle Competition



In January, Year 7 pupils were set a challenge to build their own Motte and Bailey Castle with whatever resources they could get their hands on at home.

The deadline saw some fantastic entries and organiser of the competition, Humanities teacher Miss Ackers, had the most difficult time selecting a winner.

Miss Ackers commented, *"They were all exceptional and I could tell pupils had put a lot of time, research and imagination into them - there was so much detail! The challenge was voluntary so I was also pleased to see the entries come in - the enthusiasm from the year group has amazed me."*

It was a tough decision but in the end the winner was: **Esa B**, and finalists **Myles N**, **Bella O** and **Kady T** will receive a coveted History pin badge, 180 achievement points and chocolates.

Well done to all who took part.



## YEAR 7 HISTORY COMPETITION

**YOUR TASK:**  
To make a Motte and Bailey Castle at home. It can be small, big, made of wood, cardboard, even cake (yum!) or anything you can find but it must be assembled and not just a design.

**DEADLINE:** Entries to Miss Ackers in HU6 by Friday, 27 January 2023.

**YOUR REWARD:** There are History pin badges up for grabs for anyone who impresses Miss Ackers.

**What is a Motte and Bailey Castle?**  
The Normans brought with them new forms of military architecture, among the most important of which was the motte and bailey castle.

The castle consisted of two main components: the motte, an artificial mound with a fortified tower at the top called a keep, and a bailey, which was an enclosure connected to the motte.

**Penswortham Priory Academy**



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# It's all for the love of music at Priory



It's certainly music to the ears of Priory pupils when KTB Music visit school.

KTB Music are Priory's peripatetic music tutors who deliver one-to-one lessons in school four days a week.

Lessons are in 15 or 30 minute blocks and these can be for exam grades, to play in concerts or simply for pleasure.

Pupils can tickle the ivories with piano lessons, strum a guitar, bang the drums, develop their vocals with singing lessons or play a saxophone - all under the guidance of experienced tutors.

KTB Music's Mr Madill has been teaching pupils to play the piano and said: "Priory's pupils are talented, they have picked it up really quickly.

*Learning a musical instrument is important for memory, co-ordination, developing self-confidence and more and all the pupils who sign up to the lessons enjoy it.*

"We have everything from beginners to experienced musicians here and they are a pleasure to teach."

Lead Teacher for Music at Priory, Mr Taylor added, "*Learning a musical instrument and to sing gives our pupils an opportunity to express themselves, to be creative, to work hard at something and to persevere and shine. These experiences and achievements stay with them and can shape their future. They can move from the practice room to the stage and to the concert hall and at the same time be part of a £4 billion contribution to the UK economy.*"

For more information email [ktbmusicatpriory@outlook.com](mailto:ktbmusicatpriory@outlook.com) or go to [www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/ktb-music](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/ktb-music). Pupils may also speak with Mr Taylor at Priory.

Mr Taylor  
Lead Teacher of Music



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# Meet The Teacher - Miss Smethurst (English)



Miss Smethurst joined the English department last September and has brought a wealth of experience.

Head of English Mrs Gidden said: "We are absolutely honoured to have Miss Smethurst here.

"She is passionate about English, particularly about Year 7, and has already revolutionised how we track our interventions in school.

"She has a wealth of experience, having taught in Spain, with Mrs Webster at Hodgson Academy and most recently at Broughton High School in Preston.

"She came back from maternity leave early to help our department and is always cheerful and happy!"

Miss Smethurst said: "I studied drama at Northumberland University and followed the Graduate Teachers Program through Edge Hill and St Michael's in Chorley, starting my teaching career in drama before I became an English teacher and drama teacher at Corpus Christi Catholic High School"



"I worked abroad and came back to Preston to be close to my family. It's great to work with Mrs Webster again too!"

"Priory has such a community feel about it and I love working here."

Miss Smethurst  
English Teacher

## Chili Challenge Winners

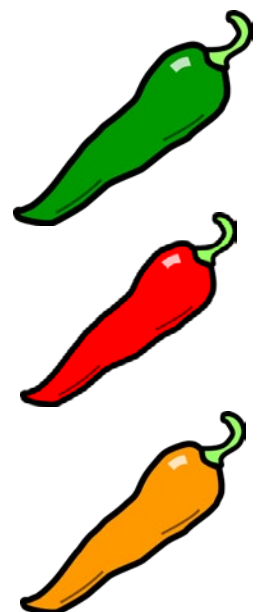
Well done to Jacob R (Year 7) and Daniel R (Year 11) who are the first winners of our Chili Challenge.

These two pupils have now received their chili tokens to claim their free breaktime snack from the dining rooms.



**Pupils:** Don't forget to pick up your challenge sheet from the post boxes in your dining areas. There are three challenges to complete, each one with an increasing difficulty, and pop your answers in your year group post box.

This is also an interhouse competition and the leaders will be those with the most individual entries. There'll be an interhouse prize at the end of the year. So far, Ribble are in the lead!



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# World Book Day 2023

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

**From the Three Little Pigs, to Harry Potter, to Matilda – Priory was full of literary characters on World Book Day.**

The Languages Department were the Three Little Pigs, with Mrs Cowell the big bad wolf; Priory's PE Department were all Matilda while Dracula was on the hunt in the English Department!

Miss Beesley said: "I chose Matilda – we did cheat a bit as we had the costumes from our performance of Matilda a year ago. It did make it easy, but we also got the chance to eat chocolate cake too!"

Pupils also donned the costumes of their favourite characters. Year 7 Noah was Harry Potter and said: "I have the whole series of books and I love them!"

Emily dressed up as Katniss from the Hunger Games. She said: "I am reading this book at the moment so it made sense to dress up as a character from the book."

Kady became Moaning Myrtle from Harry Potter. She said: "I am obsessed with the Harry Potter books and films – my mum says too obsessed! – and Moaning Myrtle is one of my favourite characters."



Sarah's favourite literary character is Pokemon and she said: "I love the Pokemon comics and Pikachu is my favourite."

Meanwhile Harriet became Bear Grylls, saying: "I love the outdoors and watch all his programmes."

Esa was Hiccup from How to Train Your Dragon. He said: "I like the series of books and Hiccup is a nice character, a good hero, and I also like dragons!"

Anna was Luna Lovegood from Harry Potter. "She is my favourite character as I am a bit like her – crazy!"

Emma dressed up as Lily The Mime. "She wants to be a special woman and I do too!"

Tyler was The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas adding: "I have watched the film, it's hard to watch. I like history too. I had the pyjamas and I like my hair short."

As part of the day's celebrations, Learning for Life groups took on the annual tradition of decorating their doors to look like book covers. There were many cracking displays, and Miss Bolton and Mrs Evans relished their part in decorating the School Office door for Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



Technology teacher, Mrs Shaw, decided to have a different 'decorate a door' day.

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# English Department

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023

*...Continued from previous page*

She said: "I asked the class for their memories of World Book Day and reading and posted them on the door. It included Teletubbies and In the Night Garden and we really tried to understand more than just the books, but the stories behind them. It was really interesting hearing about the books that made an impression on them - mostly fantasy and mythological."

Pupils also took part in a Big Bonanza book quiz during Learning for Life and the

readers who have impressed their English teacher the most with their reading since September will get to enjoy a Library reward afternoon during the last week of term.



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# Author Visit: Ruth Eastham

meet the  
author

**Author Ruth Eastham visited Priory on Wednesday to meet Year 7 and inspire the next generation of writers. If the name seems familiar, it's because she is the sister of Principal, Mr Eastham!**

Ruth is a multi-award-winning author of five books - The Memory Cage, The Messenger Bird, Arrowhead, The Warrior in the Mist and the Jaguar Trials. She trained as a teacher at Cambridge University and studied Science but always enjoyed writing.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

"It's strange as at school I had the choice between carrying on studying history and geography and I chose geography and all my novels are historical! I guess I felt like I missed out," said Ruth.

"I did study science but that is what I talk to the pupils about; you can have multiple dreams. You don't have to follow a particular path.

"I enjoyed science but I always wrote short stories and poetry and my breakthrough came when I entered a BBC competition to write children's fiction, to find the next JK Rowling.

"I was a finalist and that was probably the pivotal moment in my career; that was my inspiration.



"I have travelled a lot and what I always did whenever I went anywhere new is join the nearest writing group."

As a former teacher, Ruth enjoys visiting primary and secondary schools and telling her story as well as inspiring others.

"I guess it's a bit strange coming into Priory where my brother is headteacher and I have to call him Mr Eastham but it is nice to be back.

"It's great to see how it has developed as I think I was last in school in 2011. The gardens are amazing!

*Continued next page..*



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## Interview with author, Ruth Eastham, continued.

meet the  
author

"I love speaking to pupils, offering encouragement and inspiring them to chase their dreams.

"I always talk about how Philip Pullman spent seven years in a shed writing his *Dark Materials* and it can be a lonely business so it's great having writing friends and visiting schools.

"When I have been in schools, pupils do sometimes send me samples of their work and it's lovely to keep in touch."

**Year 7 pupils who would like to order one of Ruth's book and have it signed, should order through the link below before 9pm tonight (3 March) and see English teacher, Miss Smethurst. Books are £5 each.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/YQD7a5XZVb>

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023



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# Interhouse Competition **Douglas** | **Calder** | **Hodder** | **Ribble**



## Pupils Had a Lot of Flipping Fun!

Priory pupils certainly knew how to have flipping fun when Pancake Day came along.



At break on Tuesday, pupils gathered in their House teams to take part in an interhouse pancake flipping competition in the Assembly Hall.

The teams of five flippers each had one minute to score as many flips as they could and the house with the highest total won the contest.

Food Technology teacher and Vice Principal, Mrs Cowell, provided the pans and the pancakes. However, the pancakes didn't last long and soon Mrs Bullock was off to find a more durable replacement from the PE department.

Competition organiser, Mr Raynor, said, "Thank you to all who took part and spectated at break, there was a great atmosphere and some impressive flippers!"

The winners were **Douglas**, followed by **Calder** in second place, and **Hodder** and **Ribble** third and fourth respectively.

Best individual performers were Tom S (Year 10) and Billy M (Year 10) - both Douglas.

Well done team Douglas!

Photo: Douglas Winners - Maisie C, Lucy J, Thomas E with Head of Douglas, Mrs Bullock, and Mrs Cowell. Tom S and Billy M not on picture.



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## Voluntary & Community

# Priory Nature Reserve Gets a Fresh Look

It's a new sign of the times for Penwortham's Nature Reserve thanks to Penwortham Priory Academy.

The nature reserve and meadow surround the external perimeter of the school and is open to the public. However, the old signage was run down and a new board was needed to help spruce the area up so the school's Technology Technician, Gill Lawe, worked with archived plans to craft a new weatherproof board.

The sign, installed at the Crow Hills Road entrance, was unveiled by the Principal of Penwortham Priory Academy, Mr Eastham, and Chair of the Penwortham Nature Conservation Group, Peter Smith, along with other members of the Group.

Mr Eastham said, "The school is very much part of the Penwortham community so it's been rewarding to use our facilities to help to improve the area. The old sign has been there for around 10 years and was showing the need for a facelift. Our gardens at Priory are award-winning and we want to make sure the nature reserve and meadow surrounding the school are kept in the best condition for people who visit our school and the public."

Mr Smith added, "As a nature reserve, the Priory Meadow is full of rare plants and animals. We have protected Great Crested Newts breeding in the ponds, delicate Snake's Head Fritillary are in full flower in March and April and we have many orchids in the meadow areas in the summer.

"It is a vibrant area and, while there is no public footpath through Priory Meadow, the public can use it provided they respect the fact it is a nature reserve so dogs must be kept on a lead."

Mr Lawe ended by saying, "The new sign probably took me around six/seven hours to complete using the laser cutter in school as well as handcutting parts of it myself. I am really proud of it. Hopefully it will last a long time."







## Macbeth Performs At Priory

Early February we invited a theatre company to perform Macbeth to support Year 11 pupils with their English Literature study of the Shakespeare play.

Assistant Head of English, Mrs Robinson-Ali, said, "It really brought the play to life for the students so that they were able to capture the facial expressions, the tone in which lines were spoken and actions on stage to add to what they already knew of the plot.

"The pupils loved the performance and were really engrossed."

Afterwards, the theatre company did a Q&A session on what it was like to perform on stage as a professional actor and answered any questions about the characters as a 'hot seating' activity. This added to the student's understanding of character development within the play.

Pupils later attended a two hour intervention with their English teachers which they have said was really useful and beneficial.

Mrs Robinson-Ali  
Assistant Head of English





# English Department

Priory pupils will have their noses in their books as part of the school's sponsored Readathon.

Read  
for  
Good

Overseen by the English department, pupils will read as many books as they can and get sponsored to raise money so new books can be bought for disadvantaged children in schools and hospitals around the UK. Their achievement will also earn Priory free books, provided by Readathon in partnership with Scholastic Book Clubs, to boost their school library stocks.

English teacher and Chief Librarian, Mrs Elliott, who is leading the campaign said, "*Readathon is run by the UK charity Read for Good and it's to encourage children to read for pleasure – whether it's a book, comic, newspaper or poem.*"

Priory's Readathon starts w/c 20 March but some pupils were already getting in some practise!

Umar was reading 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'. He said: "It's very funny, I am enjoying it and it's one of my favourite series."

Charlie is reading 'Inheritance Games' about a girl who inherits a house full of puzzles and codes. "It is a bit strange, a bit eerie," said Charlie. "I enjoy fantasy books the best."

Ethan is on 'SAS Rogue Traders.' He said: "They are on a desert mission, it's an historical drama and I like history. It's good as it's on the BBC and the internet so you can find out more about it."

Daniel added: "I am reading 'Wonder' about a boy who was born with a syndrome that deformed his face and it's about his life. It is really interesting. I like reading a variety of books."



## "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"

The Readathon will officially run w/c 20 March for one week. Prior to then however, pupils can start collecting their sponsors. See your English teachers for your sponsorship card and bookmark!

When we ran this campaign two years ago our amazing pupils raised over £1000 for the Read for Good charity.

There'll be prizes for the pupil who has collected the biggest sponsorship, and the best class, plus all participants' names will go into a lucky draw so that everyone has a chance of winning.

## What's in it for me???

- I can try different books, authors, types of reading to find out what I like the most.
- It feels good to help seriously ill children.
- My school will get free books!
- Kids who choose to read for fun are more likely to do well at school, in their GCSEs and 'A' levels, and later in life!



AND IT'S FUN!!!

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# GCSE Geography Liverpool Field Trip



REPORT BY MR WATTERS, LEAD TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY

On the Wednesday and Friday before the start of the February half term, the Geography department took their Year 10 classes to Liverpool for a compulsory field trip as part of their GCSE studies.

An hour long mini-bus journey got us to our first site to survey. The area of Rimrose Valley Park is a little gem on the banks of the River Mersey, an open park quite similar to our own Hurst Grange Park with extra open spaces.

The pupils took photographs of this and four other sites which they have since downloaded and added annotations to display their information on the 'Quality of the Environments' as well as 'Land Use' surveys.

The trip then took pupils to four other sites approximately equidistant, generally following a transect from outer fringes of Liverpool along the River Mersey's banks. The pupils were a little unsure of two of the dockland sites however fully understood why they visited and surveyed them as they were in perfect contrast to the Water Front development at the Albert Dock and the Liverpool



One retail and residential centre.

Whilst in the China Town district, pupils investigated the positive impact of inward migration.



They walked down from the Anglican Cathedral to Liverpool One and were able to see how Liverpool continues to develop as a City. *"I wish we had one of these in Preston"*, was a common remark spoken by the Year 10s.

Their visit to Liverpool was finished off by an hour-long trip on the Mersey ferry. Pupils were able to get further views of the amazing new Everton football stadium at Bramley Dock.

Continued...







They had seen it from a quick stop on the minibus however to see it in such splendour revitalising a previously run-down brownfield site was fantastic. Some of the pupils felt it was necessary to note that PNE will be playing there next season!

The Fab Four statue outside the Liver buildings and the National and Liverpool Museums made perfect photo opportunities before the return journey home. But before then, there was time in Liverpool One to grab a meal.



The early completion of surveys meant we had enough time to drive through North Liverpool and look at regions of the city which were recently selling houses for just a pound to help local families regenerate their run-down areas, such as Anfield.



This was another pair of great trips which are part of the Geography fieldwork requirement for the GCSE. We are very proud of the work completed by the pupils whilst on the trip and also what they have done in the classroom since their return. Their attention to detail and understanding of sampling techniques, methods and hypothesis testing ensures that they have a great pack of resources in readiness for their final GCSE exams next summer. Once again, our pupils were a credit to the school and were complimented by several pensioner groups and the ferry staff as kind and respectful young people. One said

*"I wish we had them in Liverpool!"*

*Mr Watters*

*Lead Teacher of Geography*

**NEW**

**DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB**

**TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL 3:15-4:15 IN LEAP 1**

**COME TO LEAP 1 ON THURSDAY LUNCHTIMES FOR DETAILS**

**For years 7-10**



## Dungeons & Dragons

Tuesdays after school in LEAP 1 until 4.15pm.

This will be run by one of our Year 10 pupils and is open to everyone in Years 7-10.

If you want to know more about it beforehand then pop into LEAP 1 to see Alex I any Thursday lunchtime.

*Learn to Succeed*



# Three Priory pupils are boosting their creative talents by attending UCLan's Saturday Club.



Year 9 Rhea, Year 10 Megan and Year 11 Amba give up their Saturday mornings to attend the courses for 13-16-year-olds in Art & Design and Fashion & Business.



Rhea concentrates on the Fashion & Business sessions.

"I make my own clothes and love fashion so it's good for me" she said. "We have made a Tote bag recently and dresses. It helps me develop new skills."

Megan attends the Art & Design sessions.

"I like art and don't do a lot of it outside school so this was a chance to make myself do it every Saturday morning.

"We do a variety of projects and it's good fun while also learning a lot of new skills."



Their work was exhibited last month at UCLan's Victoria Building.

The National Saturday Club network helps young people develop new skills, grow in confidence, make new friends and learn more about options for further study and the breadth of careers open to them.

Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Mrs Hopes added, "*It is wonderful to hear about our pupils being involved in activities outside of school, which add to their Personal Development. Everything pupils participate in can be added to CVs and applications for future jobs, apprenticeships and Post 16 courses.*"

*Pupils can use these activities as evidence towards the Priory + Award which rewards involvement; that develops their 'Cultural and Heritage' knowledge, as a 'Future Citizen, that adds to their 'Mental and Physical Wellbeing', acts as a 'Skills Builder' or that develops pathways towards careers and their 'Bright Futures'."*

Photo taken on World Book Day; Rhea is dressed as Wednesday Addams and Megan as Katniss Everdeen, The Hunger Games.

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# Compost Corner

## Spring Update

Priory's gardens are our pride and joy and award-winning gardener Mr Farron wants to let parents and pupils know what to expect each month as the landscape changes.



### Well spring is certainly on its way!

Officially, we enter Spring on 26 March when longer days and lighter hours begin and the soil starts to warm. I have been quite busy these winter months for this very eventful period to come. In particular, repairing and maintaining equipment ready for the very busy months ahead, along with placing bulbs around the school which now are showing and pushing through for the great show.

All well designed gardens use balance in different ways to create a harmonious space. I have applied this by using an ordered designer edge and there are countless ways to achieve this look. We have beds of perennial planting alongside the old favourite annuals, mirrored with plants on either side of the paths through Priory gardens, giving various shows of colour and fragrance, which hopefully achieve the desired effect through symmetry, so pleasing and calming to the eye.



A beautiful balance through elements of modern symmetry will add a restful and calming effect so that not only our plants bloom and grow, but also our students and staff adopt the benefits that the garden provides.

This year the gardens are packed with different contrasting features and the eye darts around trying to take them all in but finds it hard to settle on any one element therefore when balance and symmetry are used well, the opposite is true thus the calming effect bringing balance to the whole design.

A very fragrant flower to look out for this season is Gertrude Jekyll, a fantastic rose bush with a stunning fragrance. This is a Chelsea gold!

As they say, spring has sprung and a big sign of that is the Priory ducks have arrived. Daphne is making her nest in the special hen house I have built.

I hope that you all enjoy this period of rebirth and experience a wonderful spring term.

**Tip of the month:** *Keep Smiling. It will grow on you!*

### Note for the month:

Tes paideas faefetas risdas elnai pikras, ton ele karpon gluken  
The roots of education are bitter but the fruit is sweet (Aristotle)

Mr C Farron, Gardener

*Honorary Member of the RHS*

*Winner of North West Britain in Bloom, South Ribble in Bloom and Penwortham in Bloom*

*Judge for South Ribble and Penwortham in Bloom competitions*



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# Mrs Elliott's Cool Readers Club

## Here's what our Cool Readers Club is all about...

These are our reading stars put forward by their English teacher. We interview them about their current book, what they like reading about and what they like to do when they're not reading.

## Introducing, Dylan and Will...

Football mad Dylan and Will donned their favourite football kits when we interviewed them on World Book Day last week – and were enjoying books about their heroes.

Dylan supports Liverpool and is reading an Ultimate Football Hero book on Mo Salah.



"What impressed me is that, in his younger days, he had to get eight buses to go to training," said Dylan.

"I admire him for that and his football."

Dylan plays for Ribbleton Reds as a left winger/striker.

"I enjoy reading about the lives of footballers but also like books like 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid'."

Manchester United fan Will, who dressed in his England kit, was reading: 'Marcus Rashford: You are a Champion'.

"I have been on a stadium tour of Old Trafford and I enjoyed reading about his life and his tips on how you can get to where you want to be in life."

Will plays for Tarleton Corinthians as a right midfielder.

**Dylan and Will's English teacher, Mr Owen, added,** "Dylan and Will are positive, resilient, and friendly Priory students. Both share their enthusiasm for sports within the English classroom; indeed, we actively encourage non-fiction reading to further understanding of the wider world. It is fantastic to see pupils enjoying the library space, which is intended for both study and unwinding. Hopefully Dylan can use his persuasive writing techniques to tempt Will into supporting a different club!"

Mrs Elliott  
English Teacher & Chief Librarian

Learn to

# A Fighting Chance for Year 10 Connor

**Connor has fought his way to a British crown – and will now compete in kickboxing on the European stage in Amsterdam.**

Connor won a gold medal in the -65kg Points Sparring category at the World Martial Arts Organisational (WMO) National Championships last month.

He also collected silver in the -60kg Continuous Sparring and -60kg Points Sparring, coming away with three medals and certificates.

“I compete for NSKA in Leyland and have been kickboxing for 10 years,” said Year 10 Connor, who trains every day except Wednesday.

“I like kickboxing, it makes me more committed and helps my confidence.



“I was nervous competing in the national championships, especially as I had around 10 fights and in the final I knew I needed to win.

“I am excited to go to the world championships later this month and represent my club and England.

“I would love to turn professional. I am committed, sometimes my mates can be annoyed when they want me to go out but I am training. Training comes first.”

The end of February saw Connor fight at the WKKC English nationals where he won two gold and will journey to Amsterdam at the end of this month to compete in the Dutch Open.

*Good luck, Connor!*

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# Top Maths Pupils Take on National Challenge



Lucas was best at Priory in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, a national test for high achieving Year 9, 10 and 11 maths pupils.

Lucas achieved a staggering 92 out of the 135 points on offer to be awarded a gold certificate and the honour of being the best at Priory.



United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust

Year 11 Lucas said: "I enjoyed the challenge. Computer Science is my favourite subject but I enjoy maths and want to go to LUSoM (Lancaster University School of Mathematics). I enjoyed testing myself and was happy to do well."

Year 10 Sam was second with 81/135 and was presented with a gold award while Year 9 Daniel finished third and was awarded the silver certificate with 70/135 points.

Year 9 Daniel said: "I was third best in the school and best in my year."

Year 10 Emmie earned a silver certificate and had a ploy:



"There are questions where you lose marks so I concentrated on all the questions where you can't lose marks!"

Year 11 Taylor added: "It is about problem solving and it is quite difficult. There are 25 questions and you can lose marks as well as gain them. I like maths so I enjoyed this."

Maths teacher, Mr Hunter, oversaw the challenge and said: "We picked the top 30 from Years 9-11 and they loved the extra challenge of it. All pupils that take part get a certificate – whether it's gold, silver, bronze or for participating. It's a massive achievement just to take part."

Well done to all our pupils who participated in the challenge, including Madoc D (Year 11) who was in fourth place, Preston McM (Year 10) who came fifth, both not pictured.

Mr Hunter  
Maths Teacher

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# Year 8 Go Back In Time For History Trip



In early March Two groups of Year 8 students had the opportunity to visit Quarry Bank Mill, a working cotton mill in Styal, to see what life would have been like in Industrial Britain. The mill is a rare surviving eighteenth-century cotton mill, built by the industrialist Samuel Greg, and showcases working heritage machinery.

History teacher, Miss Ackers, who led the trips, said, "Our pupils were able to tour the Apprentice House to see how the children lived. Up to 90 children were housed there back then, working 10-hour days in the mill. Pupils then walked into the village to see where the adults would have lived. They watched the cotton machines working up close and personal - it was extremely loud, those poor workers' ears!"



As part of the visit, pupils enjoyed being given their own cotton fibres to mould and play with to test its strength. They were also challenged to do the jobs that the apprentice children would have done such as carrying cannisters full of cotton back and forth (they made it into a relay game!) and removing empty bobbins before replacing them with new ones. Finally, the students were able to have a go at scavenging (picking up the stray bits of cotton) - it was tiring work!

Miss Ackers summed up the trip: "The students seemed to really enjoy themselves and we were glad that we could provide such an interesting experience to enrich their learning and inspire a love of History."



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# When Pupils Had a Pi Day

Tuesday, 14 March was Pi Day - 3/14 in the American date format - and an excuse for the Maths department to get everyone talking about this unique irrational number that has infinite decimals.



Pupils took part in several fun activities from memory techniques to recite the most digits of pi, to a game of Pi Day Kahoots; the department had everyone joining in! A game of Dingbats followed on from that - a logical quiz similar to Catchphrase with all the words containing 'pi'. Have a go at the cards opposite.

Maths teacher, Mr Sneddon, who organised the event in school said,

*"Pi day went very well, it was the first time we've made a big celebration of it at Priory. The students started with trying to memorise pi to as many places as possible, before having a go at Kahoots and Dingbats, which was good fun."*

*"The students enjoyed the day as it was something a little different from the normal maths lessons, sparking curiosity about pi and the impact it has."*

If you want to have a go at Pi Day Kahoots, the game based online learning platform, you can play along here>>

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/pi-day-kahoot/8f8491ec-8ff1-4cdf-9d83-cc58e2d62ed9>

Well done to Year 7 Sophie who won the £10 Amazon voucher for memorising the pi digits to the most places - 80 numbers!



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