

# Spring 2026



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, a selection of 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, feel happy and feel like they belong to our school community. *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



# Future in Focus: Year 9 Explore Careers in Medicine

On Monday we welcomed Dr Alex Starkey and his team of doctors and surgeons into school for an inspiring careers workshop with all Year 9 pupils.

The sessions came at a crucial time as pupils prepare to choose their GCSE options, offering a unique insight into the world of medicine. The aim of Dr Starkey's team is to make medical student cohorts more representative of the general population, and to demonstrate to students of all socio-economic backgrounds that medicine is absolutely a viable career for them.

Each Year 9 class took part in an interactive workshop featuring an introduction to working in medicine, hands-on activities such as chest auscultation and keyhole surgery simulators, alongside diagnosis games and practical discussions.

Pupils described the sessions as "enjoyable," "informative," and praised the "interactive and practical elements." In particular they enjoyed the hands-on activities and learning new medical terms and procedures.

Many pupils left feeling inspired, with some expressing a newfound interest in pursuing medicine as a career.

Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith said, "We appreciate the team giving up their time to inspire pupils into considering medicine as their future career. Teachers and pupils enjoyed the sessions and found all aspects engaging. Hearing our pupils asking intelligent questions and engaging in conversations to gain a further insight was a pleasure to hear and a reflection of how their discussion abilities have developed whilst they have been with us. I look forward to working with team again in the future to provide further experiences for other pupils outside of Year 9."



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# Year 7 Serve Up Success in Their First Practical Cookery Lesson



This week Year 7 pupils stepped into the kitchen for their very first practical Food Technology lesson.

Under the guidance of Mrs Lockwood, the class focused on mastering essential knife skills while learning about basic culinary techniques and kitchen safety.

The pupils prepared a colourful Couscous Jewelled Salad, carefully chopping and combining a variety of fresh vegetables. Their enthusiasm was evident, and their attention to safe working practices was impressive.

Mrs Lockwood said, "I've been really impressed by the level of enthusiasm from our new Year 7s. They approached the lesson with confidence and demonstrated excellent safety awareness. It's wonderful to see them so engaged and eager to learn."

Looking ahead, the class will progress to more complex dishes as they learn how to safely use the oven and hob, with Chinese Stir Fry next on the menu.



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# Year 9: Car Passenger Safety

## #YOLO Performance in Education



On Tuesday, 20 January Year 9 pupils took part in a performance workshop about Car Passenger Safety. This workshop was commissioned by Lancashire County Council to assist in pupil education, to prevent the increase in car accidents which have impacted passengers.

The hour-long performance and subsequent workshop focused on the importance of passengers in driver concentration and safety. The performance included three actors who took on the roles of Dad, Son and Daughter in a car and provided an insight into the family following a fatality from a car accident and its impact on a sibling and parent.

#YOLO looked at how behaviour in a car as a passenger, especially wearing seatbelts, can massively influence outcomes and highlights the responsibilities of passengers as well as drivers for safety.

The performance investigated the role of a passenger and their responsibility within a car to keep themselves safe and not impede or negatively impact the way the car is being driven. This is done by focusing on how a passenger can have a negative influence within a car by: distracting a driver with music, questions and technology (ie, mobile phones); or by encouraging them to speed; and finally the importance of seatbelt use at all times.



Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith, said,

*"The #YOLO presentation reminded young people that driving a car is a massive responsibility and they have their part to play in helping to keep it safe."*

*"By showing the consequences to those left behind, #YOLO encourages students to not only change their own behaviour and attitudes as a passenger but also to intervene when others display this behaviour."*



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# Building the Past: Year 7's Impressive Castle Models



Lead teacher for History Mr Eccles described the Motte & Bailey or Stone Castle model competition entries as 'unbelievable.'

An extraordinary amount of effort, planning and skill has gone into the Year 7 annual competition, where pupils could win a History pin badge and House points for their efforts.

Mr Eccles said: "This year's entries have been unbelievable in terms of the selection. There were drawings, models, a 3D printed version and even one made out of Lego.

"They were all very imaginative and there was extraordinary detail in so many of them.

"One I was particularly taken with was a model based on a real Motte & Bailey Castle once in Penwortham."

That was from Millie who said: "I thought it would make it easier to base it on a real Motte & Bailey Castle so I did a lot of research. It took a couple of weeks to make it. My fences were cocktail sticks and I used Styrofoam, cardboard and paper."

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## Building the Past: Year 7's Impressive Castle Models

# HISTORY



Imogen said: "I had fun making my castle. You do also learn a lot from putting the model together."

James said: "I used cardboard, wooden sticks and cocktail sticks for my model, they all had to be cut very precisely!"

Thankfully Alba didn't have to eat all the lollipops for the sticks on her castle! "I ordered a pack off Amazon! It was imaginative doing it and I learnt a lot about history."



Georgia added: "I enjoyed being creative and using items from home."



# Year 11 Pupils Represent Priory At Holocaust Memorial Day Event



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY

For a third year, Priory was honoured to be invited to participate in South Ribble's Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations.

Holocaust Memorial Day is a national day that takes place on 27 January. It commemorates the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust, and the millions more murdered under Nazi persecution.

Held at the Leyland Civic Centre on Monday, 27 January, Mr Eccles and Mr Taylor were accompanied to the community event by three Year 11 pupils.

Kacper and Hannah were asked to light a candle which represented the victims of Nazi Persecution between 1933 and 1945. Molly-Grace then performed a stunning rendition of 'Lean On Me' as part of the musical programme for the afternoon.

Lead Teacher of History, Mr Eccles, said, "The pupils were praised by the organiser who commented that their presence and contributions helped to "make the event very special."



This year's HMD marks the 81st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp by the first Ukrainian Front on the 27th of January 1945, and the 31st anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. Prejudice still continues today within our communities and across the UK, and we remember where persecution led in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

The theme for this year's commemoration is 'Bridging Generations'. Holocaust Memorial Day is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own – it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

During Learning Life Lessons on Monday, pupils were shown a short video produced by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCYAFWiZfRg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCYAFWiZfRg)

*Pictured - Kacper, Mayor of South Ribble Cllr Paul Wharton-Hardman, Hannah and Molly-Grace.*

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# Year 9 MEGA Day at Runshaw College – Inspiring the Next Generation of Digital Innovators



On Wednesday, 21 January, our Year 9 students took part in an exciting MEGA Day at Runshaw College, a unique experience designed to open their eyes to future career opportunities in the fast-growing digital and technology sectors. The event was delivered by the award-winning IN4 Group, and was fully funded — giving all students the chance to take part in this inspiring, future-focused day.

The day aimed to develop students' digital skills, raise aspirations, and demonstrate the scale of opportunities emerging across technology and innovation. With the North West alone predicted to see over 30,000 cyber-related jobs by 2035, the MEGA Day offered an early insight into an industry full of high-skilled and well-paid roles.



**Becoming AI Entrepreneurs for the Day** - Year 9 pupils stepped into the role of AI Entrepreneurs, working in teams to design and pitch an AI-powered solution to a real-world challenge. The experience mirrored industry practice and encouraged creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and confidence.

**Big Ideas for Real World Problems** - Students explored the UN Global Goals and selected an issue they cared deeply about. Using this as inspiration, they developed an early concept for a product or app powered by artificial intelligence.

**Rapid Prototyping with AI** - Pupils learned how designers quickly bring ideas to life using digital tools. They experimented with AI-powered prototyping apps, creating early versions of their designs and learning how to iterate at speed.

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**Pitch, Polish, and Present** - The final session was a high-energy challenge. Teams refined their ideas and delivered a pitch in a Dragon's Den-style presentation, showcasing their communication skills, creativity and teamwork.

Ajuna said, "We learnt about how different companies use Ai. We all designed different Ai for different problems that would help people globally. We also made a presentation about how our Ai works and how it would benefit the future and today."



Max added, "We did three sessions creating Ai prototypes. In the first, we talked about how Ai is used in the real world such as GPS and Netflix recommendations and other things like TikTok feeds. In the second, we came up with ideas for Ai prototypes that could have positive impacts on social and environmental problems in the world. In the third and final session, we presented the ideas for our prototypes to the rest of the class and the judge board where everyone was ranked from 1-10. Overall, everyone had lots of fun and enjoyed it as well."



We are delighted to share that Priory's 'Team Price Route Pro' and 'RunWild' teams and achieved an impressive second and third place in the final pitch challenge. Their innovative ideas, clear communication, and confident teamwork stood out to the judges and demonstrated the incredible talent and potential within our Year 9 cohort.



Head of Technology, Mrs Qadri concluded "This fantastic result reflects the effort, creativity, and enthusiasm students brought to the challenge - and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements."



# English Department

## Year 10 Pupils Train as Reading Mentors to Support Younger Readers

A group of Year 10s have received professional on-line training to become Reading Mentors.

The 16 Year 10s will support Year 7s and 8s over 10 weeks to improve their confidence, fluency and encourage a love of reading.

The mentors will be led by English teachers Mrs Webster and Mrs Elliott with the help from support staff, Mr Eccles, Mr Oaks and Mr Kolacz, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Whalley.

Mrs Webster said: "Our Reading Mentors have had four hours of on-line training through a professional programme called Coram Reading.



"We wanted to make sure they had advanced training which is why we paid for a professional programme.

"The younger pupils will benefit as it will improve their comprehension and their confidence with reading.

"There will be three parts to the sessions which are: Being read to; Reading to their mentors; and Book talk.

"It was great so many Year 10s volunteered, it can count towards volunteering for their Duke Of Edinburgh so it's great for them."

Naeem said: "I wanted to become a Reader Mentor as I like English and I want to help others. The training was good."

Freya said: "I want to help others and I will benefit as well as I want to get better at reading."

Lottie added: "I enjoy English and enjoy reading which is why I volunteered for this. It will be good to listen to others and help them."

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# Year 10 Engineering Pupils Visit Leyland Trucks For Careers Event



With such an iconic business like Leyland Trucks on our doorstep, we couldn't resist the opportunity and accept their invitation to take some of our Year 10 students on a visit to learn more about an automotive engineering business and the apprenticeships on offer for school leavers.

The visit has become an annual event, and it provides an excellent opportunity for the students to visit a locally based, global automotive company who allowed us to see vehicle mass production first hand.

We were lucky enough to be given a factory tour which followed the journey of a variety of DAF trucks from a collection of parts, through various assembly and finishing processes before a completed and roadworthy vehicle rolls off the production line.

The company also gave the students an overview of the apprentice opportunities available for them beyond Year 11 within careers ranging from Design Engineering to Production Assembly.



Head of Technology, Mrs Lawe, said, "This visit was a great experience for our students studying the NCFE Level 1 and Level 2 Engineering qualification to see a working factory first hand. Some of our pupils aspire to taking on an apprenticeship at Leyland Trucks in the future and have family connections to the factory which made the visit even more special."



Leyland Trucks' apprentice applications are now open for current Year 11 students to apply for positions to start in September 2026.

[www.leylandtrucksLtd.co.uk/engb/working-at-leyland-trucks/apprenticeship](http://www.leylandtrucksLtd.co.uk/engb/working-at-leyland-trucks/apprenticeship)



# Anne Frank Exhibition Brings The Past To The Present at Priory



Year 9 pupils have been guiding younger pupils through the story of Anne Frank as they use the exhibition which has been set up in school to highlight the dangers of intolerance and hatred.

Anne Frank Trust's Lucy Allan spent time with the Year 9s at Priory who volunteered to teach the Anne Frank story to Year 7 & 8 pupils this week, as well as Year 6 pupils from Penwortham Primary School.

Teenager Anne was a German-born Jewish girl who kept a diary while she was hiding in an attic in Amsterdam during World War II and the Nazi persecution. Anne died in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp aged 15.



Lucy said: "We came in for two days and trained Year 9 tour guides about Anne's life and its significance.

"This week they have told Anne's story to Years 7 and 8 in order to help them learn from history. It's to challenge any discrimination today so that history does not repeat itself.

"The pupils at Priory are always so keen to learn, the Year 9s were a great group who really impressed me with their public speaking and delivery. They were determined to get the message across."

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Anne Frank.

The Anne Frank Trust UK

Year 9 Adele said: "It was emotional learning about Anne Frank's story and knowing she was my age.

"The Year 7s and 8s were interested and were asking a lot of questions."

Kaif said: "I learnt a lot about the Holocaust and what discrimination can lead to. It was our job to emphasise what happened and that it shouldn't happen again."

Amna added: "We were taught to deliver Anne's story from the start to finish and I think the Year 7s and 8s found it interesting and wanted to learn from it."

Lead teacher of History, Mr Eccles said, "I am incredibly proud of our Year 9 volunteers who supported the Anne Frank exhibition. We had over 40 pupils step forward, all eager to be involved, and it was a real challenge to narrow that down to just 20 places. Their maturity, empathy and commitment have been outstanding throughout. It's inspiring to see so many young people wanting to make a positive difference by promoting respect, tolerance and understanding within our school community.

"The group will now have the opportunity to apply to become Anne Frank Trust Ambassadors, and I'm looking forward to sharing the application forms with them soon."

Well done to: Loki Y, Kaif A, Amna M, Imogen K, Vivian O, Ada McM, Bella P-H, Alice W, Sandra B, Eva F, Ted Parker, Evelyn S, Adele M, Maci H, Areesha I-W, Alyssia H, Jack S, Ella R, Zach C.



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# Year 7 Impress Geography Teachers with Their Contour Models

Flashing lights on Pendle Hill helped Millie's design be crowned winner of the annual Year 7 Geography Contours Competition.

Year 7 pupils were given a project by geography teacher Mr Momoniat to create a 3D contour model of a landscape.

The competition was run in each Year 7 class, guided by their geography teacher, where they explored the intricacies of topographic maps and translated them into physical form.

Millie admitted she did have some help from her dad with hers!

"My dad and I love making models. We used Pendle Hill as it's easier to picture and base it all around that, as well as make it to scale.



"We added the flashing lights with a battery in the corner which makes it stand out."

Aleysha came second. She said: "It took me around four hours to make mine with wood, wood paint and wood glue. I enjoyed the challenge, especially as I like geography."

Manny, who won his class 7W2, said: "I have climbed Cat Bells, it's my favourite mountain, so my model is based on that. There is Derwent Water on it and the forest at the bottom. It helped that I based it on something I knew."

Phoebe came third and hers was an Eco-Peak, all based around recycling.

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“In geography, there is a lot of talk about the environment so I used old items to make my contour model. I was pleased to come third.”

Imogen won her class 7W1 and said: “I used my imagination and made mine from polystyrene. It helped me learn more about contours.”

Geography teacher, Mr Momoniat rounded off by saying, “Another year of fantastic Contour Models is in the books!

“Our students did an amazing job sharing their strengths and learning stories, helping teachers better understand and support each student. This work has strengthened connections across classrooms and created more personalised, meaningful learning experiences. We’re proud of the effort put in by everyone and excited to build on this success in the year ahead.”

Other class winners: 7E2 Alba P, 7E3 Corey F, 7E1 Spencer I.



## Year 8 Pupils Raise Funds to Support the International Wolf Center

**Year 8 pupils are celebrating once again after their latest bake sale raised over £48 for the International Wolf Center in Minnesota, USA.**

The charity supports the care of five ‘exhibit pack’ wolves at its centre in Ely. Alongside caring for the animals, the organisation provides education through on-site exhibitions, monthly webinars, 24-hour live-streams of the wolves, and a wide range of online resources. Their mission is to promote a world where wolves and humans can successfully co-exist.



Year 8 Charlie P said, “The Wolf Center is an amazing cause and will continue to do their brilliant work supported by our donation.”

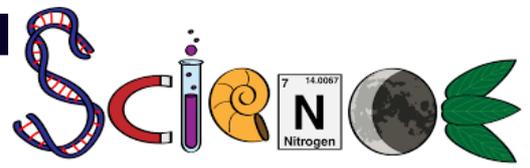
Ben W added, “It’s great knowing that all our hard work will support such a good cause.”

Charlie chose this charity, of which he is a member, because he has “always liked wolves.” He regularly watches the International Wolf Center’s live cams via explore.org to keep up with the pack.

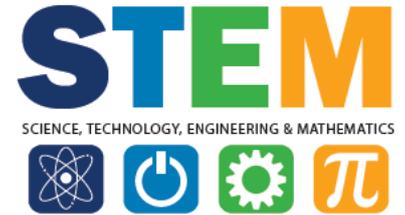
Well done to the whole team behind the bake sale: Charlie P, Ben W, Meraj M, Archie H, and Holly-May B.



# BAE Systems Roadshow Brings STEM to Life for Years 7 and 8



An appreciation of STEM (Science, technology, Engineering and Maths) is an important part of our curricular and extra-curricular offering at Priory as it delves into so many skills that are desirable across all careers. As well as the academic skills it promotes creativity, problem solving and resilience. All of these were investigated during Thursday's BAE Systems' roadshow.



Years 7 and 8 took part in this assembly where they explored the world of material science from the tiniest atoms to applications such as Aluminium and Kevlar's use in air travel due to their properties. Pupils learnt about thermochromic (colour change due to temperature) and hydrochromic (colour change due to water) paints and using real life demonstrations they had hands on experience of this working.

The assembly also, importantly discussed different routes into engineering and other careers discussing both university and apprenticeship routes, very much emphasising that there is not one correct route, it is what suits the individual's needs the best.

The team who came into the school were very positive about our pupils and the way that they engaged with the assembly. We look forward to working with them again in the future.

Assistant Leader of Science, Mrs Potter, who arranged the event commented: "These opportunities are vital for giving pupils insight into how what they are learning in the classroom is actually used in the real world and how the skills they are developing are going to be instrumental for their future careers.

"Pupils can now use this event to add to their 'Bright Futures' section of the Priory Plus Award. It is great that this also contributes towards our Priory Pledge of enabling all pupils to be able to complete their Priory Plus Award."



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# Year 8 Fundraisers Present Cheque to Barnardo's



Changing childhoods.  
Changing lives.

Mrs Elliott's EW4 form is feeling proud after raising £426.89 for the charity, Barnardo's.

Their class assembly last term was about 'collecting for local children' so they chose Barnardo's as their charity.

The Year 8s held two bake sales, a 'Guess the Teacher' quiz, Christmas jumper day and more to raise more than £400.

Mrs Elliott said: "We have far exceeded what we thought we would raise. My form has really embraced it. It was quite a vague idea - 'money for local children' - but my form researched charities and found Barnardo's. They put everything into fundraising and I am very proud of them."

Denise Whiteside, Team Manager, Lancashire Young Carers, Barnardo's North Region, said: "It's absolutely wonderful what the pupils have achieved."



"We work to help young people but young people are also helping other young people and that's amazing to see."

"We have a project at the moment where we are looking to start a cookery group in Lancashire for young carers, and maybe help with cooking equipment, so the money will be put to very good use."

Some of the money will also go towards Barnardo's Include Me 2 (IM2) scheme which offers an activities service at weekends, after-school and during holidays for children and young people with disabilities across Chorley, South Ribble, Preston, West Lancashire and Pendle.

IM2 also provides individual care packages within a group setting from its Lostock Hall base, helping children and young people access activities and develop social and communication skills.

Ben said: "We are all very proud to have raised so much, it's a great achievement and it's good knowing it will help young people in our community and they will appreciate it. It's interesting to know we have some young carers in school that this may help too."

Daniel said: "Fundraising was good fun, we had a good time doing it and we raised a lot of money so it was a success."

Matilda added: "Helping a charity makes you feel good, helping other people is such a positive thing to do."



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## Priory's New Darts Academy Hits The Bullseye

While Priory pupils are dreaming about the Ally Pally and walk-on songs, the staff are seeing an increase in early attendance to school, an improvement in maths skills and a general eagerness to be involved in extra-curricular activities.

Priory launched its Darts Academy in January and we are only the second school in the UK to be affiliated with the Junior Darts Corporation (JDC).

The affiliation means Priory pupils can compete against fellow arrowsmiths nationally and internationally with a structured scoring and progression system so, as well as for enjoyment, they can significantly improve their rankings.



Head of PE and Sport Mr Bullock said: "I was blown away by the response, I guess it's how much darts is now on TV, but I have been amazed at how many pupils have come forward. Over 40 pupils have signed up and the interest is phenomenal.

"Being affiliated with the JDC means pupils have to calculate scores, track averages, compare data and more – skills that build confidence in real-world maths.

"Alongside the mathematical, speed, accuracy and strategic benefits, pupils will also gain opportunities to play against the best young dart players nationally and internationally, representing the school and the JDC."

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# SPORTS REPORT

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"The school bought eight boards but, due to our affiliation with the JDC, Winmau, one of the market leaders in darts, support our academy so we have 12 match quality boards and full lane set-ups that have just arrived. The pupils have been over the moon with the upgrades, and now there is excitement to get to the newest boards with lights!"



"Our Darts Academy sessions are Monday-Thursday 7.45am-8.30am and so it has helped attendance and punctuality."

"The pupils can also play at breaks and lunch-times and we have two sessions after school, it was originally one but we extended it because of its popularity."

"The pupils have a JDC routine where we record their scores which is how they are ranked."

Year 8 James said: "I love darts so this is great. My favourite player is Gary Anderson. I have a dart board at home and to play in school as well is really nice. It helps with my maths."



Year 10 Charlie is top of the Priory leaderboard at the moment. He said: "It's good I can practise in school as well as home. My favourite player is Nathan Aspinall as he is local."

Year 8 Bobby has already considered his walk-on



song. "I would come out to 'Don't Stop Believing.' I do love the darts, watching and playing. I love the excitement of watching it."

"Playing in school has really helped me with my maths too."



Harrison said: "I love the way Gerwin Price celebrates so he is my favourite. It's great we can play darts in school. I don't mind getting up early to come into school as I know it's darts first."



Year 8 Charlotte is the only girl of the 40-plus Year 7-11s so far signed up but she doesn't mind.

"I have watched darts for years and I just enjoy it so it's ok being the only girl. I like Nathan Aspinall due to his walk-on song 'Mr Brightside.' I also really admire Beau Greaves."

There is still time to sign up. It's £15 registration fee and £2 per week for each submission of JDC routine



scores. The registration and 10 weeks of score entries are available on ScoPay and it's a first-come, first served basis for places.



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# Priory Pupils Explore Their Futures at Annual Careers Fair



On Friday, 13 February, Priory once again opened its doors to a fantastic line-up of employers, organisations, and further education providers for our annual Careers Fair - an inspiring event designed to support pupils across all stages as they consider their future pathways.

Held in the Sports Hall, pupils from Years 8 to 11 - along with some of our Year 7 cohort - attended dedicated 20-minute sessions, giving them the opportunity to meet professionals face-to-face, ask their prepared questions, and gather valuable insights into careers, apprenticeships, and college options.

Prior to the fair, pupils spent time thinking about the questions they wanted to ask, helping them take a proactive and confident approach.

This year's Careers Fair brought together an impressive range of organisations, including Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, Leyland Trucks, Nuffield Health, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust Pathology Department, the Army, RAF, Civil Service, Community Rail Lancashire, BAE Systems, and Sarah Cutts Linguistics & Translation.



One of the highlights of the morning was welcoming back two former Priory pupils, James and Harrison Aubrey-Williams, who attended the event with Nuffield Health. It was wonderful to hear first-hand about their journey since leaving Priory and how their experiences at school helped shape their career ambitions.

Our visiting colleges - Runshaw College, Newman College, Myerscough College, Preston College, Blackpool & The Fylde College, and Fleetwood Nautical Campus - were also on hand to provide guidance on post-16 courses, vocational routes, and further training opportunities.

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Each exhibitor set up an interactive stand filled with information, hands-on activities, and popular take-home goodies such as pens, wristbands, and sweets, all of which helped spark conversations and build pupils' confidence in engaging with professionals.



Event organiser and Science teacher Mrs Massey praised the enthusiasm shown by pupils throughout the morning. "Our aim is to give pupils the knowledge, confidence and inspiration they need to make informed, open-minded decisions about their future," she said. "I was delighted to see so many organisations give up their morning to support our school. Their commitment ensures this event remains such a valuable experience for our pupils."



Reflecting on the day, Mrs Massey added: "The pupils were fantastic; they asked thoughtful questions, explored a range of careers, and embraced the opportunity to speak to people from industries they may never have considered before. I couldn't be prouder of how they represented Priory."



Priory would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every organisation that joined us. Your time, enthusiasm, and willingness to share your expertise plays a crucial role in helping shape the aspirations of our pupils. We look forward to welcoming many of you back next year as we continue to build strong, meaningful links between school, employers and the wider community.



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# Priory Pupils Go Digital with Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week



Year 8 & 9 pupils explored cyber skills and education opportunities as part of Lancashire Cyber Partnership's county-wide showcase.

During a visit to Brockholes Nature Reserve on 5 February a group of Year 8 & Year 9 girls gained first-hand experience of how today's classroom skills can grow into tomorrow's careers in cyber.

The Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week brought together more than 9,000 young people from across the county to learn more about Lancashire's rapidly expanding cyber ecosystem.

Forty pupils took part in a day of engaging cyber activities - with an emphasis on fun, interaction, and teamwork, these included cyber-based quizzes, code-breaking challenges, cyber-crime protection exercises, and virtual escape room competitions.

Year 9 Sophia told us, "For the **first activity** we were given a sphere bot and an iPad and we had to programme the bots around different tracks by using the iPad and a programming app. It was awesome - the bots also had lights on them and we got to change the colour of them too.

"The **second session** was about making a sustainable app using Microsoft CoPilot and Replicat. My group made a fitness tree app where you had to walk to earn points which turned into money and then after you had £1 you could buy one tree and pick any place in the world to plant it.



"**Session three** was learning about cyber safety and making sure we didn't get scammed. A company called Blue Earth got a message from a scam account (we didn't know it was a scam account) asking for £5.5m however our group knew it was a scam and knew what to do!



"We were on the computers for our **final session** which was online escaping from different rooms by looking around the room trying to find hints to get the four word code to escape. We only did two rooms but we tried our best!

"Overall I thought this was an amazing trip, I would go again. My favourite session was session three because I got really into it and learning about cyber safety. Thank you for taking me on this trip".

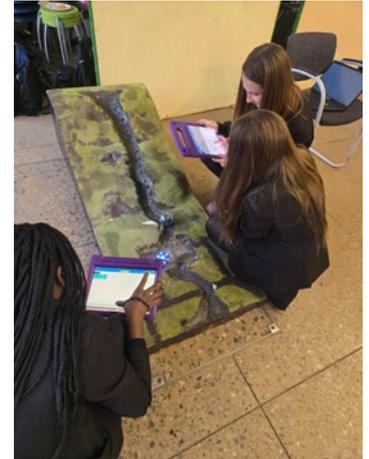
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Commenting on Priory's involvement in the event, Mrs Qadri said: *"This event was designed to transform the way that students think about careers in computing. The immersive and inspiring activities were led by some of the leading tech organisations from around the world at a pivotal moment in their education. Hopefully, this experience has changed pupils' perspectives on computing and inspired the next generation of cyber professionals."*

With Lancashire set to be the home of the National Cyber Force headquarters, and with the Lancashire Cyber Partnership supporting collaboration across schools, colleges, and universities, local opportunities for learners are growing.

Education Week showed students of all ages how their interests in computing, mathematics, science, design, and creative subjects can lead to exciting roles in cyber and related industries.



Learn to succeed

# Year 9 DofE Drop Down Day 1

**More than 70 Year 9 pupils took part in an exciting and challenging Duke of Edinburgh's Award Drop Down Day on Tuesday, 24 February, marking the first of three essential DofE training days planned for this year.**

Throughout the day, pupils worked closely in their expedition groups, developing the vital navigation and teamwork skills they will need for their upcoming Bronze expeditions.

One of the core focuses of the day was map reading, with pupils learning to identify key features on an Ordnance Survey map, use four- and six-figure grid references, and calculate distance and estimated travel time by comparing real-life terrain with route cards. Groups also made an impressive start on planning their route for their first expedition walk, putting their newly learned skills straight into practice.

As part of their commitment to improving the local community, pupils also took part in a litter-picking session around Penwortham. Their competitive spirit was clear as groups raced up and down Liverpool Road collecting bags of rubbish — in some cases literally racing each other to pick up the next piece. Their enthusiasm made a visible difference to the area and reflected the DofE value of contributing positively to the environment.



In the afternoon, pupils enjoyed an energetic orienteering session in the woods behind school. Working in their expedition groups, they navigated to a series of checkpoints, testing their problem-solving and communication skills. Despite some muddy boots — and a few slips along the way — the pupils showed fantastic resilience and had a great deal of fun.

The next DofE Drop Down Day will take place on Wednesday, 25th March. Pupils will continue planning their expedition route and will also learn important practical skills, including how to pack an expedition rucksack, what equipment is required, how to assemble a tent, and which foods are suitable for cooking during an expedition. They will also complete a hands-on session on using camp stoves and cooking safely.

Priory's DofE Co-Ordinator, Mrs Cauchi said, "This week's event marks a strong start to the pupils' DofE journey, and staff are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and teamwork shown so far. With more training days ahead, Year 9 are well on their way to completing a successful and memorable expedition."



# Pancake Day Comes Early at Priory!



There was a real buzz around school on Tuesday, 10 February as our catering team treated pupils to delicious American style pancakes at break time - served a full week early, since Pancake Day itself fell during the half term break.

The pancakes proved a real hit once again, with pupils lining up eagerly to choose from a tempting range of toppings. From fresh strawberries, chocolate sauce, syrup, traditional lemon and sugar, and of course the always favourite squirty cream - there was something to suit every taste.

A huge well-deserved thank you goes to our fantastic catering team, who went all out preparing and serving everything so smoothly to bring the tradition to our school.

Pancake Day, also known as Shrove Tuesday, is traditionally the final day before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Its name comes from the word 'shrive', meaning 'to confess sins' in preparation for the Lenten period of reflection and fasting.

Historically, households used the day to use up rich foods like eggs, milk, and sugar - ingredients not typically consumed during Lent - which is how the tradition of pancake making began.

Across many Christian countries, Shrove Tuesday has long been celebrated as a final moment of indulgence before the austerity of Lent. Pancakes became the perfect dish for using up luxury ingredients, and the tradition continues today not only in the UK but around the world, where the day is also known as Mardi Gras or 'Fat Tuesday.'



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# A Fantastic Afternoon Enjoyed at Priory's Half-Term Rewards Day

# Rewards

On Monday, 9 February, Priory pupils in Years 7-10 enjoyed an afternoon of fun as part of our half-term rewards programme. The event recognised those who have consistently upheld the Priory Standard, maintained 95%+ attendance, and made positive choices throughout the term.

Hard work and commitment were rewarded with a range of exciting activities across school during Periods 5 and 6. Pupils selected their preferred activity in advance, with each option offering something a little different - and there was plenty of enthusiasm and energy wherever you looked

## Film Screenings

Our film rooms were filled with pupils settling in with friends to enjoy one of two popular new releases. Year 7 & 8 were swept away by the adventure and heart of *The Wild Robot*, while it was the action-packed *Minecraft* movie for Year 9 & 10. The screenings proved to be a perfect way for pupils to unwind and enjoy some downtime together.

## Hands-On Creativity in Food Tech and Science

In Food Technology, pupils rolled up their sleeves to make delicious American-style pancakes. The kitchen was filled with the smell of sizzling batter, and the finished results, complete with toppings, were devoured with pride.

Over in Science, pupils got stuck into a brilliantly messy slime-making workshop. Using a mixture of cornflour, shaving foam and PVA glue, they experimented with ingredients to create their very own slime. It was equal parts learning and laughter.

## Games, Hot Chocolate and Friendly Competition

The library played host to a cosy games afternoon where pupils gathered around tables to enjoy everything from Uno to chess. The atmosphere was relaxed and sociable, made even more special with a cup of hot chocolate in hand.



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## Sports and Outdoor Fun

For those who preferred something more active, pupils headed to the Sports Hall and 3G pitch for darts, table tennis and football. These sessions were full of friendly competition and plenty of energy.

Mrs Massey, who organised the event, said, "The rewards afternoon highlighted the best of Priory: pupils showing maturity, making the right choices and embracing opportunities to grow. It was a pleasure to celebrate their achievements in such a positive way."

A huge well done to all pupils who qualified this half term. We look forward to seeing their fantastic attitude continue. We will be celebrating the next rewards event on Thursday, 26 March with inflatables in the Sports Hall!



This is the second of two articles about Priory pupils who are making a name for themselves on the TikTok scene by using their amazing talents. From busking to interviewing footballers, there is no holding back Priory's ambitious pupils.



## Meet Taylor: Priory's Rising Musician

Year 8 Taylor has already wowed his Priory audience with an assembly where he performed Billy Joel's 'Piano Man' on his guitar and harmonica. Now, he has taken his musical skills onto the streets of the UK where he has been busking – and building a bigger audience by putting his performances on TikTok.

"I started playing the guitar around two years ago. I haven't had any lessons but have picked it up from YouTube.

"I then started singing and found my voice was ok so combined the two. One day I saw a harmonica and had a go and so I have learnt that too!

"I went to the Edinburgh Festival with my parents and saw buskers and decided I wanted a go.

"So I did it and since then I have performed in Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster - where ever I can really.

"I get quite big crowds and I absolutely love it when I can make everyone smile. I also have around 3,000 followers on TikTok.

"The person I admire most is Paolo Nutini as he has an amazing voice and he inspires me. I write my own songs and hope to be seen by a record company."



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# Year 11 Computer Science Pupils Go Behind the Scenes of Priory's Network Infrastructure



Year 11 Computer Science pupils were given a rare behind-the-scenes look at the heart of Priory's ICT systems just before half term, thanks to a guided tour led by ICT Technician Mr Oakes.

The session, organised to support pupils' GCSE Computer Science studies, took students beyond the classroom and into the real working environment of the school's network.

Mr Oakes walked the group through Priory's server rooms, explained the structure of the network, and demonstrated how different systems work together to keep the school running smoothly on a daily basis.

His clear and engaging explanation brought their learning on networks to life, helping students make crucial links between theory and practice. Many were fascinated to see the scale and complexity of the infrastructure they usually experience only through diagrams and exam questions.

The impact was immediate. Pupils left the session "buzzing with enthusiasm" and several commented that the tour made them even more prepared for their upcoming GCSE exam.

A number of students have even asked for a further, more technical tour, having been inspired by what ICT careers could offer.

Head of ICT, Mrs Qadri, expressed her appreciation for Mr Oakes by saying, *"It was wonderful to see our Year 11 students so engaged and inspired during their network tour. Opportunities like this bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, helping students understand how the systems they study operate in a professional environment. I am incredibly grateful to Mr Oakes for giving up his time and sharing his expertise. Experiences like this can be pivotal in shaping a young person's interest in pursuing a future career in ICT."*

The experience not only enhanced pupils' subject knowledge but also opened their eyes to the pathways and opportunities within the ICT field - something Priory continues to champion as part of its commitment to careers education for our young people.



## Year 7 Girls Kick Off Their First Football Campaign

**Our Year 7 girls football team made school history this February as they embarked on their first ever competitive season.**

Thanks to the increasing number of girls taking up the sport, this is the first year the girls' game has been included in a local fixture calendar - an exciting milestone!

The team opened their campaign against All Hallows in truly testing conditions. Battling fierce wind, relentless rain and freezing temperatures, the girls showed tremendous spirit and resilience.

Despite the harsh weather, they held their opponents to a 0–0 draw at half time. Laura T and Belle L both created excellent chances, sending several shots on target, while Anissa and Maddie S were outstanding at the back with strong defensive play and some superb saves.

Although the match ended in a 2–0 defeat, the girls' determination and teamwork shone throughout.

Their next fixture saw them face Lostock Hall Academy and this time the girls were ready to make their mark.



From the first whistle, they played with confidence and purpose. Powerful attacking play from Sophie pushed the team forward, setting up Reeva to score Priory's first goal of the season and giving the girls a 1–0 lead at half time.

In the second half, defenders Isla W, Isla T and Lila worked brilliantly together to keep Lostock Hall at bay. With momentum building, Belle L netted two fantastic goals to secure an impressive 3–0 victory.

PE Teacher, Miss Beesley said, "I'm incredibly proud of the way the girls have embraced their first season of football so far. Their determination, teamwork and willingness to learn have been inspiring. They've set a fantastic foundation for the future of girls' football at Priory".

A huge well done to the whole team for their commitment, improvement and enthusiasm. This is just the beginning - let's keep it up, girls!

Team: Lila W, Anissa O, Sophie A, Isla W, Isa T, Belle L, Maddie S, Laura T and Reeva C.



# Priory+ Awards



Before the half term break, Mr Eastham presented badges and certificates to pupils who had achieved the next stage in the Priory+ Awards.

113 pupils achieved this recognition during the Autumn term and on Friday, 13 February, those that chose to have them personally presented by the Principal got to receive their rewards (pupils who opted out of this have their certificates and badges presented to them by their Head of Year), and we were delighted to see the queue into Mr Eastham's office went round the block!

Priory+ aims 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.

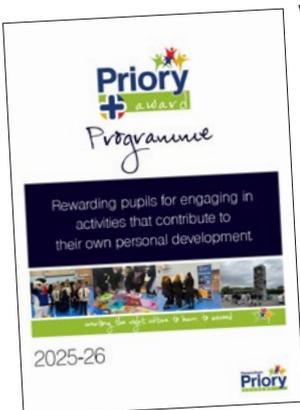
Our activities fit into five overarching strands, which supplement our Character and Culture Personal Development sessions in Learning for Life. There are five strands:

- Culture & Heritage** | **Future Citizens** | **Health & Well-Being**
- | **Skill Builders** | **Bright Futures**

## Priory+ Brochure

If you would like to know more about what the Priory+ award means and how our pupils achieve it, please visit our website to download the 2025-26 brochure >>

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/personal-development/wider-opportunities](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/personal-development/wider-opportunities)



*Learn to succeed*

# First Bite, Best Start: Pupils Enjoy Priory's Morning Boost

Pupils are 'toasting' Priory's latest initiative – 'First Bite of the Day.'

The free breakfast idea was the brainchild of Assistant Principal Miss Thornton and now around 100 pupils are at school at 8.15am-8.35am to have a snack, drink or just a general chat before school officially starts.

Miss Thornton said: "My role is about teaching and learning in school and to do that pupils need to be well-fuelled and not hungry or thirsty.

"They need the best start to the day and the idea of the 'First Bite of the Day' is to ensure pupils are fully prepared to focus and concentrate on their lessons.

"The 'First Bite of the Day' is open to everyone in Years 7-11 and it may be for those who don't have time to eat before they leave their house or can't eat as soon as they get up but are ready by the time they get to school.



"We wanted it to be free so we partnered with Recycling Lives, a Preston organisation working with charity Fareshare.

"Fareshare give food which is close to its sell-by date or damaged to schools, charities and other community groups.

"Our staff pick it up once a week. It's certainly varied. There is toast, fruit, jam, muffins, juices – we never quite know what we will get but it's always welcome!

"The pupils are really good. It's a chance for them to socialise together, it's calm and peaceful, and also they clear up after themselves, putting any waste in the correct bins."

*Continued over...*



*Learn to succeed*

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Science Teacher Mrs Butcher coordinates 'The First Bite of the Day' and said, "One of my roles is to make sure this is all supervised. I arrange for the staff to cover the earlier start and liaise with the catering staff."

"It's been such a good initiative, it's so popular and it's also having a positive impact on behaviour and learning."

"It's inclusive and social and it really is a calm and nice atmosphere to start the day."

One of the Catering Staff, Miss Snape, a former Priory pupil, covers the early hours.

"I really enjoy seeing all the pupils in the morning. It's such a buzz. The children are enjoying it and they sit and talk while able to get whatever they may fancy for free."

"We do never know what we will get – we had some really fancy yoghurts the other week!"

Year 7 Alyx said: "If you get here early, you can sometimes get pancakes! I love it."

Emily said: "It's good as you can mix with everyone not just your year group."

Madison said: "We just sit and chat although I do come on the bus so it does depend what time the bus gets to Priory. I have a bowl of cereal at home and then I might have something here."

Year 8 Archie added: "I like it. There is no rush and you can come in, eat and socialise."



## IN MEMORY OF: Mrs Fenwick (Sylvia)



(SCIENCE 1959-1962 & 1970s-1999)

**Sylvia Fenwick (née Gerrard) taught at Priory from 1959, shortly after qualifying as a teacher, until 1962, when she travelled to Uganda where she taught at Nakasero School and married Geoff.**



She returned to Priory in the mid-1970s, where she remained until her retirement in 1999.

Sylvia taught Biology and had a lifelong love of plants and animals. She loved working at Priory, where the Science department felt like an extended family, and she greatly valued the friendships she formed with colleagues and pupils alike.

Sylvia was immensely proud of the students she taught and always enjoyed hearing about what they went on to achieve. Until very recently, she particularly enjoyed joining her earliest pupils for 'Class of 59' lunches.

In retirement, Sylvia and Geoff travelled widely across North and South America, Africa, Europe and Asia, and in 2022 they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a party attended by several colleagues from her time at Priory.

Sylvia passed on 14 January, ten months after Geoff.

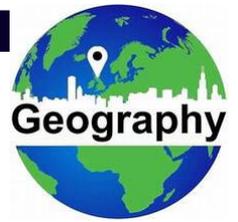
Past pupils gave tribute:

*"My biology teacher for separate sciences, she told me of her travels in Africa, I followed her to teach in my gap year in Uganda aged 18. A wonderful woman a huge legacy of inspiring her students."*

*"Such a shame, a lovely lady and inspirational. She always gave time and patience to all. Biology was one of those lessons I wish I'd had more of. Fond memories. Blue skies Mrs Fenwick."*

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# Year 7 Pupils Amaze Geography Teachers With Creative Rainfall Presentations



Year 7 pupils impressed their teachers before half term by delivering a series of imaginative and highly creative presentations on the different types of rainfall.

As part of their geography unit on Weather and Climate, students were challenged to explain convectional, frontal and relief rainfall in any format they wished, encouraging them to think beyond traditional slideshows and to use their creativity, imagination and personal interests to bring the topic to life.

The results, according to the Humanities department, were “beyond anything we expected.”

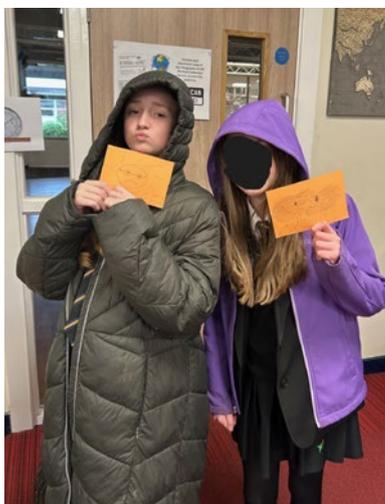
Pupils showcased their understanding in a huge variety of formats from raps, poems, songs, dramatic performances, props, models and even mini-sketches designed to show how rainfall forms and moves. One group performed a weather-themed rap, another created a handmade mountain range to demonstrate relief rainfall, while others acted out warm and cold fronts meeting.

Geography Teacher, Mrs Kursitis described the presentations as “engaging, original, and incredibly impressive,” praising students not only for their knowledge but also for their confidence and teamwork.

“The creativity was outstanding,” Mr Momoniati commented. “Every group brought something different, and we were blown away by the imagination they showed.”

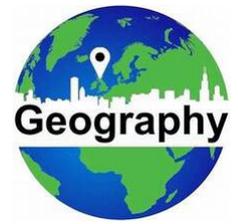
The department says the project will definitely return next year - though they admit the bar has now been set very high!

*More photos next page...*



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# Year 11 GCSE Pupils Venture Over To Wycoller for Field Work Studies



REPORT BY MR METCALFE, HEAD OF HUMANITIES



Once again, the GCSE Geography students donned their outdoor gear and prepared themselves for the great outdoors. This time, a visit to Wycoller to complete their fieldwork study to complement Papers 1 & 3 of their GCSE this summer.

Mr Watters stepped in to support the department this year, imparting his knowledge onto students and being integral to the trips by driving the minibus too. It was fantastic to have him back out in the field with us – in his natural habitat!

Students were able to test the Bradshaw Model of river change and test their own hypotheses to prove what had been learnt in class. Students tested river width, depth, velocity, pebble size and pebble roundness and compared this against the Bradshaw Model.



Students were also given the opportunity to discuss the fieldwork methods and test the accuracy and reliability of their techniques. This involved group discussions and practical method adaptation live in the field to improve the techniques being used. It was fantastic to see so many of our students engaging in the fieldwork skills element of the trip.

We are always really proud of our students when representing Priory and this was no exception. All students showed respect to each other, the environment and the general public on the visit - complimented by several people over the course of the five separate trips that took place this year.

No fieldwork is complete without a treat for our students and in classic Mr Watters style, students were rewarded at the end of a trip for their impeccable behaviour and outstanding work ethic – a round of doughnuts for all!

Well done to all the Geographers! I would personally like to thank Mrs Simpson, Mrs Crix-Jopson, Mrs Kursitis and Mr Momoniat for their support over several different days. Without such kind volunteering of their time, trips like this couldn't happen. A special thanks to Mr Watters, who took his own time to lead the visits this year to support the GCSE pupils.



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# Budding Year 10 Broadcaster Inspired by Professional Match Day Experience



**Budding football commentator Noah enjoyed what he called an ‘inspirational’ trip to Accrington Stanley to watch a League Two football match from the press box.**

The Year 10 has already built up on a following on his TikTok channel where the Blackburn Rovers fan and season ticket holder interviews players from both Rovers and the opposition after the games.

He was given the opportunity to attend a match at the Wham Stadium where he saw Shrewsbury Town beat Accrington Stanley 2-0.

“It was a really good experience,” said Noah. “I got to sit in the press box which was interesting and I talked to all the other press, including the Shrewsbury media team and BBC Radio Shropshire and BBC Radio Lancashire.



“It was inspirational.

“I tried to write a match report – I got to 800 words!

“Then I attended the Shrewsbury press conference after where I listened to Radio Shropshire interview the manager Gavin Cowan and he gave me a separate interview and shook my hand.

“I also interviewed their captain, Will Boyle, who was really nice and also took time to speak to me and shake my hand.

“I put both interviews on TikTok and they have got over 10,000 views each.”

Noah, who wants to be a football pundit, recently spent his work experience at the Lancashire Football Association in Leyland.

“I am part of the Lancashire FA’s ‘Change Our Game’ where six of us give insights into what changes we would like to see in grassroots football and have been for a few years.

“I got the chance to do my work experience there and I did a lot of different things, such as putting the soil on the pitch and helping with a presentation. It was a well-rounded week of work experience.”



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## World Book Day Door Decorating Extravaganza!

Priory's staff and pupils brought stories to life last week as part of our annual World Book Day Door Decorating Competition.

Once again, the creativity, humour and imagination on display turned our corridors into a vibrant celebration of reading. From classic tales to modern favourites, each department embraced the challenge with gusto.

Miss Howell's Wicked creation certainly stopped people in their tracks... though we're still undecided whether Galinda is quite channelling Ariana Grande levels of glamour!

Meanwhile, the ICT team clearly had a quiet day after unleashing their rather menacing Pennywise from 'It' ... not for the faint-hearted!



Pupils passing the School Office were tempted by actual Turkish Delight as they stepped into The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - even Edmund would have struggled to resist.

From Peter Pan soaring over London (via the Business & Finance Office), to two adorable Very Hungry Caterpillars, a colourful trip Up, tropical Where's Wally? adventures, the bright and bold Lorax, and even a full journey through We're Going on a Bear Hunt... every door told its own story.

The effort and imagination shown by staff and their forms this year have been exceptional, and the displays have sparked conversations, laughter and curiosity among pupils all week. The English department certainly faced a difficult task in choosing the eventual winners (see next page) — the standard has been higher than ever.

World Book Day at Priory continues to inspire a love of reading and creativity across the school, and this year's door designs have once again shown what a talented and enthusiastic community we have.



# Pupils Cast Their Votes for 2026 Youth Parliament



This week pupils participated in the largest ballot for young people - the Election for the Member of Youth Parliament for the Preston & South Ribble Constituency.



The Lancashire Youth Council provides opportunities for 11-18 year olds to use their elected voice to bring about social change through meaningful representation and campaigning.

During the school day on Thursday, pupils were given the opportunity to vote, to select their chosen candidate, based on candidate videos they watched earlier in the week. As in adult elections, they had to put a large X in one box only.

Election for Member of Youth Parliament for the Preston & South Ribble Constituency	
Vote for only one candidate by putting a cross <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	
BOWERMAN-MELLING, Kairen	<input type="checkbox"/>
BURNETT-CHERRY, Freddie	<input type="checkbox"/>
MURTHA, Eloise	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAFIQ, Mishel	<input type="checkbox"/>

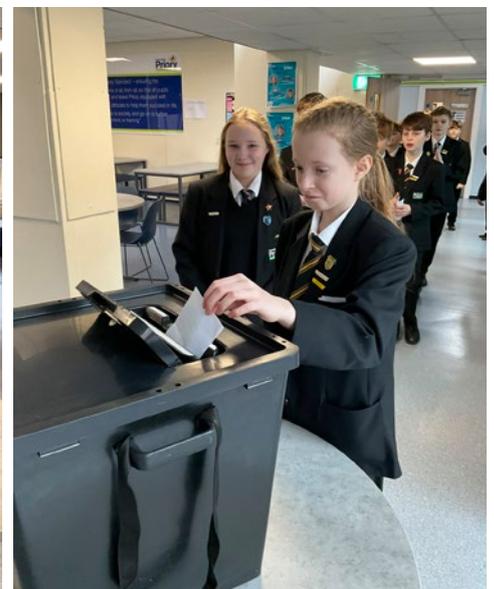
The candidates included Kairen Bowerman-Melling, Freddie Burnett-Cherry, Eloise Murtha and Mishel Rafiq. Candidate manifestos included pushing forward on free public transport for under 18s, more youth centres, cleaner parks, helping the homeless, more access to sports, increased mental health support and work experience, and in the words of Mishel Rafiq - "Many, many more".



Organiser Ms Smith said "When an opportunity comes along to participate in active citizenship, through democracy, we actively participate as part of pupil Personal Development. Where possible, we will always try to mimic real-world activities in readiness for life after Priory."

All opportunities to vote are enacted in school and tie-in with our Citizenship curriculum, our coverage of Fundamental British Values (FBV) - Democracy and Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC) learning".

On this occasion, the ballot papers will be counted by Lancashire Youth Council, and we look forward to hearing the outcome.



Learn to succeed

# A Winning Display of Effort and Enthusiasm from Priory's Year 7 & 8 Athletes

REPORT BY MRS BULLOCK

On Monday, 2 March, our Year 7 and Year 8 girls took part in the indoor athletics competition hosted at All Hallows.

From start to finish, the girls represented Priory with outstanding team spirit, enthusiasm and determination. Their support for one another, cheering team mates on, celebrating successes, and encouraging each other through the events was one of the real highlights of the day.

Competing against strong schools from across South Ribble, both teams showcased impressive effort and commitment across a wide range of track and field events.

Year 8 finished second overall, showing excellent consistency, effort, and resilience.

Year 7 achieved a strong fourth place, demonstrating huge determination and a fantastic attitude throughout.

Stand-out performances came from J-V Taylor (Year 7) and E Matthews (Year 8), who excelled in their events and made significant contributions to their respective teams. However, every athlete played an important role, and the overall success was a reflection of their combined hard work and teamwork.

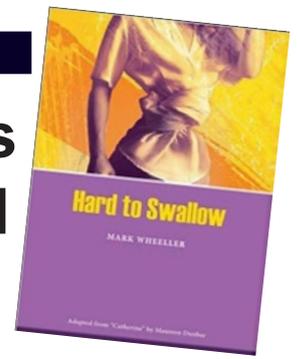
**Year 7 Team** - H Lockley, B Proctor, C Caslake, A Pennington, S Andrews, J-V Taylor, B Livesey, E Shuttleworth

**Year 8 Team** - E Matthews, I Dunn, E Parkinson, F Bracegirdle, A Gutteridge, N Kilbane

A huge well done to all the girls involved. Their effort, positivity and team spirit were exceptional, and they should be incredibly proud of how they represented the school.



# Priory Pupils Tackle Serious Themes in our Next Production and it's 'Hard To Swallow'



**Priory pupils are tackling the challenging and emotional topic of anorexia in their latest production, Mark Wheeler's 'Hard to Swallow.'**

The play tells the real story of Catherine, and her battle with the eating disorder and the family's difficulties in coping with it all.

Priory has been known for its musical productions but has also previously shone a light on serious matters through drama, such as 'Chequered Flags' about the aftermath of speeding and 'Scratching the Surface' about self-harm.

Drama and Production Lead Miss Howell said: "This isn't an easy story to hear, and it isn't meant to be, but it opens a conversation that is absolutely essential: a conversation about mental health, vulnerability, and the realities many young people quietly carry.



"Talking about mental health can feel uncomfortable. It can stir emotions we aren't always ready to face. But avoiding these topics only creates silence - and silence allows stigma to grow.

"As a school, we refuse to let that silence stand. We are committed to educating not only our pupils, but also our families, with honesty, compassion, and an unwavering belief that understanding saves lives.

*"Drama gives our pupils something extraordinary: the chance to explore real issues with empathy, courage, and emotional truth. Their dedication to this challenging play shows a maturity far beyond their years. They have embraced a story that matters deeply - one that has the power to shape hearts, shift perspectives, and remind us all of the importance of kindness and awareness.*

"We are proud to be a school that advocates for open discussion, wellbeing, and the emotional growth of every young person who walks through our doors.

"Hard to Swallow is more than a performance. It is a reminder that every voice deserves to be heard, every struggle deserves understanding, and every young person deserves a community that stands beside them."

Lillia plays Catherine and she said: "This is a really tricky role to play. It's hard to portray the character and you have to go really deep into it.

*"I have been in every school production since Year 7 and this is my first lead role. I love the musicals and this is totally different, it's educating the audience.*

"I think the message is: you need other people to help you sometimes."

Year 8 Quinn, who attends the Pauline Quirk Academy with Lillia, plays mum Maureen in different productions.

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"I want to be an actress so, although I have been in Annie previously, it's important to learn about different productions.

"I think doing something like this is also an education to us. I knew about anorexia but I now understand it a lot better and hopefully through this performance we can help other people know more about it."

Year 9 Ted has also starred in a number of the school productions and admits this is different.

"I play anorexia so I am on the stage the full time, ominously standing behind Catherine. It's important to raise awareness about this."

Robyn plays Catherine's younger sister Anna while Erin is a doctor. Erin said: "It shows how it impacts everyone, Catherine and her whole family."

**Performances are Tuesday, 21 April and Wednesday, 22 April starting at 7pm.**

**Tickets are now on sale via SCOPay, reception or on the door at £7 each. Age restricted to Year 7+. Show ends at 8.15pm approx.**

# International Waffle Day Brings Sweet Success To Break Time

To mark International Waffle Day, our brilliant Catering team brought a little extra delight to breaktime today with irresistible freshly made Belgian waffles.



Served with a tempting selection of jams, chocolate sauce, syrup and squirty cream, the waffles were an instant hit with pupils - and the queues proved it!



The Restaurant and Bistro were buzzing, and the treats were so popular that they completely sold out at the latter... much to the disappointment of Year 10 and Year 11 students who arrived just a little too late.

A big shout-out must go to Year 11 Eleanor, who stepped in during the rush to help Catering Manager Mrs Billings keep things running smoothly along with Miss Thornton.

Once again, we'd like to extend our thanks to our Catering team for their hard work, creativity, and the fun they bring to our school menu.



# Year 10 Experience The World of Work



From the National Grid to charity work, Priory's Year 10s experienced a week of work.

The Year 10s attended a variety of jobs for their work experience placement in February, all gaining a valuable insight into working life in the real world.

Brad has a part-time job at Boots in the near future and he got to spend his week with the chemist, looking at what his job will entail.

"I will work there on Saturdays and over Christmas," said Brad. "It was a good week. My dad works in the opticians there but I was stocking shelves and working in the storage rooms.

"I enjoyed it but in the future I want to do something with engineering."



Preston North End season ticket holder Charlie got to take to the pitch at Deepdale.

"I worked with the grounds staff for the week which was a good experience. I did a lot of steps every day!

"I also got the chance to play football at the Academy at Springfields. I don't really know yet what I want to do in the future."

Both Will and Oliver worked at the National Grid.

Will said: "We had to be interviewed to get the work experience at the National Grid. We got a tour of the substations and learnt about voltages and how much everything costs. It was class.

"I want to go into mechanical or electrical engineering so it was a useful week."

Oliver said: "It was enjoyable. On the last day we got a taste of Project Management and that was something I found interesting."

Reese would like to be a marine biologist or a conservationist and she worked on the coast at Lytham St Anne's with Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

"We were looking at conservation of the salt marshes so it was interesting for me. I want to help to save the coastline."

Mia went to a hairdressers, Studio 28 & Co. "This made



Isaac S, Tom T, Oscar G, Jacob R at Leyland Trucks

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me want to go into hairdressing even more. I learnt to wash hair although I spent quite a lot of time making tea and coffee.”

Lilly spent her time at Willowbrooke Care Home where her mum works.

“It was an eye-opener for me. We were dealing with a lot of dementia patients so it was a very different week for me.”

Alex went to the charity, Integrate Community Support Services. He thoroughly enjoyed his week there.

“It’s a charity which tries to get people, children aged 14 and above and adults, who have learning disabilities and complex needs into work.

“It was really good as I did a lot of practical work, from painting in houses to working with wood, and also co-ordinated some tasks.

“It’s about helping people, perhaps those with autism or ADHD, feel confident to carry out work and get jobs. I found it really rewarding and emotionally it was tough too and I was proud to be a part of it.

“I want to go into law or psychology in the future but I enjoyed helping people and it’s a charity I would like to help, as everyone was so friendly and kind.”

Amelia worked at the Harris Museum, part of her work experience at Preston City Council.

“I helped in the gallery and helped in the shop as well. It was a good experience and something I may do in the future.”

Work experience continues to be a hugely valuable part of Year 10’s learning journey, giving pupils the chance to gain confidence, develop essential employability skills, and discover more about their own strengths and future ambitions.



Reflecting on this year’s placements, Priory’s Work Experience Co-ordinator, Mrs Eastham, said:

*“It’s always inspiring to see our pupils step into the world of work and challenge themselves in new environments. The week gives them a real sense of independence and maturity, while helping them build communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills that will stay with them long after they leave school. We see pupils return with raised aspirations, a better understanding of their own career pathways, and a real boost to their confidence - it’s an experience that genuinely shapes their future.”*



Freya B rocking her hi-vis at Austin Lenika Project Services



Kenzie S at A D Liddle Carpenters & Joiners

Learn to succeed

## Priory Brings Schools Together for Inspiring Boccia Competition

On Wednesday, 11 March Priory proudly hosted an inspiring Primary and Secondary Boccia Competition, delivered in partnership with Panathlon and the South Ribble Active Health Team.

The day brought together 14 secondary schools and eight primary schools, filling the sports hall with a wonderful sense of community. It was fantastic to see so many pupils challenging themselves, supporting one another, and most importantly, enjoying the experience.

We were especially delighted to have several Priory pupils take part - Maddie S, Zach F, Zac L, Imogen R and Isaac S represented the school brilliantly, showing great sportsmanship, determination and enthusiasm throughout the event.

Congratulations to our winning teams -  
Secondary Winner: Applebee Wood | Primary Winner: Broad Oak

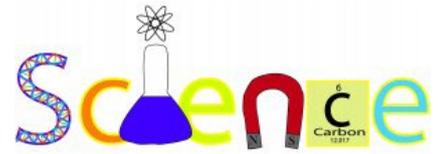
Both teams will now go on to compete in the regional finals, and we wish them every success as they take the next step in their Boccia journey.

This event simply wouldn't have been possible without the commitment and energy of our outstanding Priory young leaders from Years 8 and 9. Their maturity, organisation and the way they supported and encouraged participants were exemplary, they truly were a credit to the school.

A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved for helping to create such a memorable and uplifting day!



# Primary Pupils Embrace Science at Priory With Classification Workshop



On Monday, the Year 6 pupils from Penwortham Primary School came to join us for a Science lesson.



As they had been studying classification in their lessons we provided them with some activities to extend their knowledge and curiosity in this area in line with British Science Week.

The class confidently recalled all of the work they had covered in class, including how to classify different types of species using the Linnaean system of hierarchy.

We looked together at some animal skulls in the department and attempted to classify them using prior knowledge of animals - with some spirited discussion of whether one particular skull was a goat or a ram!

The pupils then had a masterclass in using microscopes and set off to do some more work on classification. After successfully focussing the microscopes they went around in a carousel and classified each of the samples on the cells as either animal or plant cell.

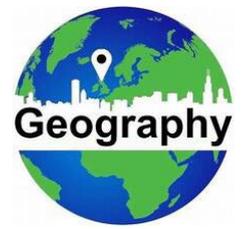


Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, said, "The pupils worked with great enthusiasm and we look forward to welcoming them in again."



Learn to succeed

# GCSE Geography Masterclass: Building Confidence for Exam Success



This week, we were delighted to host our Geography Masterclass in the school's Conference Suite, providing students with a focused yet welcoming environment in which to prepare for their upcoming exams. With an array of pastries alongside hot and cold drinks on offer, the session struck just the right balance between being informal yet highly purposeful.

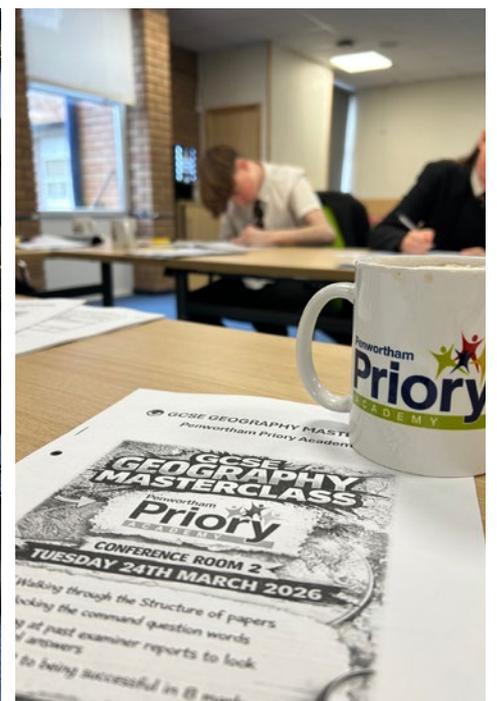
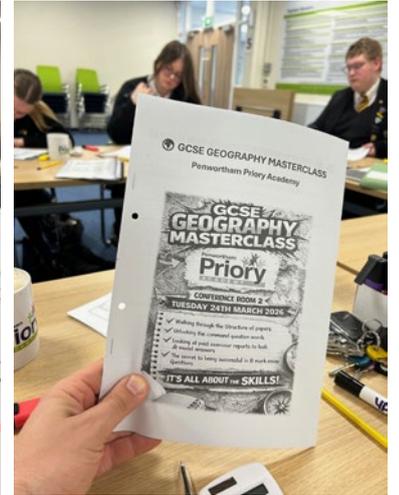
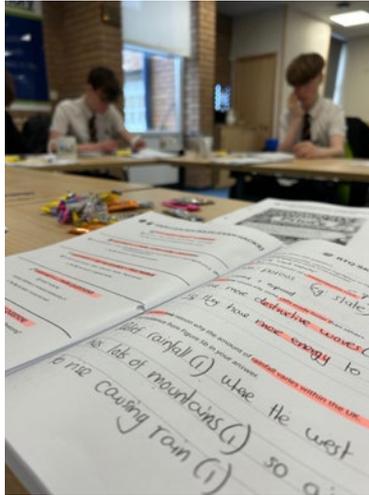
The masterclass was a real success. Students demonstrated outstanding tenacity, work ethic and exemplary behaviour throughout, fully engaging with the challenges and opportunities presented.

The session was built around five key principles and proven exam-boosting techniques, carefully designed to support students in maximising their performance this summer.

Through robust discussion, hands-on practical exam work and close analysis of examiner feedback, students worked their way through a dedicated workbook and a range of past paper questions. This approach allowed them not only to strengthen their geographical knowledge, but also to refine the vital exam skills needed to reach – and exceed – their GCSE targets.

Importantly, students were able to take away all of their materials in a comprehensive Masterclass pack, giving them high-quality resources to support their independent revision at home.

Well done to all students involved – a truly successful day. We hope this experience has helped to build confidence, sharpen exam technique and set our geographers up for success in the summer exams ahead.



Learn to succeed

# Year 10 Sports Studies Pupils Enjoy A Day On The River

As part of the R187 Cambridge National Sports Studies unit, Year 10 pupils participated in a practical canoeing assessment at Rock & River Outdoor Centre on 17 & 18 March.

This activity provided an excellent opportunity for pupils to demonstrate technical skills, teamwork, resilience and an understanding of safety in an outdoor environment.

Two groups, each consisting of ten pupils, completed their assessment, one group attending on Tuesday and the other on Wednesday. Across the entire experience, the weather conditions were ideal; perfect for water-based sport.

Instructor John, a qualified outdoor education specialist at Rock & River, led the sessions and was impressed with the pupils' attitude, behaviour and overall skill level.



Each session began with a safety briefing that covered the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as buoyancy aids and helmets, as well as the safe carrying and launching of canoes. Pupils were reminded to stay aware of weather and water conditions, understand emergency procedures and communication signals, and respect both the environment and the equipment. This introduction linked directly to the risk assessment pupils had been studying, helping them identify potential hazards and understand how to control them. Following the briefing, pupils completed a whole-group warm-up that focused on mobility exercises for the shoulders, torso, arms and hips, effectively preparing them for paddling and the rotational movements required during the session.

Under John's guidance, pupils progressed through structured canoeing skills. These included forward paddling using controlled stroke techniques, reverse paddling to slow or stop the canoe, and J-strokes to maintain a straight line. They also practised draw strokes to move sideways, sweep strokes for turning, and safe methods for embarking and disembarking. John noted how quickly pupils applied feedback, showing impressive coordination, focus and motor learning.

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During the formal assessment, pupils worked in pairs to complete a supervised course on flat water. This required them to demonstrate control, accuracy and confidence while manoeuvring the canoe through a series of set movements.

PE teacher, Mrs Bullock, said, *“Across both days, all pupils performed exceptionally well, with many meeting or surpassing the expectations of the assessment criteria. The calm, warm weather contributed to this success by reducing environmental challenges, which allowed pupils to concentrate fully on refining their technique.”*

The on-site risk assessment at Rock & River helped pupils understand the importance of managing safety during outdoor sports by highlighting several key hazards, including slipping on wet surfaces when entering or exiting the canoe, capsizing and falling into the water, equipment-related injuries such as trapped fingers or incorrect paddle use, environmental risks like sudden changes in weather or water flow, and group management concerns, particularly the possibility of pupils drifting too far from the instructor.

Mr Bullock, Head of PE & Sport added, *“The canoeing assessment at Rock & River was a highly successful element of the R187 Sports Studies curriculum. Perfect weather conditions, strong instruction from John and outstanding pupil engagement all contributed to an excellent learning experience. The pupils’ behaviour, motivation and skill execution were consistently praised, with many demonstrating performance above expected levels.”*

Beyond practical ability, pupils developed important personal qualities such as confidence, teamwork and responsibility. Their understanding of risk assessment

and safety in sport improved significantly through real-world application.

Overall, the two-day experience was a memorable and valuable part of their Sports Studies journey, showcasing how outdoor adventure activities can enhance both sporting performance and personal development.



Learn to succeed

# Farewell to Mrs Small and a Heartfelt Thank You from Priory's Japanese Club



Last week, Priory said a fond and emotional farewell to Mrs Small, the much-loved volunteer who has devoted her Wednesday lunchtimes to running our popular Japanese Club.

After almost five years of inspiring pupils with her enthusiasm for the Japanese language and culture, Mrs Small has now stepped down from her role - and she will be deeply missed by everyone involved.



For many pupils, Japanese Club has been a highlight of the week. Every Wednesday in MFL1, Mrs Small created a warm, welcoming space where pupils from all year groups could explore Japanese language, traditions, crafts and even origami. Her gentle encouragement and genuine

passion drew in pupils who might never have considered learning another language, helping them discover new interests and confidence along the way.

Her impact has been far-reaching. Over the years, Mrs Small's guidance has sparked a lasting love of Japanese among our pupils — with one former student going on to achieve a GCSE in the subject and others considering the same route down the line.

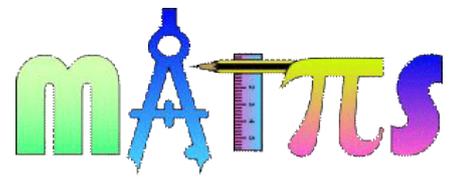
To thank her for her dedication, pupils presented Mrs Small with chocolates and a beautiful bouquet of flowers during her final session.

Mrs Scully, Head of Languages, shared her appreciation: "Mrs Small has brought something truly special to Priory. Her enthusiasm for Japanese language and culture has opened doors for so many of our pupils, giving them experiences and inspiration they will carry with them for years to come. We are incredibly grateful for the time, passion and kindness she has given to our school.



"Although we are sad to see her go, we are immensely thankful for everything she has contributed to Priory. Japanese Club was a space she transformed into a vibrant, inclusive and joyful part of our school community."

# GCSE Pupils Put Maths Skills To The Test in High-Level Challenge



Three enthusiastic teams from Penwortham Priory Academy took part in this year's Runshaw Maths Challenge on Thursday 19 March, joining GCSE students from across Lancashire for an evening of high-level problem solving.

The annual event, hosted by Runshaw College, is designed to stretch students beyond the standard curriculum, offering a series of demanding mathematical rounds that test creativity, logical reasoning, teamwork and resilience.

Working against the clock, teams were challenged to apply multi-step strategies, think innovatively, and collaborate effectively under pressure.

The atmosphere throughout the evening was energetic and competitive, with teachers and Runshaw's Student Ambassadors looking on.

Priory's students embraced the challenge with determination, showcasing strong teamwork and a real passion for maths as they tackled each new round.



Although Priory's teams did not place in the top rankings this year, they demonstrated outstanding perseverance and represented the school with confidence.

Reflecting on the event, Head of Maths Mr Kenrick said: "Priory proudly took part in the Runshaw Challenge for maths, bringing along three enthusiastic teams to compete against other schools.

"The event was a fantastic opportunity for students to test their problem-solving skills, work collaboratively under pressure, and engage with challenging mathematical concepts in a fun and competitive environment.



"Each team showed great determination and teamwork throughout the rounds, tackling a variety of questions that required both creativity and logical thinking. It was a captivating experience for everyone involved, and our students represented the school with confidence, resilience and a real passion for maths."

Congratulations go to all the participating schools and well done to our pupils for their effort, enthusiasm and superb representation of the school.



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