

Summer 2024



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

A Full House For Priory's Easter Bingo



On the Wednesday before the Easter break, the assembly hall was abuzz with excitement as families of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, along with staff members, gathered for an Easter bingo fundraising event.

The evening was filled with laughter and friendly competition as attendees vied for the array of delightful prizes. Mr Eastham led the number calling and added this new-found talent to his daytime job as Priory's Principal. Each line won elicited cheers as winners received bags brimming with chocolate treats. The stakes were high for full house wins, which were awarded hampers packed with chocolate, wine, and assorted Easter gifts, ensuring the spirit of the season was felt by all.



The event proved to be a spectacular success, raising over £400, topping last year's figure and marking a significant contribution to our school's fundraising efforts.



A special mention goes to the raffle, which featured a chocolate cake homemade by our talented Vice Principal and Food Technology teacher, Mrs Cowell, and a handcrafted floral basket from our award-winning gardener, Mr Farron (flowers donated by Newgate Nurseries). These unique prizes, along with the generous donations of Easter eggs and £1 coins given by our pupils in exchange for the prior non-uniform day, added a touch of Priory charm to the event.



We would also like to mention the invaluable assistance provided by our prefect helpers, Cameron, Megan, and Abigail.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Your support and generosity are what make events like these possible, and we look forward to many more in the future.



Learn to succeed

Pupils Learn A Language With Three Pillars And A Pizza Box!



Priory's Languages department encouraged pupils to use their imaginations to help them understand the new way of teaching French.



Instead of being taught in different topics, French is now based around the 'Three Pillars' – Grammar, Phonics and Vocabulary.

"I am a massive fan of this new French curriculum," said Head of Languages, Mrs Scully, who is in her second school year of teaching it.

"The new way of learning can be trickier to understand so we gave our pupils a challenge to try and help them.

"They were asked to build a model of the

'Three Pillars' which showed their understanding of each of the pillars, that they were of equal importance and what they offer in terms of language.

"They had two hours to build them in their House teams and then they went in front of a panel of three senior figures in school to answer questions such as: '*Why do you learn vocabulary?*' '*What is grammar?*' and '*What does 'HABITS' stand for?*'

HABITS is an acronym standing for: High frequency language; Automaticity; Building Blocks of Language; Independence; Talk it! Read it! Write it! Listen to it!; and Sequencing. This helps pupils understand why they are learning French in this way.

Mrs Scully continued: "They were also questioned about careers in French and they showed a good understanding about how you can use languages in a host of different jobs.

"Pupils are also taught ten words a week. This is on purpose so we aren't overloading them and the new vocabulary sinks in.

"We have noticed an impact on our pupils since we introduced this a year ago. Their pronunciation is better, they have better vocabulary retention and their grammar is improving.

"This will prepare them for a new GCSE and we believe this way of teaching French will be more beneficial to our pupils."



Continued next page...

Learn to succeed

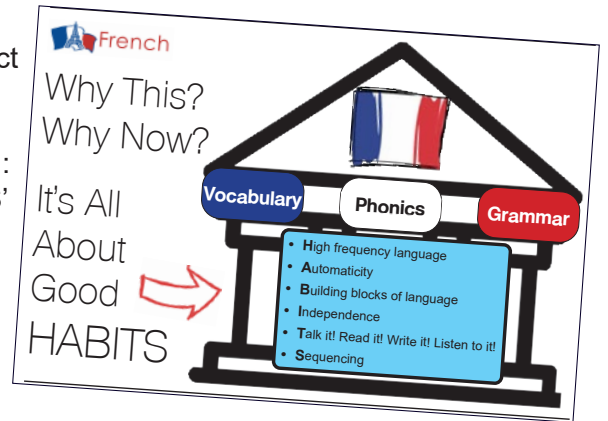
Oliver, of Year 8 winners, Group 3 Calder, said: "Making the model definitely helped me understand the Three Pillars better."



Year 8 Phoebe said: "Building the model was fun and enjoyable while the presentation was nerve-racking. I had missed one of the lessons so this helped me catch-up and helped me understand it better."

Year 8 Emily said: "My job was to concentrate on the careers aspect and they are all now engraved in my brain!"

Leon, of Year 7 Group 1 winner Hodder, who won overall, added: "Our model had three pillars on a box and we included the 'HABITS' so it was a good way to learn."



These are our winners -

Year 8

1st Group 3 Calder
Sophie P, Phoebe P,
Ellie A, Oliver C, Emily C

2nd Group 1 Ribble

3rd Group 6 Hodder

4th Wild Card Group 4 Ribble

5th Group 2 Douglas

Year 7

1st Group 1 Hodder
Hollie L, Zack E, Dexter H,
Salahuddeen I, Craig B, Leon H

2nd Group 3 Douglas

3rd Group 1 Ribble

4th Group 1 Calder

5th Wild Card Group 1 Douglas



STEM Club Takes on Food Technology



All year, STEM club has been working on exploring Science outside of the classroom. The Year 7 & 8s have made indicators from fruit, investigated the best construction for bridges and formulated their own elephant's toothpaste, to name just a few.



In their last session, the group ventured across to the Food Technology classroom for an entirely different investigation - can you cook ice cream? They discussed the particle arrangement of gases and how the spacing between them made them poor conductors so, if we added enough air to a meringue, we should be able to cook the meringue whilst the ice cream remained frozen.

STEM Club lead and Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, said, "After great teamwork making the baked Alaska, including some tense moments whilst separating eggs to get the whites, each team managed to get their experiment to the oven and unlike in the Science lab, they enjoyed eating the resulting bake!"



Well done: Imogen K, Noah P, Dexter H, Oliver C, Charlie P, Jacob S, Marshall T.



STEM Club is for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and has now ended for this academic year. It will begin again in September and will run weekly after school until 4pm.



Pupils take part in a range of Chemistry, Physics and Biology-themed activities as well as STEM challenges. STEM stands for a collaboration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and gives pupils an excellent opportunity to develop skills such as perseverance and communication.

Mrs Potter
Assistant Head of
Science

Textile Club Ready To Welcome New Members



Monday after school Textiles Club continues to be as productive as ever and it provides a welcoming, creative space for a variety of students from all year groups who enjoy coming together to get crafty!

Recently we have made soft toys, tie dyed our own fabric before turning it into pencil cases, and this week we've started work on a club banner for display in school. We have also welcomed some talented crocheters who bring their hooks and yarn to the club each week to spend time on their individual crochet projects.

In recent weeks, Year 8, Junior, and Year 7, Henry, have both made a toy for their younger siblings.



The club runs every Monday after school 3.10pm-4.10pm in TE4, all are welcome, regardless of skill or ability. Contact Mrs Lockwood for more details.

*Mrs Lockwood
Technology
Teacher*

Penwortham
Priory
ACADEMY

LIMITED SPACES

TEXTILES CLUB

EVERY MONDAY
3.10PM-4PM

MATERIALS PROVIDED

ROOM:
T4
TECHNOLOGY

BEGINNERS WELCOME

See Mrs.Lockwood in Technology to secure a place



Learn to succeed



Our Spring play, 'Scratching The Surface', is showing next week

Have you got your tickets yet?

Here's a peak into the rehearsals.

The play is an educational performance written by Mark Wheeler that dramatises the story of his interviews with Rob, a young man, who as a teenager self-harmed. Mark chats to his family as they reflect on how traumatic it had been to live with this constant 'elephant in the room'.



Performances take place on Tuesday, 30 April and Wednesday, 1 May starting at 7pm. Tickets are £7 each and can be purchased via SCOPay, at the school office or on the door (cash only).

As the topic of the play is of a sensitive nature, tickets are restricted to age 12+ and we recommend that you read our launch article to find out more about it >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/events/2024-04-30-scratching-the-surface

There will be a bake sale on the night to raise money for YoungMinds.

YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Thank you in advance for your support.



Learn to succeed



Everybody's Talking About Wednesday Night's Theatre Trip

We were all definitely talking about Jamie after the show!

REPORT BY MISS HOWELL, LEAD TEACHER OF DRAMA

What a great show with a great message. I believe at Priory we pride ourselves on making our school a safe place where our pupils feel they belong. This is very much the message Jamie is portraying, that there is a place for everyone in this world and that we are all special.



*"Out of the darkness
Into the spotlight
There is a new star
Shining so bright"*



All our pupils are new stars shining so bright on their journeys through life and this musical empowers them to be who they want and to be proud.

Thank you to all staff that helped make the trip happen and thank you to all our amazing pupils, once again you made me a very proud teacher; what excellent ambassadors for our school.

Miss Howell
Lead Teacher of Drama



Learn to succeed

Welcome Year 6 & Good Luck Year 11: Behind The Scenes



Last Friday morning, Year 7 pupils stepped into the spotlight for a very special Priory tradition.

With the A3 letters, they spell out two powerful messages to the Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September and, at the same time, we have a just as an important one for our Year 11s as they embark on their final exams this term.

As usual, we had lots of fun on the shoot, and the pupils involved - one representing each of our feeder primary schools - did such a fabulous job. They had time for a quick selfie, and weather was kind to us too.

The photos will grace our prospectus and social media post as well as a special card that is sent to our primary schools.



We'll be sharing the final results and hearing more from these Year 7s in a later issue.

Well done and thanks to - Archie G, Aaliyah B - Cop Lane Primary, Tobias G – Cottam Primary, Jess H - Kingsfold Primary, Maxi B-S Longton, Ethan B- New Longton, Lola B - Middleforth, Lillia S – Penwortham Primary, Aiden W - St Stephen's, Hollie L, Salahudden I – Whitefield, Theo L - Little Hoole, Henry H – Howick, Kayden C - Broad Oak

We can't wait to share the final masterpiece!



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Head To The Workshop For Engineering



Our Year 10 Engineering students have been hard at work in the workshop this term producing their own desktop storage designs from leftover wood.

Practical skills in the workshop underpin the theory work for the Engineering qualification and give the students hands on experience of working with tools and implementing relevant health and safety legislation. This is demonstrated in our photos below by Year 10 pupils, Reece R and Marvyn S, who are both working towards the NCFE Level 1 and Level 2 qualification in Engineering.



Students have also been studying the environmental impacts of materials in Engineering and the importance of choosing sustainable materials where possible. With that in mind, we would like to make a request for donations of wood and timber that the students can recycle in a future project.

Do we have any parents or family members who could donate spare offcuts of wood to school? We are planning to make bug houses in the Summer term therefore we are particularly interested in any donations of garden canes so we can design and make something similar to the picture opposite.



If you are able to help, please contact Mrs Lockwood via email e.lockwood@priory.lancs.sch.uk or to arrange drop off. Thank you in advance and we look forward to showing you our finished results!

Mrs Lockwood
Technology Teacher



Learn to succeed

Year 7 Pupil Receives High Sheriff's Young Citizen Award



We are so proud of Year 7 pupil, George, who has been presented with a High Sheriff of Lancashire's Young Citizen Award 2024 Commended Certificate for helping to rescue an elderly lady who had fallen.

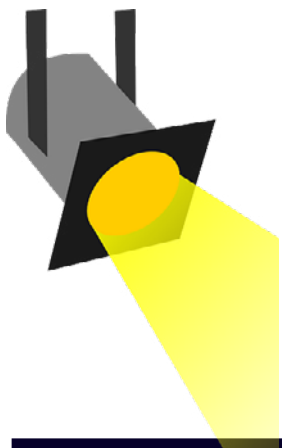
George said: "I was leaving my auntie's house in Chorley and a police woman asked if I could climb through a window as a lady had fallen over inside the house and they couldn't get access.

"It was on the ground floor, so I climbed through, climbed over the settee and saw her on the floor. She was conscious. I unlocked the door, kept the lady calm and an ambulance came.

"I thought that was it but the police lady said I would get something special."

The PCSO was Liz Coleman who was attending the emergency but couldn't access the property without George's help.

George and his mum went to Chorley police station at a later date and got presented with his special award from the Superintendent for Lancashire, Gary Crowe.



Pupils In The Spotlight

Would you like to tell us about your child's achievements whether it's in sport, charity events, public speaking, drama, environmental issues, maths challenges or anything else? Maybe even someone who has overcome adversity and doesn't mind talking about it? (we like those stories!)

If this is you, please get in touch with your son/daughter's form tutor / head of year or contact the Communications Manager, Mrs Yates, via email at:

j.yates@priority.lancs.sch.uk

Learn to succeed

Year 11 Pupil Becomes English Junior Champion



Year 11 Troy is an English curling champion.

Troy got into curling 'for something to do' in summer 2020 and found he excelled at it. He is part of Team Waring who entered the English Curling Association (ECA) England Junior Curling Championship 2024 over Easter at the Flower Ball in Garstang.

"My position is first where I throw the first stone and sweep the rest of them," said Troy.

Team Waring played six matches over four days, winning them all to be crowned the undefeated UK British Junior Champions.

The team will now go on to the World Junior B Championships as the England Junior Curling Representatives in December in Finland. If they win they will qualify for the World Junior A Championships in 2025.

"It's a very technical game," said Troy. "I like it as it keeps me active."

"It is a great achievement for our team to go to the World Championships, it's a chance to visit Finland too as I have never been before."

"It is a hobby and just something I enjoy so I am not sure how far I want to go with my curling. I also enjoy drama at school but when I leave Priory I want to go into engineering."

The team of four is currently raising funds to finance their participation in December's Championships in Finland to cover kit, travel and accommodation costs. If you'd like to support them, any help would be appreciated. www.gofundme.com/f/team-waring-junior-mens-english-curling-champions



Learn to succeed

Culture Day - Friday, 3 May

Next Friday, we will once again be celebrating Culture Day.

DID YOU KNOW?

At Penwortham Priory Academy we pride ourselves on our diversity and vast cultural community. In our school this academic year, we have on average 15 different ethnicities and over 20 different languages spoken!

Having a day to celebrate our culture is something that has been requested by many of our pupils and we agree that it is extremely important for children to be proud of their identities, faiths and cultures, but also to share their background with their peers.

On Friday then, students are invited to come to school dressed in clothing that reflects either their own particular culture, represents their special country's flag or embodies a national team kit, such as rugby, hockey or football.

If they do wish to wear their own clothes for the day, then we ask that you make a donation of £1 via SCOPay. Money raised will go to the Red Cross and Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi).

There will be a food sale at break/lunchtime in the Auditorio on the same day where students can buy many different foods from other cultures. In addition, students may bring in their own cultural food (this can be homemade or store bought) that can be shared amongst their classmates. In this case, we also ask that you provide the school with a list of ingredients in the food so that they can ensure that children with any allergies or dietary requirements are safe to eat it.

On this day, students will be also be talking about their culture with their classmates, doing lots of activities to celebrate their identity, learning basic sayings in each other's languages and listening to music from around the world. There will be a quiz in Learning for Life and each department will have

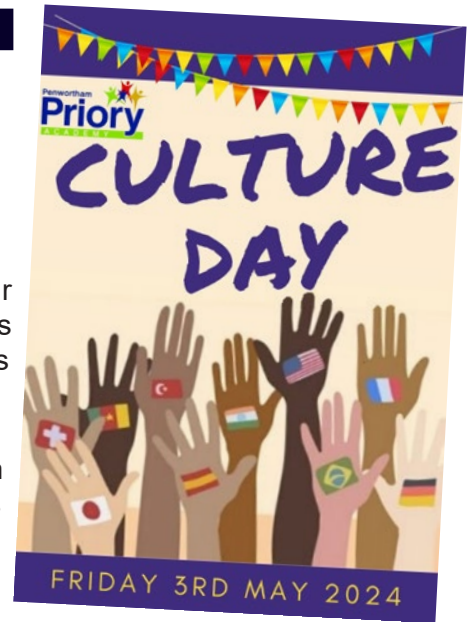
a short presentation highlighting famous people from various cultures that relate to their subjects.

Throughout the week, Henna painting will also be taking place at break and lunchtime in the Auditorio. Permission letters for this activity can be obtained from the school office and the cost for this is £2 (cash only).

Mrs Cowell will also be running one of her cookery workshops on Tuesday evening where pupils will be making Greek cheese pies (booking essential).

We are very excited to celebrate our cultures at Penwortham Priory Academy and are sure that the students will have a fantastic day.

If you have any questions at all, please contact Mrs Qadri via email at s.qadri@priory.lancs.sch.uk



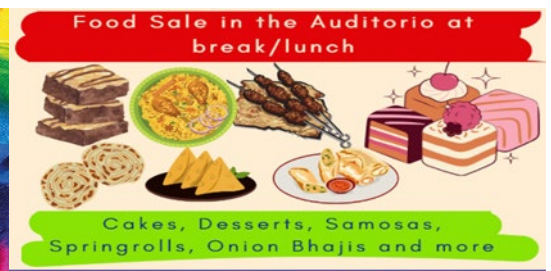
Come to school in Cultural Clothes, National flag colours or National Team sports kit

Food from different cultures for sale in the Auditorio

Henna/Mehndi patterns at break/lunchtime (Letter to be signed by parents beforehand)

Music from different cultures at Break/Lunchtimes

Food workshop in Tech after school on Tuesday with Mrs Qadri/Mrs Cowell



Learn to succeed

Tommy Leaves WW1 History at Priory

Pupils will notice a new addition to the 'Lest We Forget' Memorial Garden – Corporal Tommy.

Tommy was carved by John Winders and has been donated to Priory by John via Preston South Rotary Club, in return for a £500 donation to children's charity Derian House by the Rotary Club.

Rotary Club's Geoff Todhunter takes up the story.

"John Winders, a friend, took up wood-carving as a retirement hobby and has carved a number of birds, animals and other characters. Rather than accepting payment he requests that a donation be made to his preferred charity, Derian House.

"When he was nearing completion of his World War 1 soldier he was wondering where it could be erected and I undertook, on behalf of my Rotary Club, to try and find somewhere suitable.

"Penwortham Town Council approached local schools on our behalf and we are delighted that Penwortham Priory Academy gladly accepted it for their Memorial Garden.

"The end result is that Derian House will receive a significant donation from Rotary; John is delighted to know the statue has found a suitable home; the school will receive a nice focal point for their Memorial Garden and the Rotary Club pulled it altogether."



John said: "I got the wood last April and it took me until October to make Tommy. I got the idea from the soldier in Astley Park and I thought I would have a crack at it.

"It's different to what I normally do, I have made many animals and characters, including Paddington and Mr Toad, and they are in the grounds of Derian House and it's lovely to see Tommy in a school."

Lead Teacher for History Mr Eccles said: "I am very impressed with Tommy, he's magnificent.

"It will get pupils talking about history and our Year 8s are currently studying the Great War so it's a nice coincidence."

Principal Mr Eastham said: "It really does have the wow factor. We are a community school and this is a fitting place to have this carving.

Continued next page...

Continued from previous page

"We are blessed with having outdoor learning spaces and we hold our Remembrance Ceremony in our Memorial Garden every November so this is a fantastic addition to our learning environment.

"We have already noticed pupils looking at Tommy and hopefully this will stimulate discussion about him and history."

Gardener Mr Farron said: "Corporal Tommy is a welcome addition to our 'Lest We Forget' Memorial Garden, John is very talented and it is extraordinary. We just have to find a regiment for him now!"

Derian House representative Anne-Marie Fishwick said: "We are grateful to John for all the work he does for us and to come to Priory to see his latest carving.

"John asks for a donation to Derian House instead of for his work and this helps to raise our profile in different communities."



Picture shows (L-R): Anne-Marie Fishwick - Derian House, Carole Cockrane - Preston South Rotary Club, John Winders - Woodcarver, Geoff Todhunter and Frank Killen - Preston South Rotary Club.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

Year 7 Show Racism The Red Card

Year 7 have had a day of change-making anti-racism workshops delivered by 'Show Racism the Red Card'.

The day was presented by an amazing educator, Hannah, who organised activities where pupils could engage and explore a variety of changemaking themes in lots of different ways; from asking questions and group work to practical inclusive ideas and pledges to make in school.

Mrs Crank, Assistant Principal, said, "Pupils were fantastic and came up with lots of ideas as to how they could create change and be allies."

Show Racism The Red Card will be visiting Priory Academy again in September to deliver workshops with other years groups.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Pupil Gains Coveted Place on an Adventure of a Lifetime



Year 10 pupil Emily will have the experience of a lifetime after successfully securing a coveted place to go to Malawi next year.

Emily has been a member of 5th Penwortham Scouts since she was five-years-old. She saw an advertisement on Facebook for the chance to go to Malawi in July/August 2025 as part of a contingent of West Lancs Scouts in aid of the charity Friends of Mulanje Orphans (FOMO).

“We had to attend a selection day where there were 70 applicants for 30 places,” said Emily.

“It was tough as there was an interview and then a number of team-building exercises”

“I was waiting for the email for a week and then it said I was in and I couldn’t believe it, I can’t tell you how excited I was.”

“My brother had gone to Switzerland previously for the International Jamboree and so I was looking for a chance to go abroad with Scouts and this will be amazing.



“We are going to support FOMO and staying in Malanje where we will work across multiple different centres - refurbishing the buildings, taking part in different projects and cooking food, which we have to buy from the market. I am slightly worried as there will be no cheese!

“We will also have a few days to do our own things, such as go on a safari or climb the local mountain.

“We have to raise £500 for the charity so I am going to sell some of my artwork at my scout church, do a garage sale, sell things at car boot sale, a sponsored walk and bake sales. Scouts will also support us with fundraising ideas.

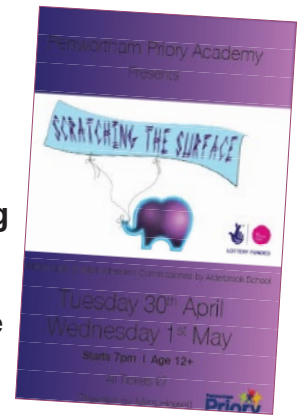
“I am beyond excited. I like Drama and can sing and play the ukulele so I can entertain everyone too!”

Learn to succeed

It's wrap for 'Scratching The Surface'

Pupils took to the stage for a different Priory production this week – **Scratching the Surface**.

The play was an educational performance in a bid to help people talk about the sensitive subject of self-harming and how it affects, not only the person doing it, but family and friends as well.



There were a lot of words to learn, and some worrying moments of whether the show would go on earlier in the week, but the cast, under Lead Teacher of Drama, Miss Howell, got there with two strong productions.

Miss Howell said: "There was a lot more learning of lines; it's not the glitz and glamour of our usual performances - it's about raw emotion on the stage. With it being 'verbatim', it had to be word perfect.

"A few of the cast struggled, which is understandable, and there was a worry whether we could actually put the performance on but we got there in the end."

Year 7 Lillia said: "It's been amazing to be involved with this. It was a bit stressful but I want to be an actress so this has been an important experience for me."

Year 9 Ben said: "There were a lot of words to learn but I think I got most of them. I was in Legally Blonde and this was a lot different and more challenging. I have chosen to study Drama at GCSE next year as I enjoy it."



Year 9 Phoebe said: "It has been extremely stressful but I have enjoyed it at the same time."

Continued over..



Learn to succeed

Continued from previous page...

Year 7 Macie said: "It's been a challenging production, it's so serious, but I have enjoyed performing on stage."

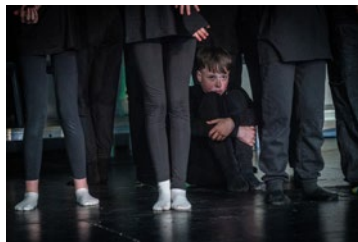
Year 7 Ted added: "I am going to take GCSE* Drama and am thinking about whether to be an actor."



An interview with the playwright

The week before their performance of 'Scratching The Surface', the students were lucky enough to spend some time with Mark Wheeler, its playwright, via Zoom.

Mark Wheeler is one of the most-performed playwrights in Britain. He is widely recognised for his contributions to the field of theatre education and his powerful plays that tackle social issues. One of his plays is recognised as one of the most performed contemporary plays in the world, having been performed over 5000 times. His other plays include 'Game Over', which Priory pupils performed in 2022.



The Zoom meeting with Mark was an amazing opportunity and arranged by Miss Howell. It provided an incredible experience for the students who were able to ask questions about the interviews that took place with the family and how the individuals reacted to the questions.

Students asked questions such as, "How did they react to the questions you asked?" and "Were there any moments that really stood out to you?". One particularly interesting question posed to Mark was, "Did you, as playwright, know much about self-harm before writing this play?" Mark, at the time also a Drama teacher,

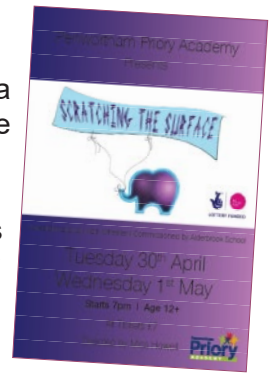


said he was unaware until writing the play that there was an issue with self-harm among young people. When he wrote the

play he discovered that it was a bigger issue and it almost became a pandemic.

Lead Teacher of Drama, Miss Howell, said, "It was a very informative talk and the students came away realising that self-harm was more than just cutting. On a professional level, they also got to understand what this style of theatre entails and had a peek into why 'verbatim' is important.

"The zoom meeting really created a buzz within the cast and gave them a passion to add to their characterisation. One really effective piece of advice that Mark gave the students was, "Don't try to imitate the characters, but bring yourself to it".



Learn to succeed

Owzat For Penwortham Cricket!

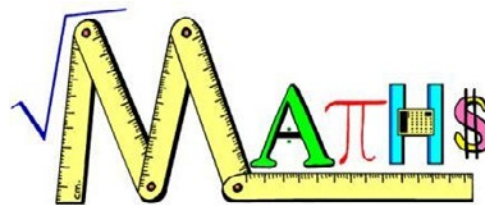
Penwortham Priory Academy was proud to host its first ever Palace Shield cricket match on Saturday.

This inaugural game saw Penwortham Cricket Club 4th XI draw a thrilling match with Ingol with Freckleton Cricket Club 2nd XI. Penwortham Priory Academy is now the new home for Penwortham Cricket Club 4th XI and 5th XI and will be used every Saturday by the club for the rest of the season.

Our new cricket venue was made possible thanks to a grant of £9445 from South Ribble Borough Council's Leisure Local Community Fund which covered the cost of a new AstroTurf wicket, and a further contribution from Penwortham Priory Academy totalling £2760 which funded the sight screens. In addition to its use by the community, the pitch will also be available for the school's matches and to host primary school cricket events throughout the summer.



Well Done To Maths Kangaroo Challenge Pupils



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Well done to four of our brightest mathematicians in Year 10 & 11 who received their certificates last week for the UKMT's Pink Kangaroo competition.

The UK Mathematics Trust aims to advance education in maths by running competitions for high-achieving pupils. Year 10 Daniel McC and Year 11s Sam D, Lily McM and Josef H-A were put through to the Pink Kangaroo challenge after achieving top marks in the earlier round, the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge.



Maths Teacher, Mr Hunter, said, "All our top set pupils are put forward for the UKMT competitions, with the Year 7 & 8s taking part in the Junior challenge, and Years 9-11 in the Intermediate. It was wonderful to have four of our pupils then qualify for the Pink Kangaroo round. Daniel got 'Best in School' and Sam received 'Best in Year 11'".

Mr Hunter
Maths Teacher



When the Drama department went to London

REPORT BY MISS HOWELL, LEAD TEACHER OF DRAMA

Just before the Easter holidays a group of 43 students went on a fun-packed performing arts trip, with a bit of history thrown in.



Day 1

It was an early start to the day but it didn't stop the pupils from becoming DJs on the bus. After a comfort stop and many genres of music, we soon arrived in London.

A little bit of shopping was first on the agenda, followed by Bella Italia for a bite to eat before heading to the Sondheim Theatre to watch Les Misérables. This completely sung-through musical takes on the French Revolution with, of course, a love story thrown in. This was a powerful musical and the lighting and set design were magical, even though the storyline itself confused a few, including French Teacher and Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor!

Day 2

A bit of a lie in this morning, which everyone loved, enhanced by a hearty full English breakfast to get everyone fuelled for the day ahead. We then set out to board the coach bound for a tour of the Royal Albert Hall. WOW! What an experience, the pupils found this so informative and all wanted to return to actually watch something there..... Next trip pending!



Next up was the Natural History Museum where amongst the many fossils and weird and wonderful creatures, there was something for everyone ...even Miss Howell!

A drive around London was enjoyed in the afternoon, past



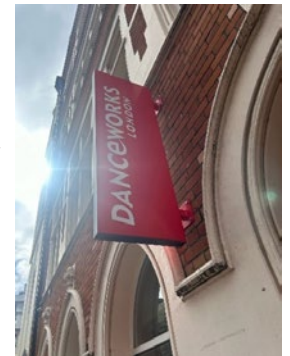
Big Ben, Westminster and Buckingham Palace, while our resident DJ Lochlan played the National Anthem. Not to be left out, Mrs Webster accompanied this with her Harry Potter fun facts.



Our final stop of the day was to the Gillian Lynne Theatre to see a new British musical 'Standing At the Sky's Edge'. This was a hit with everyone and an amazing piece of directing.

Day 3

After two fun packed days we had to muster up the energy for a West End Workshop at Danceworks. This was run by a cast member from Les Misérables. It was an incredible experience for the pupils; to actually be taught by someone who works in the West End! Pupils learnt how to create a character through singing and movement. Some pupils looked so at home in this environment and I think we could be seeing some of them on the West End stage in the future.



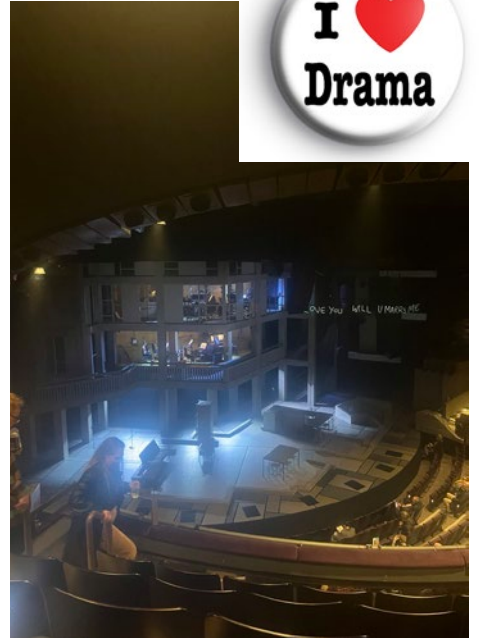
I want to say a big thank you to the staff who gave up their time to help with the trip; you all made the trip to run so smoothly.

Thank you to all the pupils for being you. You made the three days fun and enjoyable. What a pleasure to take you all.

Watch out for details of the next Performing Arts residential trip!

Miss Howell
Lead Teacher of
Drama

Learn to succeed



Learn to succeed



Bringing music to your ears at break and lunch

MaBaL (Music at Break and Lunch) is music played through the school's loud speaker system during break and lunch. Chosen by Mr Taylor, Lead Teacher for Music, this is designed to offer exposure to the curriculum in different ways, and support pupils' appreciation of music.

The focus is on one theme each week across a genre, a country or from history. The theme could also link to the season, a festival or an event in school, such as the musical production.

Next week, it's all about: Eurovision

This playlist will bookend the Eurovision Song Contest broadcast from the beautiful city of Malmö, Sweden next weekend, so effectively in school, eight days of cheese, drag and key changes.

Whether you feel that the Eurovision Song Contest has met its 'Waterloo' or you 'save all your kisses for' it or you like it 'just a little bit', this annual contest will be happening on Saturday, 11 May.

The Eurovision Song Contest began as a technical experiment in television broadcasting: the live, simultaneous, transnational broadcast that Europe has now been watching for nearly 70 years was in the late 1950s, a marvel.

The first Eurovision Song Contest was held on May 24, 1956, and saw seven nations compete: the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Italy. Austria and Denmark wanted to take part but missed the deadline, and the United Kingdom sent their apologies as they were busy with their own contest that year. Switzerland's geographical centrality in Europe made it a natural node for the terrestrial transmitters required for this experiment in live, simultaneous, transnational broadcasting.

Over the years the format has evolved into the week-long, boundary pushing, technologically innovative, multi show spectacular we (may) enjoy today.

With seven victories, Ireland is the most successful country at the contest alongside last year's winners, Sweden, while Luxembourg, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom won five times.

This playlist contains some lesser known entries which gained short-lived fame in one particular year but also some songs which have since become huge hits and famous the world over.

Future weeks' theme suggestions are welcomed - pupils/staff should see Mr Taylor, email a.taylor@priory.lancs.sch.uk or contact via Teams chat.

Mr Taylor
Lead Teacher of Music



Priory+ Awards



Last Friday, Mr Eastham presented another cache of badges and certificates to pupils who had achieved the next stage in their Priory+ Awards.

Over 220 pupils achieved this recognition during the Spring term and, on Friday, those that chose to be personally presented by the Principal, got to receive their rewards. Pupils who have opted out of this will have their certificates and badges presented to them by their Head of Year during their Learning for Lesson lessons.

Priory+ was introduced a few years ago 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



Learn to Succeed



Year 10, Chittara, has 'banked' all her evidence this term from her last 3 1/2 years. She has therefore achieved Bronze One through to Platinum and was awarded all her certificates on Friday by Mr Eastham. Chittara now proudly wears her top three achievements - two Gold stars and her Platinum.



Head Prefect, Cameron, has also achieved Bronze Three onwards having already qualified for Bronze One and Two in previous terms. Cameron was determined to achieve all awards prior to leaving us this summer.

Thank you to Year 10 Umar, who added to his Priory+ evidence by volunteering to take the photos at the presentation event. You'll be doing Mrs Yates out of a job!



*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development*

Priory+ Brochure Available Online

In the Autumn term we emailed parents a digital copy of the Priory+ Personal Development brochure and sent a printed copy home with Year 7 pupils.

If you want a reminder of what the award means and how our pupils achieve it, please visit our website where you can download a copy >>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/what-s-on



Priory+ Award Activities

Awarded for achievements in Personal Development

Culture and Heritage	Future Citizen	Health & Wellbeing	Skills Builder	Bright Futures
<p>Visit to a;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > castle > religious building > museum > art gallery > theatre > musical event > dance event > sporting event > heritage site or building <p>Participate in or watch;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > a competition > a religious event > cultural event > creative art event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Join Culture Club > Learn about an aspect of another culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Give money to charity > Put items in a charity bag > Donate to a food bank > Donate to the homeless > Help organise a community or school event > Volunteer to help someone > Speak in public about an issue (includes assemblies) <p>Participate in;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > an election or vote > a community event or festival 	<p>Participate in an activity that keeps you physically fit and well;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Participate in a sport > Ride your bike > Go for a walk or jog <p>Create an eating and drinking plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Sleep the recommended time <p>Participate in an activity that keeps you mentally and emotionally well;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Meditate > Mindfulness activities > Get organised > Create a positivity book > Plan your future > Manage your money > Pray 	<p>Continue or learn a new;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > skill > craft > language <p>Develop employment skills such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > leadership > organisation > resilience > initiative > communication > presentation > teamwork > problem solving <p>Join a club or an activity in school which develops a skill.</p>	<p>Research;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > KS4 options, further or higher education > apprenticeships > T Levels > colleges and universities > careers and jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Visit a careers fair or expo > Practice writing CVs and application forms > Regularly volunteer in and out of school as work experience > Careers interview > Year 10 work experience > Part time job > Working with an adult



Rewarding pupils for engaging in activities that contribute to their own personal development.



personal development is about doing so.

We believe that strong personal development provision contributes to making a positive difference to your lives and can create a positive effect in school, at home and in the community in which you live.

The opportunities provided not only allow you to engage in activities you are interested in, but enables you to explore and build a strong pathway to, and foundation for, a successful future.

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

The five strands are:
 Culture and Heritage | Future Citizens | Health and Wellbeing | Skill Builders | Bright Futures

Learn to succeed

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 Yusuf and Zishan...

Two Year 8s have been discussing their latest reading adventures as part of our Cool Reader series.

Yusuf enjoys the 'Planet Omar' books by Zaid Mian.

"I absolutely love them. I am finding them relatable as it's about a young boy who has trouble with his siblings and I have a younger sister!

"My favourite subject in school is Technology mainly because I enjoy graphics and I want to be a software engineer. I do enjoy computer games.

"Outside of school I go to the mosque and I am part of a youth development scheme with the mosque where we play pool and such like."



Zishan is reading 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth' by Jeff Kinney.

"It's really funny. I like this series of books as I understand them. My favourite kind of books are funny ones.

"My favourite subject is PE and I am a football fan, I support Liverpool as a lot of my family are Liverpool fans.

"Outside of school, I play football and cricket. In the future, I want to be a car engineer, I have always been interested in cars."



Mrs Elliott
English Teacher and Chief Librarian

Learn to succeed

Year 10 Receive Careers Support From The National Grid



Last Wednesday Steve Ward from the National Grid came into school to talk to Year 10 pupils about covering letters, CVs and interviews from the view of an employer. The assembly, which included a presentation on the STAR interview technique, was informative and gave pupils an insight into common mistakes and useful tips.



Steve is a former Penwortham Priory Academy pupil and has been welcomed back to the school as part of a collaboration pilot between Priory and the National Grid. The National Grid is working with us to provide work experience placements, generic pathways assemblies, mock job interviews and a Year 8 STEM careers day in the summer.

All resources from this assembly have been made available to Year 10 and Year 11 on Teams to use in the future. Pupils who attended the assembly and were involved in the mock job interviews, were extremely appreciative of Steve and his colleague Chris Topping, for giving up their time to provide an opportunity to develop skills and to receive feedback to be used in the future.



Lead Practitioner for Personal Development and Careers Leader, Ms Smith said, "I appreciate all the time that the National Grid has dedicated to the collaboration. The activities we have had, and are planning, will provide memorable yet useful experiences for our young people. We are hoping that the experiences planned for Year 8 will inspire more individuals to consider STEM careers in the future".



Learn to succeed

Fairness in Football #LetGirlsPlay



PE teacher Miss Beesley is determined to 'let girls play' football as part of a national initiative.

England Football and Barclays say 'it's everyone's game' and 'want every girl to have equal access to football in school and in the community in 2024.' They held a 'Biggest Ever Girls Football Match' in March nationally encouraging as many girls as possible to play football on that day.

Miss Beesley made sure the Priory girls had access to part of the 3G pitch.

She said: "It's about changing views. A lot of the time the 3G pitch is seen as a boys area so it's making sure girls can get on the AstroTurf and play football. It's making sure everyone is treated equally when playing sports and given equal opportunities."

"The girls are so enthusiastic, especially the current Years 7 and 8, who want to play football and we want to encourage them so they can play more games and there are more leagues for girls locally."



Priory's Year 10 girls football team have been together since Year 7 and have reached the quarter-finals of the Lancashire Cup. The girls play for a range of teams, including

Rochdale AFC, Penwortham Town and Buckshaw while, at Lostock Hall, they are coached by former Priory pupil Jazmin Attwood, who captained Lancashire Under 16s to national final victory when at school.

Year 10 Caitlyn said: "Boys sometimes say girls can't play football but we want to show them we can."

Year 7 Lola said: "I wouldn't say I am the best at football but I enjoy it. I support Liverpool and have been to Anfield many times. I also enjoy watching the women's games. My friend Willow is probably better than a lot of the boys!"

Willow, who plays centre midfield for Lostock Hall, said: "I do get annoyed when the boys are on the 3G pitch and won't always let us on, I want more opportunities for women to play football."

Girls from all year groups may access the 3G pitch at break and lunch. Supervision is provided by Mr Eastham and Mr Gee, and girls are welcome to play against each other or the boys, either will be accommodated dependent on numbers.



Pictured - Year 10 football team

Learn to succeed

When Science Becomes Electric!



Last Wednesday pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 attended an in-school STEM workshop. The session, led by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy centred around the theme of electricity and its generation.

Pupils were very enthusiastic to join in with the session where volunteers built a model circuit and discussed how the moving electrons created the current. When discussing electricity generation, pupils considered the pros and cons of each energy resource and how, although there are many such as coal, oil, biofuel and geothermal to name a few, each one works ultimately in the same way by turning a generator.

The group also discussed electrostatic build up and demonstrated this with a very brave pupil who had a hair-raising experience on the van-der-graaf machine.

Electricity generation was demonstrated by using a simple generator as well as teachers taking part in a bike generator to produce enough electricity to create a colourful display behind the bike.

The very engaging hosts ended the workshop by discussing the varied range of engineers that exist, and the 27 engineers that were required to make a mobile phone!

Assistant Leader of Science, Mrs Potter, said, "The session was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to become engaged with the topic of electricity. It has provided an introduction with the pupils getting hands-on and visual demonstration experience of the topic before they actually cover it in the classroom".

*Mrs Potter
Assistant Leader
of Science*



Learn to succeed

Culture Day - An Occasion For All

Culture Day was a colourful, successful and informative day!

This is the second year Priory has organised a special Culture Day with Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri, leading it with help from her 'Culture Club,' which meet once a week.



There has been Henna painting all week, a special hot food menu on the day, music from different cultures playing at break and lunch (MaBaL), a food sale at break - including samosas, spring rolls and more - and pupils dressing up in their traditional cultural clothes. There was also a Greek food workshop after school, led by Mrs Cowell. Pupils were asked to donate £1 if they chose to wear their own clothes and all money raised in donations from the event are going to the Red Cross and Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi).

Mrs Qadri said: "We pride ourselves on our diversity and vast cultural community at Priory – we have on average 15 different ethnicities and more than 20 different languages spoken.



"Having a day to celebrate our culture is important. It's always a popular day – especially the Henna tattoos."

Having a day to celebrate our culture is something that has been requested by many of our pupils and we agree that it is extremely important for children to be proud of their identities, faiths and cultures, but also to share their background with their peers.

Year 11 Favour said: "I helped to start Culture Day last year, going back to my Nigerian heritage, to help people understand other cultures and accept them. I felt we needed a colourful day so it was nice to wear traditional dress for school."

Continued next page...



Learn to succeed

...Continued from previous page.

Year 10 Tasha said: "Culture Club meets every Wednesday where we discuss all the different cultures. It's good to have a day to organise events and have different cultures highlighted more."

Year 8 Lily said: "I had a Henna tattoo last year and came back for another this year as I think they are pretty."

During Learning for Life on the Thursday, Audrey Toft, a trustee from one of the Culture Day beneficiaries, Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi), delivered an online assembly to talk about how the pupils' donations we will be used. She also asked to come in on Friday to see how our pupils celebrated and to enjoy the morning with us.

Mrs Toft said, "On behalf of FOMO I would like to thank the school for inviting me in to give a presentation about FOMO and life in Malawi. Hopefully I gave the pupils some idea of what life is like for people in Malawi, and for the orphans we support.

She went on to say, "I was very pleased with the way quite a number entered into the spirit of the event afterwards. And also on Friday morning – very colourful and enjoyable!"

Mrs Qadri, added, "We have worked with this charity previously, donating decommissioned laptops which are currently in use in Malawi".

Not to be left out, staff were able to purchase traditional Indian food and snacks to take home, made by Mrs Qadri and her family.



Learn to succeed

Pupils Meet Fred for Careers Talk in Policing and Animals



Last week we welcomed PC Steven Davies and Fred from the British Transport Police. Steve joined us to talk to pupils from across all year groups about careers in Policing and the different aspects of working with animals.

During the afternoon workshop, Steve demonstrated how his dog, Fred, is trained to seek and indicate that explosives are present in an area: Pupils hid a dupe explosive substance in the Rose Garden whilst Fred stayed in the Conference Suite. When Fred was instructed to search for the substance he investigated one area of the garden, until a breeze triggered Fred to run across the garden to the hidden substance. Fred was rewarded with his favourite tennis ball and a game of fetch with pupils.

Ms Smith said, "It was amazing to see Fred behaving like a pet five year old labrador, until his Police harness was put on. Fred immediately transformed into a focussed Police dog, fixed on Steve's every verbal and non-verbal command.

She continued, "Steve's talk was insightful and covered different Policing roles, application processes, career progression, different aspects of training the dogs for specific roles and the issues surrounding living and working with a dog. Our youngsters left enthused and with the skills to train their own dogs to find their mobile phones!"

*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development*



Learn to Succeed

Food Tech Pupils Design A Meal For Olympic Athletes



Priory pupils have been planning a healthy and nutritious meal for Team GB and Paralympic GB athletes in a national competition.

Team GB, Aldi and Get Set launched their 'Design a Meal for an Athlete' competition for young people up to age 14.

It's to celebrate the Olympic Games in Paris this summer and pupils had to decide what makes a healthy meal, choose an athlete from the list provided and assess their likes and needs and then design a healthy, balanced and tasty meal for them.

Mrs Lockwood organised the competition in Priory and selected one pupil from each house to put forward to the national competition where pupils could win a family trip to the Olympics and £1000 for the school, amongst other prizes.



She said: "We wanted to get our pupils involved for a number of reasons. The competition was really good timing to raise awareness of the Olympics this summer. We are also always trying to get the pupils invested in a healthy balanced diet, something which is in our curriculum.

"It also gave the pupils a chance to think more about a healthy lifestyle for an athlete and I was blown away by the entries. They were beautifully illustrated, most included nutrients with the athlete in mind and they had to dig deep with their knowledge.

"Their entries have now been sent off to the national competition, to be judged by their athletes."

Akemi, from Hodder, won. She chose boxer Delicious Oria who 'needs lots of protein' and whose favourite foods include 'avocado, chicken and salmon'.

Akemi said: "I selected proteins and carbohydrates as well as his favourite foods for him to perform well. I learnt about the various foods from Mrs Lockwood and by cooking at home – I also enjoyed colouring in the illustration."

Holly, from Ribble, was second and she selected vegetarian Paralympic swimmer Alice Tai who eats 'beans and lentils for protein.'

Holly said: "I selected Alice because she is female and my dad was vegan so I know about the various foods. I wanted to make her meal healthy, balanced and colourful."

Third placed Charlie, from Douglas, also chose Delicious Oria and said: "He needs a lot of protein and is a strong athlete and I gave him variety as well."

Fourth placed Elliot, from Calder, also selected Delicious. He said: "Choosing his meal helped me understand everything taught in class a bit more. I like cooking and I had a lot of ideas."



Year 11 Crowned National U16s Football Champion

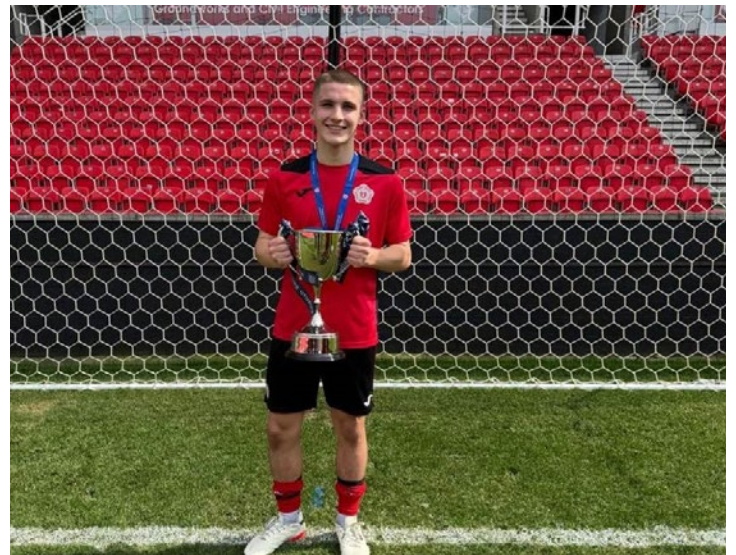


Year 11 pupil Mason said it was an ‘amazing’ experience as his Lancashire Schools Under 16 football team were crowned national champions!

Forward Mason was part of the Lancashire Schools Under 16s football team who faced Sussex Schools in the English Schools Football Association National County Cup final at Stoke City’s BET 365 Stadium last weekend.

“It was a really hot day,” said Mason, who is currently sitting his GCSEs. “It was a great experience though. I had never been to Stoke City’s ground and it’s a proper football ground.

“We went ahead twice but Sussex equalised both times.”



The match was heading for penalties until, two minutes from time, Mason played a fantastic pass to dissect two defenders for the Lancashire winger to cross for the winning goal. The game ended 3-2 for Lancashire to be crowned the best county team in England.

“It was amazing, a nice feeling to be part of a winning team and scoring so late.”

Assistant Principal and PE Teacher, Mr Gee, said: “This is a fantastic achievement for Mason. Since I’ve been at Priory I think we have only had one other boy represent Lancashire at Under 16 level, such is the standard.”

Mason is signed up to non-league side LSG to gain experience of men’s football, although their season has now finished, and will start pre-season at National League side AFC Fylde where he has a scholarship.

To see the winning goal, click the link below and fast forward to 3:55:30.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk-OYP9rXpQ



Learn to succeed

Prospectus Photography



Every three years our professional photographer makes a special trip to Priory to take some very important snaps for the school's prospectus.

A prospectus is a brochure that introduces prospective families to our school and gives readers a flavour of our ethos, values, curriculum and strengths. It plays a key role in showcasing the true essence of Priory.

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week, pupils especially selected by their Head of Year from Year 7, 8 & 9 become the faces of Priory for the next three years.

Communications & Marketing Manager, Mrs Yates, said, "The pupils were amazing; everyone involved looked smart, showed maturity, enthusiasm and above all, were great fun to work with!"

There is a contingency day planned for next Tuesday morning when we will be calling on a very small number of the pupils once again. In the meantime, all our ambassadors have been credited with behaviour points and this will also count towards their Priory+ award.

Almost 700 photos were taken over the two days and will be whittled down to a few dozen - a very difficult task! Here's just a preview...

The brochure will be printed over the summer break in readiness to be distributed to Year 5 and Year 6 feeder school pupils in the Autumn term as they prepare to make their secondary school choices.



Class of 1983



If you were in 3T between 1982 and 1983, then this was your lesson periods and classrooms. It makes a very puzzling, yet interesting read.

If you want to step back in time with other past pupils and former classmates, then join our Facebook group exclusively for alumni. Go to our main page and click 'visit group'. You will then be asked to confirm the year you left us before we can let you in.

Look out for details of our alumni coffee morning on Friday, 28 June. You're all invited!

Learn to succeed

Year 7 Welcome Lancashire Police To Explore The Dangers of County Lines



On Tuesday this week we welcomed PC Jason Ellwood from South Ribble's Safer Neighbourhoods Team. Jason visits schools in South Ribble to talk to Year 7 pupils about County Lines and how to avoid getting involved.

The County Lines workshop is designed to educate young people about the dangers of being groomed into drug trafficking by criminal gangs. These workshops raised awareness amongst our Year 7s about the risks associated with County Lines - a term describing gangs using young people to transport drugs and money from cities to rural areas.



The workshops cover how gangs operate, target vulnerable youth, and recruit through social media. They also address the consequences of involvement, including violence, exploitation, and criminal convictions.

Miss Smith said, "We are so grateful that Jason was able to come into school to teach our youngsters about potential risks that they may unknowingly get involved in.

"The workshops also contributed to the pupil's understanding of the Fundamental British Value - Rule of Law which is developed over the five years here at Priory. Having spoken to one of our parent teachers, she was happy that her daughter had been given this information so early in her development of independence and found the sessions informative as an adult.

"We are hoping to run further sessions with the Police later in the academic year, focusing on legalities and crimes impacting youngsters in our local area, and involving Year 9 in 'Cells' workshops when the touring group visit us in July".

*Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development*

Mrs Elliott's Cool Readers Club Meets Reading Plus



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 Finn and Archie...

Two Year 8s have been discussing Reading Plus, a new application at Priory which has taken over from Accelerated Reader.

Archie has praised 'Reading Plus' which is an online reading development programme.

Archie said: "We have 'Reading Plus' for an hour a week and you do learn new vocabulary.

"It's on a website and you have a choice of a load of books and you do a quiz on what you have read.

"I do not enjoy reading at home but I enjoy Reading Plus as it makes you pay attention.

"My favourite books are sports ones, I like football and support Preston North End. My favourite subject is maths and I would like to be a physiotherapist maybe when I am older."



Finn is also a big fan of 'Reading Plus.'

"There are a really good selection of books so I enjoy it. If you want to read about sharks or sports, there is plenty of choice.

"You read a little bit and then have to answer two questions so you do have to concentrate.

"I like books on super heroes and football and my favourite author is David Walliams as he makes me laugh. I play football for Penwortham St Theresa and I am a season ticket holder at Preston North End.



"My favourite subject is PE and I want to be a bricklayer in the future. I had a bit of a go and loved it!"

Mrs Elliott
English Teacher and Chief Librarian

Learn to succeed

A Guide To Better Sleep For Teenagers



In this free ebook, the Teen Sleep Hub shares its top tips to help teenagers get good quality, restorative sleep.

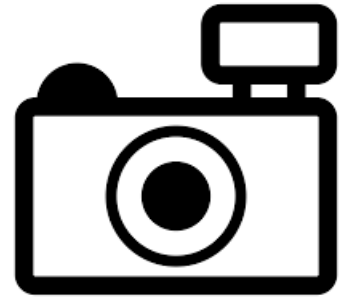
But more importantly than that, it also tells us WHY you should do these things, explaining the science behind it all and how it impacts on other areas of wellbeing such as mental health.

With this knowledge and understanding, you will feel more confident in making the right changes to your sleep.

Everyone has issues with their sleep at some point but the trick is to discover why you are struggling and what you can do to improve things.

A copy of the ebook has been emailed to parents today and can also be accessed via the school website at >>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/pastoral-care



Whole School Photo - It Happened At Last!

After having to cancel the whole school photo far too many times due to the weather, we were delighted that it could finally go ahead on Thursday afternoon.

The shoot, which was originally meant to take place last Summer, was arranged to commemorate the school's 70th anniversary.

Whilst the morning's weather was perfect, there were grey skies overhead in the afternoon, and a touch of drizzle started to put a dampener on things. With many fingers and toes crossed, the rain held and at 2pm the whole school began to make their way out onto the school yard.

With over 750 pupils and 100+ staff involved, the entire event took less than 30 minutes once the stands had been erected. All pupils were put in height order in their year groups and led into their positions by the external photography team. Staff followed on the bottom row, with the senior leaders front and centre.

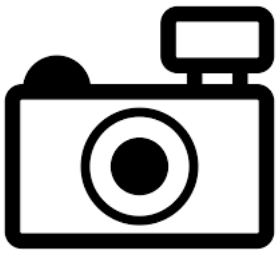
We hope to see a final draft over the next few days and details of how to purchase your copies will be announced.

In the meantime, take a look on the next page for a few preview shots.

Many thanks to Mrs Bullock for organising.

Mrs Bullock
PE Teacher &
Head of year 10

Learn to succeed



Learn to succeed



How Well Do You Know Your Teachers?

This week's House event was a quiz where teachers and support staff shared a little bit of surprising information about themselves. Let's see if it got you thinking "Well, I never would have guessed that!"

Which teacher is this?...

1. I went to the same school as Alan Shearer and Ant and Dec
2. I have seen the Pope give mass.
3. Before becoming a teacher I was a TV Extra and spent many an hour pretending to be a teacher on the set of Waterloo Road.
4. I taught English in Thailand for 6 months.
5. I have walked the red carpet at film premieres and attended the Paris fashion shows.
6. I'm a qualified Royal Yachting Association Day Skipper.
7. I used to work at B&Q for a part time job whilst I was at university (aged 18-21), specialising in selling drills and other power tools.

8. I lived in Malta for 9 months.
9. I used to do online competitions in my spare time. I won my wedding dress in a magazine competition.
10. I used to live in Tanzania, Africa
11. I have a tortoise called 'Torty'.
12. I travelled around South America for six months.
13. I use to own my own hair salon employing five people.
14. In Year 10, I won players' player of the year, manager's player of the year and league player of the year in the same season for my football club.
15. I have a black belt in Jiu-Jitsu.
16. I can speak Spanish and I used to live in The Canary Islands.
17. I designed and made a horse blanket for the racing horse Neptune Collonges to wear for the 2012 Olympic Games torch parade in Aintree.
18. I used to do kick-boxing.
19. I used to be a speed skater (roller boots, not ice) in my younger years and owned (still do) a pair of professional roller boots.
20. I was British National Karate Champion (under 11s)
21. I used to be part of a motorcycle racing team that travelled around the UK taking part in endurance racing. My main job was to time the races and hang over the pit wall with the lap times for the rider.

You can find the answers on a later page.

Mrs Massey
Science Teacher and
House Leader (Calder)

Pupils Who Cycle To School

We would like to remind parents of pupils who cycle to school that we expect all pupils to wear a helmet and have a bike that is in a fit and proper condition. This includes lights in the darker months.

We will be conducting regular checks to see that these school rules are being adhered to. If a pupil is found to be not following any of the above rules, the right to bring a bike into school may be withdrawn.

Bikes can be stored in the cycle sheds provided, however, the school is not responsible for the security of cycles and a strong lock is essential.

We hope that parents/carers will support us in ensuring that the cycle journey to school is as safe as possible for your child.



Behind The Scenes: The Estates Team



In the bustling corridors and behind the scenes, there are dedicated teams who ensure that our school functions smoothly. From managing administrative tasks and keeping our buildings safe and secure, to providing essential classroom support, these unsung heroes play a vital role in creating a positive learning environment at Priory.

In a series of articles, we'll shine a spotlight on each team as we explore their contributions and learn more about the people who keep our school running seamlessly. We begin with the Estates Team.

Priory has changed dramatically since it opened in 1953 and over the last 20 years there has been significant investment in its facilities to ensure students have the best environment to learn in. The school has a dedicated Facilities Management Estates Team with individuals who take great pride in their work and have the skills to keep the estate functioning as well as it can for all users of the site.



Strategic Estates Development Manager, Mr Bolton, who has been at the school for over 22+ years, oversees the Estates and ICT Teams at the school. Mr Wilkinson is the Estates Operational Manager, whose small team works on the site ensuring Priory always looks its best, from classrooms to the school fields. With over 14 years of service, Mr Wilkinson's role is to co-ordinate its proactive and reactive repairs and maintenance for the site. He has trained as a joiner and plumber and other members of the team also have a varied skillset.

The Estates Team covers everything from keeping the school tidy on a day-to-day basis to maintaining the award-winning gardens that Mr Farron has developed over the years and contribute to everyone's wellbeing.

With the help of consultants, the school has applied for government grants for new buildings and refurbishments such as the Science Building, Humanities Building and Hex Block. It has also established members of the team to enable the use of the school facilities

outside of school hours so the local community can use it for sporting and other community-based activities and events.

The Estates Teams mission statement is: "An estate that gives an exceptional, lasting impression to all users."

"We take a lot of pride in our work and we expect everything to be done to the highest standard which is why we have an on-site team of six staff who share that ethos," said Mr Bolton.

"We have found in the past that some contractors don't always share our values but we care about the site and hopefully that shows. An example of this was the grounds contractor and the school itself now takes responsibility for the groundwork.

"The school has developed a lot over the years and the emphasis is always on creating the best environment for learning.

"We also share our skills, equipment and experience by working with several primary schools in the local area so it benefits everyone.



Continued from front page

“In the last 12 months, we have had a grant approved from the Football Foundation for a tractor to help with the maintenance of our grass football pitches. This now means that the estates team can take care of all the grounds work around our site and also work with Penwortham Primary School to look after theirs



“In addition, we applied to the Football Foundation for funding to help maintain the grass pitches for all the junior football clubs that use the school fields. We have been successful in this application and have been awarded some funds to help with this. It’s a six-year plan which includes seeding and other maintenance works throughout this time. This will benefit our pupils and also the grassroots football teams who use our site in the evenings and weekends and so we are giving something back to our community.

“We have other groups and clubs who use our site in out of school hours such as a church groups, martial arts, dance and fitness groups and this allows us to generate a small income that we can use to reinvest in the facilities for the benefit of everyone.

“We have just completed a project to replace all the fire doors on the ground floor in the main school building after receiving government funding. Our next project is to introduce the ‘Priory Pod’ near the 3G pitch which will sit as a takeaway food service for the students, to take the pressure off the dining room service. We are hoping to have this completed by the end of the summer.”



The site of the Priory Pod, a 'grab & go' food outlet due to be completed over the

Mr Bolton
Strategic Estates Development Manager

1. Mrs Cowell went to the same school as Alan Shearer and Ant and Dec.
2. Mr Sneddon can say the alphabet backwards and has seen the Pope give mass.
3. Mrs Lockwood spent many an hour as a TV extra pretending to be a teacher on the set of Waterloo Road before becoming a teacher
4. Mrs Massey (Biology teacher) taught English in Thailand
5. Mrs Elliot has walked the red carpet at film premieres and attended the Paris fashion shows.
6. Mrs Holt is a qualified Royal Yachting Association Day Skipper.
7. Mrs Qadri used to work at B&Q for a part time job whilst she was at University and specialised in selling drills and other power tools.
8. Mr Hunter lived in Malta for 9 months.
9. Mrs Potter used to do online competitions in her spare time. I won her wedding dress in a magazine competition.
10. Miss Burbidge used to live in Tanzania, Africa
11. Mrs Bullock has a tortoise called Totty.
12. Mr Kenrick travelled around South America for 6 months
13. Mrs Swire owned her own hair salon employing five people.
14. Mr Taylor won players' player of the year, managers' player of the year and league player of the year in the same season for my football club when he was in Year 10.
15. Mr Metcalfe has a black belt in Jitsu.
16. Mrs Eastham (Learning Support) can speak Spanish and used to live in The Canary Islands.
17. Miss Smith designed and made a horse blanket for the racing horse Neptune Collonges to wear for the 2012 Olympic Games torch parade in Aintree. It appeared on national news programmes and in newspapers.
18. Mrs Shaw use to be a kick-boxer.
19. Mrs Bailey used to be a speed skater (roller boots, not ice) and owned (still do) a pair of professional roller boots.
20. Mr Evans (Maths) was a British National Karate Champion (under 11s)
21. Mrs Eastham (Science) used to be part of a motorcycle racing team that travelled around the UK taking part in endurance racing. My main job was to time the races and hang over the pit wall with the lap times for the rider.

THE ANSWERS

How well do you know your teachers?

Learn to succeed

Where to next, Year 11?

Our Year 11s have big plans for the future after leaving Priory with a strong education and happy memories.



From a pilot, to sports stars, to an actor, to making a lot of money – there are a variety of careers our pupils hope to head in to.

Finlay is a flanker for Preston Grasshoppers Under 16s and, while he hopes he can take his rugby union further, he is also looking at other options.

“I have played rugby union for as long as I can remember. I would love to carry it on. I did have a trial for Sale Sharks Academy, after being recommended, but I didn’t get in – you never know what could happen in the future though.

“My favourite subject at Priory is ICT and I want to go to Newman College.

“I have loved the atmosphere at Priory, it’s a bubbly place to be.”



Olivia is also a sports star – she plays netball for Wyre and is at Leeds Rhinos Academy.

“I am Goal Attack and I train twice a week at Leeds. I guess my dream is to play for Manchester Thunder at netball.

“I am going to go to Newman College to study Business and Psychology. I want to make money!”

Leon has already featured in our newsletter as he has raised money for his older brother, Lewis, who has learning difficulties.

“I like Food Technology at Priory and so I have held bake sales and done football cards to raise money for computers for Lewis’ school Sir Tom Finney High School.

“I want to go to Runshaw College and study Business or Public Services. Going into the police is one option.

“At Priory, I have made a lot of friends and enjoy coming to school.”

Abigail has also featured in our newsletter a few times – for raising money to buy goods to take to Cuba and also her team came second overall in ‘Operation Moonlight,’ a ‘manhunt’ for scout and explorer groups.

“I am a member of West Lancs Scouts and go every week and also have plans to go back to Cuba but it is expensive to travel!

“I have enjoyed my time at Priory – I am a House Captain and a Head Librarian.

“It’s tough at the moment with all the revision and it is quite tiring! I want to go to Runshaw College and study A-Levels in History, Geography and French. I have no idea what I want to do so I am taking subjects I enjoy.”

Emmie is also keeping her options open.

“I am going to go to Newman College and study Graphic Design, Sociology and French. I like Graphic Design and want a career in that but I am also good at French so we shall see.

“Priory has a really nice environment, all the pupils and teachers are lovely and it is a great place to learn.”

Head Prefect Martha has a talent for hockey.

“I currently play for Preston and am part of the North West Talent Academy. I train four times a week and I would like to take my hockey further.

Continued next page...

Learn to succeed

Continued from previous page

"I have enjoyed being Head Prefect. I have gained my confidence in speaking in public through it, as I have spoken at the Remembrance Ceremony and Holocaust Memorial Day.

"It's been good and not too much pressure as four of us have shared the roles.

"I want to go to Newman College and do PE and, in the future, I would like to do something which involves sport.

"Priory has been enjoyable, I have made good friends and every day is interesting."

Lewis is another of our Head Prefects and he is currently planning for the Musical Theatre course interview at Runshaw College.

"It's tough as you have to get your grades and then do a monologue and songs as well as attend a couple of dancing and drama workshops. I am currently thinking about the songs I will sing, and rehearsing.

"I have been in the school productions. I started with Matilda in the ensemble and a side character but got bigger roles with Game Over, Mary Poppins and Legally Blonde.

"I originally did drama to improve my dancing, as a ballroom dancer, but now drama has taken over and become my main passion.

"I love being on the stage, I still get nervous, but I do thrive on the applause and the whole atmosphere. I haven't decided yet whether I would like to do TV in the future or be on stage.

"Priory has been great for me. Everyone is so supportive and there is always someone to talk to if something is bothering you.

"I have enjoyed being a Head Prefect too, being part of a small group, and it wasn't as daunting as I thought it would be – it's been a fulfilling role."

Footballer **Mason** is a national football champion already – he is part of the Lancashire Under 16s squad who took on Sussex at Stoke City in the National Final earlier this month.

"I am a striker and am currently playing for LSG

in the West Lancs League to play some men's football and make myself stronger. I also have an option of a scholarship at AFC Fylde, where I can take a BTEC in Sport. I want to be a footballer."



Favour's aim is to make money!

"I want to go to Newman College and study Business and Law. I want to be a business woman, I want to make money and have money to spend!



"I have enjoyed my time at Priory. I got the chance to have a big part in the school show Matilda and, while I have sung at church, this was my first time acting and it was fun.

"I also helped to start Culture Day, going back to my Nigerian heritage, to help people understand other cultures and accept them. I felt we needed a colourful day so it was nice to wear traditional dress for school!"

Tom hopes to be high-flying as he has his sights set on being a pilot.

"I am an RAF Cadet, joining in 2021. My dad was in the army and I want to join the Royal Air Force. It will be tough as I think they have around four places and there are 3,000 applications.

"I want to go to Preston College to study engineering and then go into the army and see where it takes me.

"Priory has been good, I have made friends for life."

Mrs Bailey
Head of year

Learn to succeed

These Girls Proved They Can at West View Leisure Centre



A group of Year 9 girls had a fantastic sports experience at West View Leisure Centre last Friday when they attended South Ribble School Games' 'This Girl Can' event.

The event, which aimed to empower girls to confidently stay active, saw the Year 9s participate in a variety of activities throughout the day.

The day began with a motivational speech from Jenna Downing, the world's number one inline skater. Jenna spoke about her journey in sport along with the setbacks and achievements she has experienced throughout her career. The girls took in every ounce of what she had to say and this sparked confidence and excitement for the day ahead.

PE teacher Miss Huddart, who accompanied the girls, said "The first activities were bouldering and rock climbing and it appeared the group enjoyed this activity the most. Some girls conquered their fears of heights and others exceeded their expectations!"



The following activities focused on team building. Jenna led the session and demonstrated how the girls needed to trust each other and work together to push themselves to the next level. The girls created a tight rope whilst one of them was challenged to balance themselves, with support, as they walked along it. Then it was straight onto the spin bikes!

The event closed with a breakdancing class where the girls hip-hopped their way to receive their certificates.



Miss Huddart ended by saying, "The girls had a fabulous and most rewarding day, well done girls!"

Eleanor B, Grace P, Jess L, Chloe R, Amelia O, Freya Y, Jess D, Kayalinila A.

Miss Huddart
PE Teacher
(trainee)



Learn to Succeed

Geography Club in the Spring



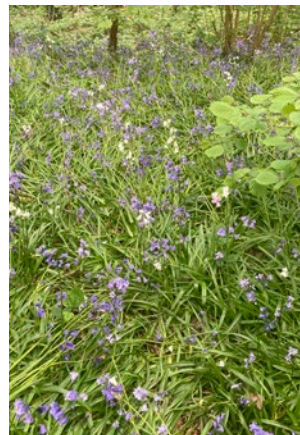
Geography Club went outdoors to study the woodland in the spring.

The group, led by Humanities teacher Mrs Kursitis, has been looking at how species adapt, specifically bluebells, on the woodland floor. They also identified which types of trees were present, collected leaves, and completed a survey back at school to identify any invasive species.

Mrs Kursitis said, "We study forests in Year 9 and also at GCSE. Pupils learn about eco-systems and deciduous woodlands so this was a great opportunity to experience what we teach first hand."

Geography Club meets every Wednesday lunch in HU5. Pupils from all year groups are welcome.

Mrs Kursitis
Humanities Teacher



Learning Newsletters

Every half term we put together a newsletter for parents where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child at home, in order to benefit them and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

This next issue looks at 'Oracy' - what it is and how you can impact on it at home. It also includes an introduction to Reading Plus, the English's department's succession to AR.

This half term's issue has been emailed to parents last week however all past issues can be downloaded from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/newsletters (see Learning Newsletters tab)

Mrs Corwell
Vice Principal



Learn to succeed

Behind The Scenes: The Catering Team



In the bustling corridors and behind the scenes, there are dedicated teams who ensure that our school functions smoothly. From managing administrative tasks and keeping our buildings safe and secure, to providing essential classroom support, these unsung heroes play a vital role in creating a positive learning environment at Priory.

In the second part of this series, we're shining a spotlight on the catering team as we explore their contributions and learn more about the people who provide pupils, staff and visitors with healthy, nutritious and tasty food and drink every day.

When we asked several Year 7s recently what they liked about Priory, many rushed to say 'the food' – and that's all down to our fantastic catering team.

Led by Catering Manager Miss Rigby, her team are responsible for producing the food in the dining room for Years 7-9 and then catering in the Bistro for Years 10 and 11.



Miss Rigby said: "I started here in September as Catering Manager and I love the job. No two days are ever the same, every day is different and that's what I enjoy.

"My job is about balancing everything – from healthy eating to serving traditional food such as lasagne and roast dinners; balancing budgets; making sure there is enough food; catering for allergies, such as gluten and dairy; and making sure there is a menu to suit everyone.

"It's been great getting to know the pupils. It is constant; preparing the food for break, then getting everything ready for lunch time and it is busy all day.

"There's more than just making and serving food with risk-assessments, hygiene, ordering and more but we all work together to make sure we serve the best food we can at Priory.

"We are always looking to introduce different flavours and tastes into the menu as well so it's always exciting, coming up with new ideas."

*Miss Rigby
Catering Manager*



Learn to succeed

Eco Club Makes Its Mark on Priory's Green Spaces



The Eco Committee has taken over a green space at the front of school.

With the expert help of our award winning gardener, Mr Farron, and a group of volunteer pupils, we cleared the area and planted roses and sunflower seeds.

We hope to complete regular maintenance visits, and are looking forward to seeing whose sunflower grows the tallest!

Well done - Year 7 Owen T, Joe W. Year 8 Charlie T, Oliver C, Emily C, Alfie K, Harley F-N

*Mrs Massey
Science Teacher*



Whole School Photo Now Available to Buy

Tempest Photography is pleased to report Penwortham Priory Academy's whole school group photograph is available to view and order online only via the following weblink:

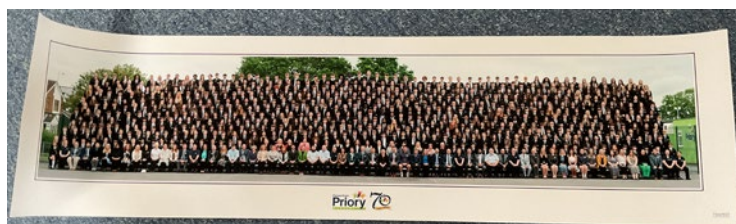
<https://http.st/282420-98WSG>

Postage is free for orders placed before the end of Sunday, 16 June (orders will be sent to school). The cost is £29.50 for a tubed print, with additional framing options. Please include your child's full name to assist with distribution at school.



A copy is available at reception if parents would like to view before they buy.

For assistance, please call Tempest direct on 01736 752411 (Option 3 - Place an order (P&P applies) | Option 5 - Customer services)



Learn to Succeed

South Ribble Cup Year 7 Champions!

SPORTS REPORT

Captain Lucas said he was 'proud' as Priory's Year 7 football team won the South Ribble Cup for the 2023-24 season.

Lucas is at Blackburn Rovers Academy and was part of the team which overcame Hutton Grammar School 4-2 in an exciting final.

Priory went a goal down early before equalising through Tuson and then taking the lead through Robinson.

Hutton levelled to make it 2-2 at half-time.

Priory asserted their dominance in the second half with Robinson pulling the strings in centre-midfield but they were thwarted by some great defending and superb saves.

The chances continued and Whiteside grabbed a deserved brace for Priory to lift the cup.

Lucas said: "I was proud to lift the cup. I scored one goal from outside the area. We have a good team spirit."

Goalkeeper Archie said: "It was great to win."

Left-back Jude said: "It was a tough game but I made some good tackles so I was happy."

Centre-back Freddie added: "We have a good team spirit as we have only been together a short time. Mr Bullock is a good coach."

Head of PE & Sport, Mr Bullock, said: "It was a fantastic game of football, played in the right spirit and a deserved victory for Priory. Congratulations lads!"

Team: Freddie A, Jude B, Maxi B-S, Archie G, Harley H, Lucas R, Archie S, Owen T, Harry W, Joe W.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Experience the World of Work



Work experience for our Year 10 pupils proved invaluable as some have earned part-time jobs from it, all have gained vital skills and many have enhanced their future career prospects.

Jo is hoping to fulfil his dream of becoming a chef after working for a week for Green Crab Ltd at The Rams Head – and being offered further work.



“There was an opportunity for me to go there and I enjoyed it. I have always wanted to be a chef and they have offered me part-time work. I hope to get an apprenticeship,” said Jo.

AJ went to Tesco in Penwortham where his mum works.

“I stacked shelves and did the job of a store assistant and then I got the chance to work on the seasonal aisle.

“I will probably end up going there to work part-time but I am not sure what I want to do in the future. My favourite subject is history.”

Ethan worked at Porsche.

“I had an interview for the chance to work there and was selected. It was good, I helped to take pictures of cars for the website, I helped as customers picked the colours of their car, the seats and the gadgets and I put prices on the cars.

“I want to go into the RAF but this is always something I could do as they have said they would like me to come back.”

Emma spent a week at Francis Roberts Architects.

“I would like to be an architect so it was a good experience. I made a 3D model, creating a new building in a park - a café and ice cream shop. They told me to keep in touch.”

Aisha would like to do something medical in the future so she went to HBS Pharmacy as a Pharmacy Assistant.



Continued next page...

Learn to succeed

Continued from previous page

"I want to have a medical-focused career so I thought this would be a good experience.

It was tough with the long shifts and there were some rude people but I learnt a lot about double checking medicines and what a pharmacist does."

Imogen spent time at James Hall & Co as a Marketing Assistant.

"It was cool. I did some research for a bakery which wanted a rebrand. I want to go into the social media side of marketing."

Max saw a huge amount of money be invested at Hedley & Co Stockbrokers.

"It was really interesting. It was wealth management, something I would like to go into, and it was clients investing money. I would like to make millions!"



The National Grid has offered careers support to Priory pupils and **Oliver G** was one of the pupils who spent his placement with them.

"It was good. We drove to Kendal and Liverpool and worked on sub stations. I learnt a lot from it."

Twins **Alessia** and **Olivia** spent time at Marylands Nursery.

Alessia worked with 2, 3 and 4 -year-olds and earned praise from the nursery:

"Alessia has been brilliant at supporting teachers and helping children to play nicely. She has shown patience and been diligent. Alessia is a mature, gentle and very capable young lady."

Of Olivia the nursery said: "Olivia has worked with ages 0-5 years and has been an absolute joy, engaging in play with children, supporting teachers and being such a good role model being prompt and reliable every day.

"Her attitude to work has shown what a mature, capable and genuinely conscientious young lady she is."

Oliver C worked at his mum's flower shop, Fleur Boutique.



"I enjoyed it, I did a bunch of activities, such as print orders and make boxes for flowers."



Charlie worked at Leyland Trucks and would now like an apprenticeship there.

"It was good. I cut pipes for trucks and gained a lot of knowledge. I settled in quickly and, after being there a week, it's something I would like to go into."

Niamh reignited her wish to be a vet after spending time at Houghton Village Vets.

"I used to want to be a vet, then went off the idea but this has made me want to do it again.

"I love animals. I enjoyed it at the vets, watching surgeries, entertaining the animals and ensuring there was plenty of stock."

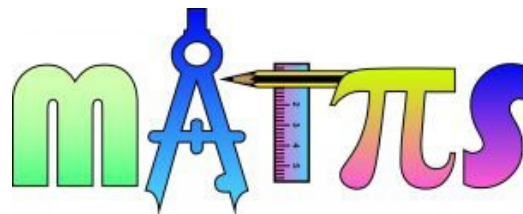
Mr Bullock, who co-ordinated the work experience alongside Mrs Eastham, added, *"At Priory we feel work experience is important for pupils as it allows them to gain insight into the world of work where they develop transferable skills such as communication and teamwork. They also gain first hand knowledge that will help them stand out from the crowd when applying for jobs in the future."*

Mr Bullock, Head of PE & Sport
Mrs Eastham, Science Teacher



Learn to succeed

Priory pupils prove they're some of the best at national Maths competition



Year 8 Jacob was Best in School in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge and admitted it took him by surprise.



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

The Junior Maths Challenge is a national competition for Years 7 and 8 with the top set in Priory put forward by Mr Hunter and Mr Raynor to undertake the multiple-choice exam. Pupils use their best problem-solving, fluency and reasoning skills to tackle some really difficult questions.

With a golden score of 95, Jacob then went through to the next round – the Junior Kangaroo which is a 25 question multiple-choice challenge over an hour.

“The Kangaroo round was tough, it was hard,” said Jacob. “I didn’t expect to be the best in school for the first round, I was really surprised with my results.

“I want to be an engineer so maths will help me with that.”

Year 7 Henry was the Best in Year with 87 points and he collected a Gold Certificate.

“The first few questions were easy but it got harder as it went on and I had to make an educated guess on a few. I was happy with my results, I didn’t expect to be best in Year 7.”



Year 8 Elliot also celebrated Gold with 87 points. “It’s the first time I have done it and I was impressed with how well I did.”

Imogen received a Silver Certificate. She said: “It was challenging.”

Mr Raynor’s Year 8 class received four Golds, 14 Silvers and nine Bronze certificates, some of the best results Priory has had in the competition.

He said: “The UKMT Junior Maths Challenge is done under test conditions in school and it is a challenge, trying to apply the knowledge they have learnt in lessons to the questions. We are absolutely delighted with the results, they are outstanding.”

Mr Hunter and Mr Raynor
Maths Teachers

Learn to succeed

Year 9 Pupil Crochets To Raise Funds For Local Hospice



Year 9 Lucy has been crocheting animals for charity.

Lucy said: "I learnt to crochet in October as I wanted to take up a hobby, something I could do in my free time.



"I have made lots of things but especially stuffed animals.

"I had a stall at St Theresa's and decided to give some of the money I made to St Catherine's Hospice and I was happy to raise £60 for them."



Cakes For Staff!

It was a very lovely thought from three Year 11 girls as they departed from Priory today.

Megan H, Shannon T, and Grace E baked cupcakes for every member of staff at Priory to say thank you for being "awesome people over the last five years". They even organised a card for us, signed by Year 11.

Cakes were handed out personally at breaktime by the girls so that they could thank each member of staff in person.

The girls spent their free time on Thursday making the cakes in the Food Technology room and even made gluten free options for those who required it.

A lovely touch - thank you and good luck for the future!



Learn to succeed

Year 8 Pupils Discover Careers of the Future with 3D Printing Workshop



Sixty Year 8 pupils were selected by Head of ICT & Computer Science, Mrs Qadri, to take part in an exciting #InspiringLancashire project last Thursday, funded by BAE Systems.

Priory was given a 3D printer as part of the link-up and we have worked with CREATE Education to deliver the school-based 3D Printing Workshop Day. Mrs Qadri had taken part in a training day at CREATE Education in Chorley and part of the project was that BAE Systems, through CREATE, will offer 60 Year 8 students a 3D Printing Workshop Day as well as a day of careers advice.

"BAE Systems want to create more jobs in the future in the Lancashire area and they hope, by training pupils on such items as 3D printers and show how they are used in their business, this will give them an understanding of the careers available to them and the chance to stay in Lancashire for the jobs," said Mrs Qadri.

At the workshop, the pupils designed a mini rocket ship and printed it as well as learnt simple CAD/CAM skills.



Year 8 Sophie said, "I found the day and its tasks very fun. The designing on Onshape for the rocket was challenging at some points but I eventually got the hang of it. I would try to 3D print again if I have another chance."



Lily E added, "I really enjoyed the workshop today, it made me think about what 3D printing is and how useful it is. I know a lot more about it now and in addition the practical work (launching rockets) was fun and showed that 3D was even able to make launchable rockets!"



Jacob and Noah agreed, it was "Super engaging and fun" and "Such fun, I learnt so many interesting things."

continued overleaf...



continued from previous page...

Muhammed B, said, "Today was a very good day. I have done lots of stuff with 3D printing. There are lots of jobs to do with 3D printing like engineering, food and even hospitals. We did rocket experiments outside. It was lots of fun!"

Students were working at a much faster pace than when we ran the event last year and they even managed to personalise their rocket ships with their names.

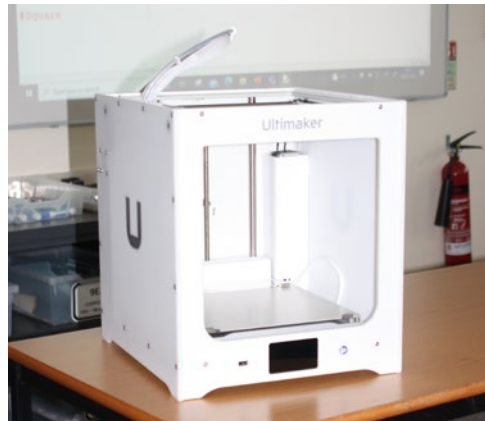
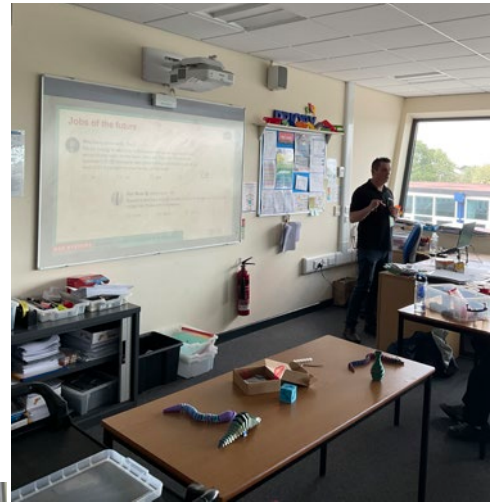
"I will have a big job to get all their designs 3D printed in different colours over the next few weeks," said Mrs Qadri.

Now that students have developed their design skills, they will also be taking part in an Inspiring Lancashire Challenge Project where they will have to design a prototype product (or a part for a product) that will either:

- help in one small way to improve the environment in or around a local waterway (river, canal, lake or sea) or
- improve the habitat for one or more species of local wildlife.

Look out for more information about this project in the Autumn term.

Mrs Qadri
Head of ICT &
Computer Science



Learn to succeed

Compost Corner

Summer 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 season as the landscape changes.

Good afternoon fellow composters!

Well, it has finally arrived and my word what a soggy affair Spring was. However, all this water will be very evident in the coming months as all plants will have benefited in some way with an abundance of growth.



I have been extremely busy with the design and construction of a colonnade stretching along the outside of the English classroom to Science incorporating the Bistro and running from east to west with a planting of several herbaceous and perennial plants. The aim of this being to give an all-round yearly interest, varying in colour and movement with the addition of the appearance of an orderly boulevard.



Also, the addition and placement of Tommy in the 'Lest We Forget' memorial garden in the southern part of the ground has created great interest.

Priory Gardens are now a large part of our identity as the gardens take shape around the school creating an established intent of making our school beautiful and calming to the eye with the intention of encouraging wellbeing in being a part of an establishment unlike any other. I hope you all enjoy your time at Priory and appreciate your surroundings.

Tip for the month: Keep smiling, the sunshine is on its way!



Plants for the month

Climbers and wall shrubs are invaluable because of the space with which they can cover walls and fences, softening the hardlines. Because of their flexible stems and upward growth habit, climbers allow you to fit large plants in a small space, by growing tall climbing roses, honeysuckles, and clematis over arches and pergolas.



I would recommend an old-fashioned English rose intermingled with honeysuckle and clematis for a stunning effect. Sit back, enjoy the endorphins and let your imagination go and create your idol.

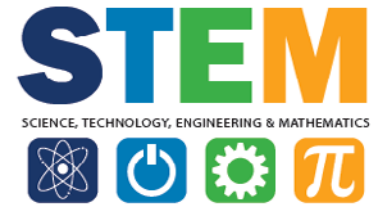
Mr C Farron, Head Gardener

*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*



Learn to Succeed

Year 8 Have An Electrifying Careers Day with the National Grid

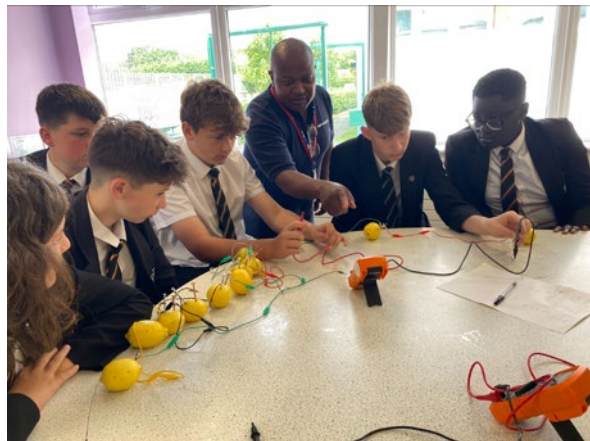


On Wednesday, we held a careers day for Year 8 hosted by a team from the National Grid.

The aim of the event was to educate pupils about STEM and engineering linked to the work that National Grid do. Workshops included the building of lemon batteries and circuits, coding, K'Nex tower building, building of catapults and exploring energy efficiency project management. These workshops provided an insight into the various functions within National Grid and it is hoped that pupils have a greater awareness of potential careers for the future.

Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Miss Smith, said "The workshops looked so engaging. I was envious that I had not been given such opportunities at school. The workshops looked so interesting and fun! Our youngsters left classrooms on a high and positive feedback was in abundance.

She added, "I hope that the workshops have provided career inspiration and pupils who would not be stereotypically interested in such careers, now are, having met a diverse range of National Grid staff. We are very grateful for the opportunities that our collaboration with the company have provided and look forward to another academic year where we refine activities and introduce more as the pilot partnership continues into the future."



Learn to succeed

CLASS OF 2014

Morgan Hompson Smith



Footballer Morgan, who left Priory ten years ago, was signed by Bury FC earlier this month.

The versatile midfielder has impressed during his time at Longridge Town FC and heads over to Bury for the 24/25 season.

Morgan started out at Harrogate before playing for Southport in National League North. Following his time at Haig Avenue, he went onto play for FC United of Manchester, City of Liverpool and Bootle before joining Longridge in October 2022.

Having Morgan on board, Bury Manager, Dave McNabb said, "Morgan is a masterful technician capable of playing in midfield or anywhere behind the striker. He has an unbelievable left foot, his movement, vision and range of passing is a joy to behold.

"I think he's matured as a player massively over the last year or two and that will allow him to fulfil his huge potential. A player whose ability should be playing at a much higher level."



Year 10 Pupil Invited To The Royal Institution



Year 10 Emily was invited to the Royal Institution in London for a Masterclass celebration day after taking part in a Maths Masterclass at Lancaster University earlier this year.

The Institution is a leading independent charity dedicated to connecting people to share their interest and passion with the world of science.

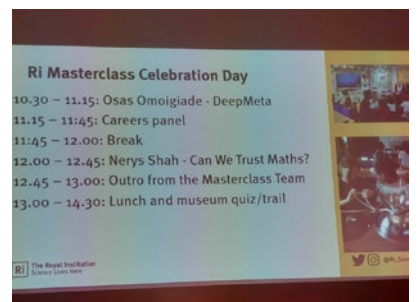
Emily attended Lancaster University School of Maths (LUSoM) through being nominated by her Maths teacher, Mr Evans. She was then invited by The Royal Institution to attend a Secondary Masterclass celebration day on Saturday, 13 July.

Pupils who attended Maths, Science and Computer Science masterclasses in their area travelled

from across the UK to the capital for the event. The day consisted of different speakers who delivered sessions on their specific expertise and spoke about how STEM subjects can support them.

Emily enjoyed the day, saying she particularly liked the talk by Nerys Shah, 'Can we trust Maths?'.

Well done, Emily!



Learn to succeed

After five years we say goodbye to Priory's Year 11s

Class of
2024

Emotions were running high as our Year 11s spent their final day at Priory.

Their Physics exam in the afternoon meant that the celebrations had to start late. However, as soon as that was over with, pupils ventured over to the Nucleus and Priory Gardens on such a glorious day for the traditional shirt-signing.

Their Celebration Assembly followed on, where Mr Eastham and Mrs Cowell first handed out numerous - and well deserved - certificates, awards and trophies. Before heading home for the last time as a Priory pupil, pupils giggled and cringed as they watched their farewell presentation which included photos of their early school days, memories and things we'll miss about this special year group.



Some pupils returned for a couple of smaller exams this week however, we'll see everyone again when they're back for their GCSE results on 22 August. Not forgetting the Prom on 4 July!

We wish all our Year 11 pupils the very best of luck in their future careers and we thank our parents/guardians for all the help and support they have given to them, and the school, throughout their years with us.

Now they've grown their wings to fly away and follow their dreams, whichever path they've chosen to reach them.

Enjoy the summer everyone!



More photos can be found on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PriorySTC or website and, for Year 11 families that would like to see the farewell presentation, you can access a PDF from the Year 11 Teams.

Learn to succeed

Class of
2024



Learn to succeed

Class of
2024



Learn to Succeed

Priory Welcomes Its 2024 Intake



This week we welcomed our new intake of pupils and their parents as they began their journey at Priory.

Tuesday evening's event was an opportunity for us to get to know our new families and for them to pick up essential information about uniform, transport etc and ask questions about the transition from primary school. Mr Eastham presented to parents in the Assembly Hall and he introduced key staff, policies and set expectations.

Meanwhile, Mrs Bullock who is standing in for Head of Year 7, Mrs Farley, introduced Priory's new intake to their future classmates in the Auditorio. Year 7 Dexter and Imogen spoke confidently to the group about their first year experiences before the children headed off to spend some time with their Form Tutors.



Then on Wednesday, our new pupils returned for their Induction Day. Pupils sampled lessons in English, Science and PE, navigated their way around and learnt more about their new school. Before all that, the full intake met in the Assembly Hall for 'getting to know you' activities and pupil bingo!

This was also an opportunity for Mrs Bullock to reacquaint herself with the year group which she had previously met at their primary schools. She said, "What a fantastic day we had. It was great to have everyone together for their Induction Day for their first full day at secondary school. To start there were a few nerves but I think by the time they had even finished their first lesson the majority felt a lot more comfortable. They were able to experience a lesson in Science, English and PE and also get familiar with the school site, which I know they enjoyed. It was great to see the excitement on their faces and I'm sure they will all settle well into their new surroundings in September, and of course we have Summer School before then which has been really well received and I know they are looking forward to!"



Prior to leaving at the end of their Induction Day, our Year 7 helpers took their younger peers on a tour, taking in the sites of our award-winning gardens, the Hex and the Technology block, sports facilities and everything in between.

Thank you to our Year 7 helpers and Year 10 ambassadors who supported both events - too many of you to name!



continued overleaf...

Learn to succeed

continued from previous page...

Parents who have registered their child for Summer School should have received our plans and arrangements for 19-21 August and these can also be found on our website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/transition. Enquiries can be directed to Mrs Willis at a.willis@priory.lancs.sch.uk



All parents should have received a 'first day arrangements' letter which can also be downloaded at www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/transition. In the meantime we look forward to seeing all our new Year 7 pupils in school from Tuesday, 3 September.



We asked our current Year 7s what nuggets of advice they would give to the Year 6s ...

A selection of Year 7s talked about their first year at secondary school, their favourite subjects and how they settled in. They also told us what they like about Priory and what makes it different to their primary schools.



Our current Year 7s are close to completing their first year at Priory and all admitted that, while they were nervous before they came into school, they

have relished their first year here. You will get a warm welcome at Priory!

Hollie, who went to Whitefield Primary School, said: "I like PE and it's different to primary school in that we move around to different classrooms."

Henry, who attended Howick Primary School knows what he likes best! He said: "I like the food in the cafeteria."

Kayden, from Broak Oak Primary School, said: "I have an older sister here so have visited Priory a few times so I have settled in easily."

Sports-mad Archie, from Cop Lane Primary School, said: "I love the sports at Priory - there are so many!"

Salahuddeen, from Whitefield Primary School, said: "I like PE best and Drama. At first it's a bit scary moving to secondary school but you soon get used to it and enjoy it."

Theo, who attended Little Hoole, said: "There are a lot more subjects than in primary school and they are more exciting, like doing science experiments."

Tobias, who came from Cottam Primary School, said: "The food is really nice! I would say to any Year 6 coming to Priory to stay positive as it is fun."

Lola, from Middleforth, said: "The teachers at Priory are really helpful and it's not as scary as you think."

Maxi, who came from Longton Primary School, said: "I like Maths, PE and Art - they are all good!"

Jess, from Kingsfold Primary School, said: "I like PE the best, I have made some new friends. I would tell a Year 6 not to be worried, it's friendly."



Learn to succeed

SPORTS REPORT

South Ribble Athletics Competition

Once again, the annual South Ribble Athletics competition took place at Stanley Park, Blackpool. Priory pupils across Years 7-9 journeyed to the stadium on 21 June to battle it out on track and field against the eleven South Ribble schools.

As well as achieving 3 golds, 6 silvers and 10 bronze awards, the three year groups also qualified for the finals of the girls and boys 100m, 200m and 300m sprint.



Other pupils who narrowly missed out on the medals but deserve a mention were Cameron D (Y7) - 5th 800m, Thomas T (Y8) - 4th 100m and Dylan H (Y9) - 4th 300m. Year 7 Joe W also competed in both 100m and 200m heats and finals - showing pure determination and courage throughout!

Priory finished the day in a very respectable 5th place out of all South Ribble schools. The pupils' effort, team work and sportsmanship was commendable - well done to all who took part!



Track		
	Pupil	Event
Silver	Josh K - Y8	1500m
	Hollie L - Y7	100m
	Lola B - Y7	200m
Bronze	Ethan B - Y7	1500m
	Felix D - Y9	100m
	Millie D - Y8	200m
	Yosef B - Y7	300m
	Eliza G - Y8	300m



Field		
	Pupil	Event
Gold	Taejuan S - Y9	Triple Jump
	Josh K - Y8	Triple Jump
	Owen T - Y7	Long Jump
Silver	Ben K - Y8	Javelin
	Charlie H - Y9	Javelin
	Noah W - 8	Discus
Bronze	Ben T - Y9	Shot Putt
	Leevi F-W - Y9	Discus
	Lottie K - Y8	Shot Putt
	Issy T - Y8	Javelin
	Excellence I - Y8	Long Jump

Year Group	Girls	Boys	Overall
7	7th	4th	5 th
8	5th	3rd	3 rd
9	9th	6th	7th
Overall School position			5th

Learn to succeed

Rewards Day Smoothies



Not all pupils who were invited on the Rewards Trips last Thursday wanted to take up the opportunity. For those who chose to stay in school, other fun activities were arranged for them.

This time, Mrs Scully, led a smoothie making workshop with the help of Miss Beesley, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Qadri and Mrs Bullock.

The day included smoothie tasting (to identify ingredients) and selecting healthy and nutritious ingredients - it could not be just fruit!

In a nod to The Apprentice, pupils also had to market their smoothie including giving it a name and designing a product label.

Languages Teacher, Mrs Scully, added, "Pupils were given smoothie cups and went off to create their smoothies with a variety of ingredients!"

Well done to all who took part.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Learn About The Dangers of Driving Too Fast



Our Learning For Life day for Year 10 pupils was on the theme of Personal Safety and this included a presentation by Wasted Lives.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, who delivered the session, brought with them a crashed car from a speeding young driver who tragically died at the wheel. He was going too fast, his car hit a tree and he died instantly.



The message was very powerful and brought home to our pupils the fragility of life and the dangers of the roads. We hope the message will be sobering and long-lasting for them.

Friday 29.9.2017

9:35pm

Friday 29th September 2017 was a normal Friday for Corey. He got up and went to work delivering car parts to garages. I met him that evening at his unit so he could fit a new exhaust on my car. It took longer than expected and nobody had had their tea.

He finished my car and locked up at 9.35pm that evening. I called to see my mum and dad on my way home as I had promised I would.

10.20pm

At 10.20pm I received a phone call, I was told Corey had crashed his car: they said don't worry just come straight there.



Police investigations have confirmed that Corey lost control of his Seat Leon, struck the kerb and then collided with a substantial tree on Moor Lane, Padiham. The damage to the vehicle indicated a collision speed of 40 to 50mph: the speed limit on the road is 30mph. Corey was wearing a seat belt but he sustained serious injuries and died the following day. Two passengers in the car were not wearing seat belts and also sustained serious injuries.

2.00pm

At 2pm that afternoon we watched the doctor carry out checks which confirmed Corey was brain stem dead; it was only the machinery keeping him alive. We spoke with a donor nurse and agreed to donate Corey's organs.

4.00am

At 4am we received a phone call to say they had found matches for Corey's organs and we needed to get back there straight away to say our final goodbyes.

"The night Corey died a big part of me died too and I will never be the old me ever again."

Election Fever At Priory



Election fever has taken over Learning for Life lessons over the past few weeks, resulting in a mock ballot on Thursday.

To ensure our pupils were informed about what a General Election is and who the political parties are, four of our Learning for Life lessons leading up to 4 July have been dedicated to explaining the event.

Pupils learnt about what our constituency is called (South Ribble), watched videos, and key terms were highlighted.



Yesterday, just like the adults in this country, Priory pupils went to the polls. Ballot papers were given out in Learning for Life for every pupil to vote. Teachers counted the votes and the results were announced to the whole school today to coincide with what was happening across the nation.

Over the four sessions, pupils learned about >>

- What is a General Election? What is our constituency called? Who can vote? Who can people vote for?
- What do political parties believe in? Who can people vote for in South Ribble? Party election broadcasts and bias.
- The South Ribble parties - Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Reform UK, Green and others.
- Pupils were given an overview of what each party promised to do about three key issues in the election: Education, NHS/social care, Immigration



Teachers also explained the practical side of voting (how we vote), who might win across the UK, 2019 vs. 2024, and what will happen on 4th July. Some also got to watch the main four candidates introduce themselves at a recording of the South Ribble Hustings which took place at Penwortham Golf Club on Thursday, 27 June, where they also spoke about BTECs and young people's mental health, ending with quick-fire questions from members of the public in attendance.

The Results

Priory

Labour	189
Reform	156
Green Party	52
Liberal Democrats	38
Conservatives	21

South Ribble

Labour	19,840
Conservatives	13,339
Reform	8,995
Liberal Democrats	2,972
Green Party	1,574

Learn to succeed

A Gift From Bulgaria For Priory's Gardens



The Priory Rose Garden has got some new additions – blossoming Bulgarian roses.

The Bulgarian Language School started using Priory's facilities around three years ago after hearing about the school's facilities from a member of its community who plays in an evening adult football league on the 3G pitch at the school.

Initially, the Bulgarian community wanted somewhere to host their voting for the Bulgarian general election and Priory was suggested and used. The group liked the facilities so much the Bulgarian Language School now use Hex 3 and Hex 4 every Sunday so their children born in the UK could learn the language and would be familiar with the culture when they return to Bulgaria for visits.

Priory also hosts a Bulgarian dance group on Tuesdays in our Auditorio.

Ralitsa Boykova, who runs the Bulgarian Language School, said: "We are very grateful to have this opportunity to use the classrooms and we hope to use these premises in the future so we wanted to make a small gift to the school.



"They are three small Bulgarian oil-bearing roses. They were transported over from Bulgaria as a way of saying thank you to everyone at Priory who has been so kind and helpful in bringing our community together."

Strategic Estates Manager, Mr Bolton, said "We are appreciative of the Bulgarian Language School's use of our facilities. Their commitment to fostering language and culture is commendable. The gift of Bulgarian roses is a touching gesture, and we're pleased to be able to support their community.



"Additionally, our facilities are also hired by various sports, fitness, drama and dance schools, as well as church groups, during out-of-school hours. This allows us to generate a small income that we can reinvest in the facilities for the benefit of everyone".



Alumni Return For Coffee, Pastries and Reminiscence



We held our Alumni Coffee Morning and it was lovely to watch as some former pupils were reunited their 'old' school friends.

Gary Jackson (Class of 1966) caught up with Ian Heyes (Class of 1968) as the pair last saw each other at school.



Ian said: "I haven't seen Gary since I was at school and I recognised him immediately! I love coming back, I came back to the 50th and 60th anniversary events.

"From school, I remember I used to water the plants of Mrs Caine, who was my form tutor in C13. The prefects used to let me in to do it in the winter! I continued my love of plants as I have a nursery. I was also cross country captain."

Gary said: "It's my first time back in 58 years. I was a bit nervous walking down the corridor to the meeting room as it used to be the staff room! I wasn't very academic or sporty and so there were good times and bad times I guess.



"I was a fitter machinist and then I joined the prison service and I have lived in Penwortham all my life. I saw Ian and remembered him straight away."

Brian Drury (Class of 1963) enjoyed Science and French when he was at school.



"Science was my best subject and I did not enjoy French, learning it academically, but I do pick up languages quickly! When I left school, I was a Data Systems Engineer and now I am the Ecumenical Leader for the Baptist Churches in Lancashire, so I travel around meeting other denominational leaders. It's a bishop's role really.

"I remember at school a group of us wanted to do weightlifting so we started a weightlifting club under Mr Bray, the PE teacher. I kept at it and it helped me as my first job was digging the roads!"

Susan Watson (nee Ramsay), Gillian Gillbert (nee Baker) and Vanessa Hodson (nee Hill) are all Class of 1980 and have stayed friends.



Gillian said: "The school is completely different now, it's a lot more modern. I was a legal secretary in London for 20-odd years and worked at UCLan as well before I retired."



Susan said: "I worked at the water board, lived in Spain and worked in travel for a lot of years. A number of us have kept in touch and recently Gillian, myself, Helen Hobson and Valerie



Learn to succeed



Bamber (their maiden names) went on a cruise for our 60th birthdays. We also meet every Thursday for a quiz!"

Geoff Rowbotham was Head Boy in 1974 - and admitted he was shocked that it was 50 years since he last walked into school.

"I haven't been back just because, after Priory, I went to Hutton Grammar School and then we moved to Lincolnshire. I was in management at Marks & Spencer's for 24 years and set up my own business consultancy, working with the NHS.



"I remember the buildings, some of them haven't changed, and the corridors seem a lot shorter! I remember they seemed a long way when I was a pupil. There was also two Mr McCann's – one a woodwork teacher and the other a metal work teacher. I loved sports – I played in the football and cricket teams. It is a bit surreal coming back."



Vera Shacklady (Class of 1959) said: "I came here and so did my children and grandchildren so they kept up the Priory tradition. I have been back for presentations and to pick them up.

"School has changed a lot. I remember being happy when I had to do a week's housekeeping in the flat at school – washing, ironing, cleaning and making food for the teachers. They were basics which are still needed but not taught today.



"My dream career was a nurse in the RAF but I had to leave school as my dad was ill and I had to work on the family farm. I met my husband there so things have a way of working out."

Pam and Michael Woods (Class of 1974) met at school and will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary this year.

"Our two girls came here," said Pam, who became a midwife.



Michael said: "I enjoyed sport and practical lessons here, I ended up being an engineer before I became a Church of England vicar and have just retired."

Margaret Johnson and Pat Lee (Class of 1967) are good friends and meet up with other former classmates.

Pat said: "We met at primary school and stayed friends through high school. Then a number of us went different ways but we came back together through Facebook around five years ago and it's like we were never separated!"



Margaret went on to teach business studies – she excelled at shorthand and typing at school – while Pat worked in social work.

Pat added: "It's nice to come back, education has changed a lot and it's good to see. Here they really take a holistic approach and look after the whole child, which is to be commended."

continued overleaf...



continued from previous page...



While pupils visited from many years ago, there were some Class of 2023 returning.

Jack Norton is at Runshaw College studying travel and tourism, Courtney Moorby wants to be a criminal psychologist while Sam Wright is at Myerscough College studying Agricultural Engineering.

"I enjoy coming back," said Sam.

Principal Mr Eastham said: "I am grateful to everyone who comes to these Alumni events, it's wonderful and really important that everyone who is a former Penwortham pupil feels the connection to the school as they are part of it, no matter when they left us.

"It's a powerful message to our current pupils that it's their school for life. It's the same site, it's in the same place, but we continue to evolve over time."



Year 9 & Year 10 London Performing Arts Residential Trip

APRIL 2025 (3 DAYS)

We are pleased to be able to offer 45 places on a Performing Arts residential trip exclusively available to pupils who are going into Year 10 and Year 11.

We will travel by coach, leaving from school early morning on Tuesday 1 April 2025, and head to London. On arrival in London, we will have some shopping time before enjoying an evening meal and a West End show. The following day, Wednesday 2 April, we will explore the Tate Modern and the House of Commons. We will then head for an evening meal and to watch Symphonic Soul at the Royal Albert Hall. On Day 3, Thursday 3 April, we will take part in a West End theatre workshop delivered by people who have worked in the West End themselves.



The cost will be approximately £465 per person. Accommodation, transport, theatre tickets, entrance fees, breakfast and evening meals are included for this three-day residential.

This trip is a bonus to the diverse Performing Arts curriculum already offered at Key Stage 4. The experience will provide valuable insight into the professional workings of world-class theatre and orchestras, and pupils will gain significant cultural experiences that will enhance their life skills.

A letter with full information is available to pick up from Miss Howell, and can also be downloaded from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters

If you would like your son/daughter to attend this trip, a deposit of £40 should be made via SCOPay by 19 July.

We will have a parents/pupils meeting and resource pack to give out once we have secured sufficient numbers to ensure that the trip can go ahead. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Miss Howell via email at f.howell@priory.lancs.sch.uk.

Exploring College Life: Year 10 Taster Days

PRESTON
COLLEGE

CARDINAL
NEWMAN
COLLEGE

 **Hutton**
Church of England Grammar School & Sixth Form

RUNSHAW
COLLEGE

Over the past few weeks, all Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit local colleges as they start to plan their next steps after leaving Priory. Here's a glimpse of what they got up to:

At Preston's College pupils explored a wide range of vocational courses, from Fashion and Theatre to Media Makeup, Engineering, Sports, and Accounting. Dave Elliott, the Recruitment and Progression Manager at the college, shared positive feedback, emphasising the students' engagement and excellent behaviour.

At Runshaw College, students delved into courses like E-Sports, Travel and Tourism, Criminology, and Sociology.

Year 10 Umar said, "My favourite was the engineering lesson and we made a windmill. I got offered to try a simulator. I had to hit some points and make sure I'd do it in a time. I had to manage how to control and operate the simulator which after using it became easier. I thank Runshaw College for the experience."

Last Friday's visit to Newman College, allowed pupils to attend subjects of choice from Ancient History, Computer Science, and Philosophy, to name a few, resulting in another enjoyable and valuable day.



Politics, Business, and Design Technology were on the timetable for pupils who opted for a morning taster at Hutton Sixth Form. Whilst there, pupils also got to explore the sixth form area.

OPEN DAYS

Preston College

4 - 7pm Weds, 2 October
www.preston.ac.uk

Runshaw College

10.00am - 2.00pm
Sat, 21 September
www.runshaw.ac.uk

Newman College

10am - 1pm
Sat, 5 October & Sat, 9 November
www.cardinalnewman.ac.uk

Head of Year 10, Mrs Bullock, said "All the visits have given students a great experience of what college life is like. These taster days provide valuable insights into local colleges, helping our pupils to make informed decisions about their future paths."



Learn to succeed

Owzat For Girls South Ribble Cricket Tournament

SPORTS REPORT

REPORT BY MISS BEESLEY, GIRLS PE TEACHER

On 12 June Priory's girls took part in a small cricket tournament at Penwortham Cricket Club which provided the opportunity for them to practice their skills and build their on their playing experience.

The U13s played against teams from All Hallows and Bishops Rawstorne. The small tournament meant schools played each other twice to create more game experience for the girls.

Miss Beesley said, "This was the first time the girls had played together as a team and they gradually got into the swing of things, with some great bowling from Ruth W, fielding from Daisy G and batting from Lainie W-S".

The tournament resulted in third position for the U13s, however their runs increased match by match leading to much promise for the future. Well done girls!

U13 Team:

Ruth W, Imogen C, Daisy G, Bella D, Willow P, Lainie W-S, Millie D, Issy T, Eliza G.

The U15s also played against All Hallows A and B team and Bishops Rawstorne, with harsher rules, being in the older category.

The team produced some fantastic shots from Mia B throughout the tournament who retired alongside Jane W and Mia C against All Hallows B team.

In the end, the girls narrowly missed out on a win against All Hallows by just two runs, with the overall result putting them in fourth place, but again showing great teamwork throughout the tournament.

U15 Team: Aliyah M, Rosie S, Navah T, Darcy K, Abbie S, Jane W, Mia C, Mia B.



Miss Beesley
PE Teacher

Learn to succeed

Year 8 & 9 Girls Demonstrate Passion and Resilience in South Ribble Rounders Tournament

REPORT BY MISS BEESLEY, GIRLS PE TEACHER

The Year 8s were an absolute credit to the school at South Ribble rounders tournament last Tuesday. Priory arrived with a team of five against all other teams who had nine players.

Miss Beesley said, "Some might say the odds were against us, but no, the girls decided otherwise, and showed some real grit and determination throughout the whole tournament, even winning one match!"

Lottie K made a superb captain for the team, showing great communication and encouragement. Some smashing shots from all girls left other teams running far for the ball whilst we clocked up the runs.

The girls' fielding was outstanding; their accuracy of throwing and game play helped keep the scores for the other teams down, not leaving much between the final results.

Overall, Priory's Year 8s came sixth out of nine teams, and we could not be prouder of them.

The Year 7 match was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, but had to be postponed due to the weather, and this will be the last of the fixtures for the academic year.

Year 9 event took place on 11 June where the girls also placed in sixth.



Year 8 Team:

Emily M, Phoebe G, Maya L, Mollie R-P, Lottie K

Year 9 Team:

Skye S, Melissa T, Keira H, Emily A, Harriet H, Lexi S, Shreya P, Ella B, Myli H, Molly C.

Miss Beesley
PE Teacher

Year 8 Pupil's Year Topped Off With A Duo of Success



Kesley-Rae is a multi-talented sports star at Priory.

The Year 8 attends street dance at Eden Singleton Dance Company and, at their annual summer show, was voted their Street Dancer of the Year.

Her Street Dance team also won Team of the Year for their performances at competitions this year.

Kesley-Rae said: "I went with my sister to watch Street Dance and then I started doing it and loved it. It's fun and I enjoy the competitions too. I feel proud to win Street Dancer of the Year."

Kelsey-Rae is also a footballer – she participated in a six-a-side tournament with her team Lostock Hall FC recently and won the tournament with no goals conceded throughout the eight games.

"I play right-back so I helped out in defence. Both street dance and football are hobbies. In school, I like PE, Music and Drama."



Good Luck Sienna and Issy!

Sisters Sienna and Issy have been selected to go to Malta to represent the City of Preston Gymnastics Centre as part of the international gymnastics' competition.



The event, the Malta GumStars International Competition, taking place this weekend will have gymnasts from Malta, UAE, Italy, UK, South Africa, Germany, USA – from all around the world.

Year 8 Issy said: "My favourite discipline is the bar and I enjoy competing all over.

"It requires dedication as I train Monday, Wednesday and Thursday every week from 4.30-8pm. I enjoy it though. In school, I like PE and Maths."

We'll catch up with Issy and younger sister, Year 7 Sienna, when they return next week to find out how they got on.



Class of 2022 have now completed their Further Education and two former pupils have got in touch to thank their teachers for going that extra mile to help them reach their next goal to fulfil their career ambition.



Class of 2022: Rhianne Leach

Class of 2022 pupil Rhianne Leach has successfully secured a place on the prestigious BAE Systems Aerospace Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Programme.

Rhianne wanted to thank Priory Teacher of Design Technology and Engineering Mrs Shaw for starting her on the path to her dream of becoming a Chief Engineer by helping her with the NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering at school.

"I wanted to take the Engineering course at Priory, however I was limited by the number of subjects I could take. I had to prioritise the subjects I needed for college.

"Mrs Shaw made sure I could take the engineering qualification in my own time, two nights a week after school and in my lunch break. I sat my exam at the same time as everyone else and received a Level 2 Distinction *.

"The support I was given by Mrs Shaw provided me with the foundation that I am now building upon and helped to spark my ambition within the subject.



"I always wanted to do something STEM related, having always had an interest in physics and maths. It was only when I went to look around universities that I saw these subjects being applied and how worthwhile and useful it was. I saw how engineering looks in the real world and decided that it was the path that I wanted to follow.

"I will be completing industry placements alongside university study in order to obtain my Bachelors Degree in Aerospace Engineering. It's the next step towards my dream of becoming a Chief Engineer.

"But ultimately, the first step was the work that Mrs Shaw helped me to complete throughout my earlier studies."

Rhianne went to Lancaster University School of Mathematics (LUSoM), and applied for the extremely competitive BAE Systems' position.

"It was an extremely long process. There was the initial application, then an AI screened interview followed by an extensive personality test and gamification. The final step was a two hour in person interview with two Engineers.

"Overall, BAE Systems nationally receives 20,000 applications for all their apprenticeship positions, for which there are 600 available across all the sectors.

"I received a phone call just before starting my A-Levels to say that I had been selected for one of the 30 places on the Aerospace Scheme. I start in September and will be initially based at the Samlesbury site.

"The chance to travel around the world really excites me. I am aware of many people who have travelled to Japan, Germany and many more countries that the company works with. There are some truly amazing opportunities that this degree apprenticeship will open up for me."



Class of 2022: Hannah Yates



Class of 2022 pupil Hannah has thanked Priory for helping her pursue her dream career in Japanese.

Hannah became fascinated with learning Japanese while watching animated cartoons and wanted to watch without subtitles.

When she came to Priory she wanted to study Japanese language but obviously it's not on the curriculum.

However, Priory found a way to help Hannah with the support of Head of Languages, Mrs Scully – and she will now study Japanese at university.

Mrs Yates said: "Hannah had been learning the language by herself at home. Mrs Scully was able to guide her through the curriculum but we also needed someone to help her with the spoken language so we put an appeal out on social media to see if there was anyone local who could help.



"Mrs Small, who is a Japanese national living in the area, came forward and she came into school every Wednesday lunch-time and helped Hannah with her GCSE."

Hannah spent Monday and Wednesday studying Japanese in school, out of lesson time, as well as studying it independently.

While in Year 11 Hannah took the Japanese foundation level and got a Grade 5 – the highest she could achieve on that paper. She kept up her learning with Mrs Small independently, alongside studying A Levels, and last year came back to Priory to sit a higher level GCSE, this time achieving a Grade 8.

Hannah now has an unconditional offer from UCLan, as well as York St John, to study TESOL with Japanese - teaching English as a second language in Japan. She will go out there on placement in the third year to teach.

Hannah said: "I love Japan as it's such a different culture and it's so interesting learning about the history of Japan. It is a tough language to learn but it is worth the effort.

"Without Priory, and the support I received from Mrs Scully and Mrs Small, I wouldn't be where I am now. I didn't take French and I would have probably opted to study something more mainstream at higher level. Having the opportunity to do this has definitely changed my life choices for the better."

Mrs Small still comes into Priory, offering an extra-curricular lunch time club in Japanese language and culture for all pupils every Wednesday.



Learn to succeed

Class of 2024: The Prom

Class of
2024

Class of 2024 didn't let election fever overshadow their big night when both events clashed on 4 July. The year group certainly knew how to celebrate their years at Penwortham Priory Academy in style, no matter what colour they were wearing!

These occasions are renowned for their glitz and glamour and this year was no exception, with sharp suits and stunning gowns. The event, held at Charnock Farm, Leyland, was the perfect opportunity for the hardworking Year 11s to let their hair down after the exam season and a chance to say goodbye to the staff who have nurtured, challenged and supported them through their school days.

The pupils arrived in spectacular fashion in vehicles of many shapes and sizes, from stretched limousines, campervans and tractors to motorbikes and a cavalcade of sports cars. We even had a trio on mobility scooters - something that Mrs Scully and Mrs Bailey couldn't resist posing with! The photographer was ready to capture the moment with proud parents looking on.



Head of Year 11, Mrs Bailey, along with the pupil-led Prom Committee spent many hours

organising the event. Awards, put together by the Committee, ensued after the meal. The evening tailed away with some moves on the dance floor and many farewell hugs at the end of a very memorable night.

It was a fabulously deserved finale to round off Class of 2024's time at Priory. We look forward to seeing everyone again on results day, Thursday, 22 August.

All photos taken at the event have been uploaded to the school website and Year 11 Teams where pupils can download the full size copies.



Learn to succeed

Class of
2024



Learn to succeed

Priory's Got Talent At This Year's Summer Arts Festival



Once again, there were talented dancers, actors, musicians, singers and a rapper as we hosted our Summer Arts Festival in early July.

Pupils took to the floor where the audience was treated to some outstanding performances. "Every year we are so impressed with the range of talented pupils we have here," said Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor. "They never cease to surprise us. It's great to watch how their talents have developed and how they are growing into such confident performers."



There were some very creative, individualistic performances where pupils arranged their own versions of existing material either as a soloist, a duet or a larger ensemble. Again Year 9 Phoebe W performed a self-taught dance, Year 10 Joe B performed a rap in his debut performance, alongside multiple performers showcasing several segments from shows such as Mean Girls and Chicago. We also were so pleased to see so many Year 7 pupils confidently show their creative talents as we also bade a fond farewell to several members of Year 11, who have been stalwarts of all our Creative Arts events over the past 5 years.



Miss Howell, Lead Teacher of Drama, added, "The students are excited to be getting on with new ideas already coming in for the next show. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part; it takes determination, dedication, and resilience."



The interval saw the audience able to access the wonderful display of artwork which made it a truly memorable evening to experience all of the Creative Arts in one place.



Learn to succeed

Year 9 & 10 Duke of Edinburgh Success

A group of Year 9 and Year 10 pupils has completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award over the course of this academic year. They have all worked extremely hard and been a huge credit to the school.

All pupils had to complete a form of volunteering, improve their physical fitness and learn a new skill. Pupils then completed a two-day expedition at Rivington, relying on their teamwork and map reading skills to navigate themselves around the course.

Mrs Cauchi, DofE Leader at Priory, said "It has been a fantastic opportunity which has pushed pupils out of their comfort zone. Our current Year 8 pupils will have the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Award when they begin Year 9. An introductory assembly took place for them on Friday."

The successful Year 9 and Year 10 pupils and their parents have been invited to attend a celebration event on Monday, 30 September.



Learn to succeed

When Italy Came To Priory



In July, a group of students from Florence visited Priory to sample English education, and in return, Year 8 received a lesson in Italian.

The group were travelling with StoryTime English labs, a small Italian organisation that aims to deliver engaging workshops for Italian young people to improve their English language.

Head of Languages, Mrs Scully, said, "We had a wonderful day with some lovely Italian pupils who taught us about many things: the geography of Italy, the famous landmarks and most importantly the beautiful language.

Italian has many similarities with French which was noted quickly by our talented little linguists!"

During the day the group enjoyed lessons alongside Year 8 pupils. They sampled Music, made scones in Food Technology and played a game of Dodgeball in PE. The group's leader, Debora Chellini, then delivered an engaging and fun lesson in Italian which included typical hand gestures and customs.



Mrs Scully
Head of
Languages



Learn to succeed

Year 8 Can Look To The Stars With GCSE Astronomy



Year 8 pupils can reach for the stars by taking an optional GCSE in Astronomy from September, when they move up to Year 9.

Science Technician Mr Evans leads the course which will be after-school every Tuesday during term time. Learning starts in Year 9 and the course is completed in Year 10, when pupils can take their Astronomy GCSE a year early if they want to.

GCSE Astronomy covers a range of topics from Cosmology, Exploring starlight, Stellar evolution and Planetary motion and gravity.

Mr Evans said: "It's an added extra after school and pupils take their GCSE a year early."

"There is coursework and an exam and, I will be honest, it is quite tough – a few people start it and drop out. It is an enjoyable course to teach though and a lot of pupils thoroughly enjoy it."

Year 9 Freya said: "I wanted to do an extra GCSE and I find Astronomy interesting. I knew it would be hard, there is a lot of maths and there is quite a lot of information you learn which you don't learn in science. Doing a GCSE a year early is good practise for Year 11."



Year 9 Evie said: "I am interested in space which is why I chose Astronomy. If you get a GCSE in Astronomy people think you are really smart! It's maths and physics, with a little bit of history of physicists. I enjoy it and Mr Evans is a good teacher. To any Year 8s, I would say if you like Astronomy and if you want another qualification give it a go."



Year 10 Thomas said: "I took Astronomy as it's an extra GCSE and I found space interesting, how insignificant but unique we are! It is difficult but I have managed to stay with it. I would say to a Year 8 if you are smart enough, go for it."

Niamh said: "I have always liked space but it was a lot harder than I thought. The coursework was quite nice – sitting, staring at the stars! You do have to be dedicated to take it though."

Daniel added: "A Year 11 recommended me to take it and, while it's difficult, space has always been an interest of mine."

"I think 15 people started on the course and there are just six of us in the Year 10 class now so you do have to persist with it."

Mr Evans will be distributing a letter and sign up sheet to interested pupils in the early weeks of September for Year 9 pupils who express an interest. Parents can email j.evans@priory.lancs.sch.uk with any enquiries. (Year 10 will continue their classes after school on Thursdays)

Learn to succeed

Year 10 & Year 7 Artists Experience Workshop with The Courtauld

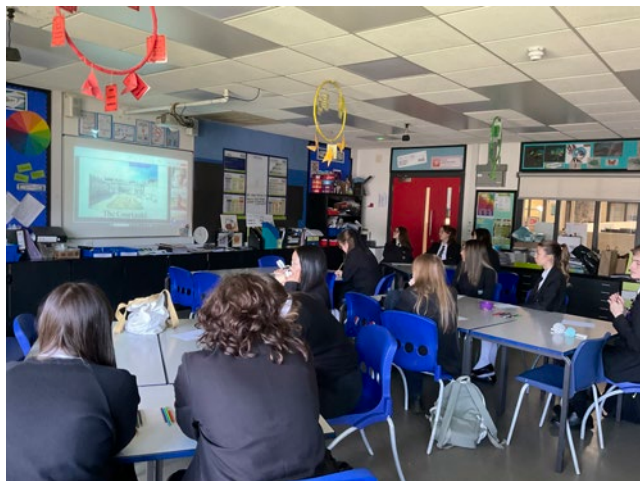


In our final week, Year 10 GCSE artists took part in an online workshop with The Courtauld, an internationally renowned centre for art.

Lead Teacher of Art, Mrs Shaw, had organised the two hour online workshop, which took place on Monday for Year 10. A session was also adapted for a class of keen Year 7 artists.

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, and is known for its teaching, research of art history and a major public gallery.

During the workshops, Courtauld Lead Educator Fran Herrick, delivered an introduction to art history with a focus on the Impressionists and art historical techniques. Pupils also explored a virtual tour of the gallery where they viewed the permanent collections as well as temporary exhibitions.



Mrs Shaw said, "The class also did a session on curating where they had to identify images from The Courtauld's collection, give it a title and write an introduction to their 'art exhibition'".

"The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, sharing these works with the public at The Courtauld Gallery in London. Its collections include Van Gogh's Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear and Manet's A Bar at the Folies-Bergère so I was thrilled to be able to bring a taste of this to our young artists. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange a trip to the gallery in the coming year."

Learning Newsletters

Every half term we put together a newsletter for parents where we seek to share some of the initiatives and strategies we use in school so you might best support your child at home, in order to benefit them and further enhance their educational experiences in the long term.

This next issue looks at **'Personal Development'** - what it is and activities that will enhance your child's experience and exposure to it. It also includes ideas and events taking place over the summer break.

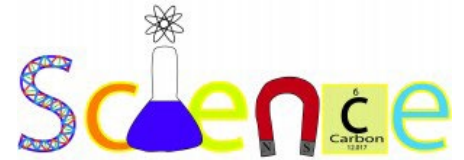
This half term's issue has been emailed to parents this week however all past issues can be downloaded from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/newsletters (see Learning Newsletters tab)

Mrs Cowell
Vice Principal



Learn to succeed

Primary Pupils Have A Challenging Time In Science



Last week, seven different primary schools from across the area joined us for an afternoon of science activities for the first of Priory's science competitions.

The pupils, from Year 5, took part in a range of Science activities including quizzes where they had to identify famous scientists, lab equipment and put their general knowledge of Science to the test.

They then followed a practical method to identify the pen used in an unknown sample of ink using chromatography before finally competing to build the biggest tower using spaghetti and marshmallows.

Assistant Leader of Science, Mrs Potter, praised the pupils saying, "Well done to all the primary schools involved. The pupils showed confidence and enthusiasm throughout the event. In particular, congratulations go to Middleforth Primary School who emerged victorious and have been invited to come back with their entire class for an afternoon of 'wow' science activities."

We received really positive feedback from the schools and look forward to welcoming them back again.

*Mrs Potter
Assistant Leader
of Science*



Learn to succeed

Year 8 Take A Trip To The Church with The UK's Tallest Spire



humanities

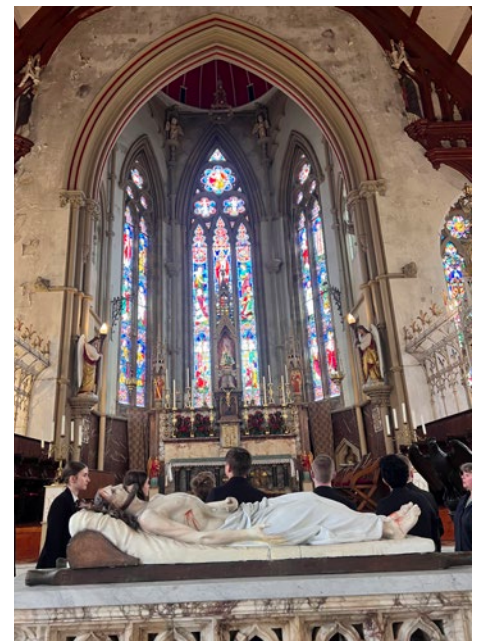
On Friday, 5 July, a group of Year 8 students accompanied Mr Eccles, Mrs Cauchi and Mr Momoniat visited St Walburge's Church in Preston. This is the first of what the Humanities Department hopes will become a series of trips to sites of cultural and historical significance in the Preston and Penwortham areas.

Thanks to the kindness of Canon Cristofoli and parishioner Maria, our pupils were given a tour of the Grade 1 listed building, with references made to its history (going back to the 12th century as a leper colony) and the establishment of the current church in the 1850s after a relaxation in anti-Catholic laws in England.

Lead Teacher of History Mr Eccles said, "We are so lucky to have such a cultural landmark on our doorstep, and many of pupils do not get a chance to step inside any church, let alone one of such significance. We are extremely grateful to Canon Cristofoli and Maria for giving up their time to speak to us.

"The pupils were also keen to explore the church's spire (the tallest of any parish church in Great Britain) but due to birds nesting there, a follow up trip has already been pencilled in for the Autumn term.

Mr Eccles
Lead Teacher of History



Learn to succeed

House Winners 2023-24

After a year of house competitions ranging from sports events, quizzes, art, spelling bees and more, one house has come out top.



Well done to Hodder! As a treat, all Mr Hunter's Hodder pupils and staff had a lesson off timetable last Friday afternoon when they were rewarded with an ice cream and a film.

Tuesday saw the end of year Inter House Quiz where Ribble came out winners after a tough round against Hodder. Both Houses had reached the finals after championing against Douglas and Calder in the heats.

The points total will start again from sports day - a chance for one of the other three houses to make ahead start to the next academic year.



Learn to succeed



Crow Hills Road, Penwortham,
Preston, Lancashire PR1 0JE

tel: 01772 320250 | email: enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk
www.priory.lancs.sch.uk | [facebook.com/priorystc](https://www.facebook.com/priorystc) | [twitter @priorystc](https://twitter.com/priorystc)

