

Summer 2025



Learn to Succeed



An introduction from the Principal...

Dear All,

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

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

To uphold our Priory standard – ensuring the highest expectations of all, from all, so that all pupils Learn to Succeed and leave Priory, equipped with the right skills and attitudes to help them succeed in life, contribute positively to society, and go on to further education, employment, or training.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mr Matt Eastham, Principal
Penwortham Priory Academy

Tyndale Thomas MBE and School Choirs Create Music Entertainment with One Voice



Tyndale Thomas MBE, one of the leading gospel musicians in the UK returned to Priory on Wednesday, 30th April.

Tyndale worked with our own Priory singers, All Saints Primary from New Longton, Longton Primary School choir and Cop Lane Primary School choir in a daytime workshop they then put into practice what they had learned in an evening performance alongside the One Voice Community Choir.

The professional musician works nationwide but is based in the North West and has extensive experience at performing and conducting at major venues around the country such as Westminster Abbey for Commonwealth Day and through many broadcasts at the BBC.

For a number of years, Tyndale has lead the One Voice Community Choir in Preston and together they produced the album *'The Greatest Gospel Album in the World.....Ever'*. With Tyndale, One Voice has also appeared on Songs of Praise several years ago.

Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor, who organised the event at Priory on Wednesday said, "Both our own Priory pupils and those of our feeder primary schools gained greatly from Tyndale's expertise and the performances alongside the Preston One Voice Community Choir.

"Together with the audience participation, the concert resulted in a great night of uplifting entertainment. It was tremendous to see the hall so full of a lively atmosphere of music-making and it is unbelievable to think that everyone who performed learnt their songs in just one day."



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Attendance Matters



Regular attendance at school is the single most important factor in a child making appropriate progress and achieving success.

Good, regular and punctual attendance means doing well academically, developing better relationships with other children and positive behaviour. It also sets up good habits for when young people enter into work and independent life.

At the end of every term, we hold a prize draw to recognise consistently high attendance.

For the Spring term many pupils achieved 97%+ attendance and names were drawn out of a hat on 1 April; the five winners of each year group received an Easter egg.

Well done to:

Year 7

Patrikas B, Taylor G, Testimony I, Charlie M, Alex P

Year 8:

Wez A, George C, Charlie H, Emma N, Lillia S

Year 9:

Aidan B, Harry C, Alfie C, Ossian H, Kenzie S

Year 10:

Bobby B, Josh B, Lucy J, Seth L, William N

Year 11:

Yusuf B, Ella G, Edward H, Alex P, Archie R

All pupils who achieved 100% attendance receive a certificate of achievement.



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Chequered Flags To Chequered Futures Hits The Stage Next Week

A number of our pupils admitted they are a bit nervous about performing in front of Chris Gilfoy next week, who our latest school production centres around.

'Chequered Flags to Chequered Futures' by Mark Wheeler tells the true story of Chris Gilfoy, the Rookie's World Champion Bangor Racer in 2000.

In 2006, Chris was being driven by a racing friend who was driving too fast, neither had a seatbelt on and the driver was uninsured. They narrowly avoided killing another driver and crashed into a wall.

The fast-paced story tells the life-changing consequences for all three involved and Chris will be in the audience for one of our productions, which are on Wednesday and Thursday next week (7th & 8th May).

Year 11 Kayleigh plays the lead role of Jane, the mother of the driver Shelley.



"I guess we will be a bit nervous with Chris there. I have enjoyed doing this play as it's a bit more challenging than others. I have never been in this situation so you have to work on bringing the emotional side out. It has been good working on it though, with my friends, although I have a lot of lines to learn!"

Year 8 Lillia plays Shelley. "It will be tense with Chris in the audience. I will give it my all!"

Year 10 Molly plays Bryoni. "I am the daughter of Chris and I talk about living through the accident and the aftermath. It is emotional although it has been really good rehearsing. It's a sad topic. I am a little bit more nervous with Chris attending."

Year 10 Ben plays Graham. "I am a friend of Chris. I do have one long paragraph but it's said off stage so that's not too bad! I am looking forward to performing."

Year 10 Caleb plays Roy, the dad of Chris. He said: "It's been a good experience. Most of my lines are in reply to someone so it hasn't been as difficult for me. It's got a very important message that one moment can change your life."

Performances are Wednesday, 7 May and Thursday, 8 May starting at 7pm.

Tickets are now on sale via SCOPay or cash on the door at £7 each. Age restricted to Year 7+ due to the sensitive nature of the story. Show ends at 8.15pm approx.

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CHEQUERED
FLAGS TO
CHEQUERED
FUTURES

MARK WHEELER

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Priory Pupils Explore the World of IT and Business at Manchester Airport

REPORT BY MRS QADRI, HEAD OF ICT & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Computer Science and Business students embarked on an educational trip to the Manchester Airport Runway Visitor Centre. This unique experience provided our students with invaluable insights into the intricate workings of one of the UK's busiest airports.

The day began with an engaging talk about the sophisticated IT systems that keep Manchester Airport running smoothly. Our Computer Science students were fascinated by the advanced technology used to manage flight operations, passenger information, and security protocols. The presentation highlighted the importance of IT in ensuring efficiency and safety in airport operations, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm among our budding tech experts.

In the meantime, Business & Enterprise students were treated to an informative session on how Manchester Airport operates as a business. They learned about the various revenue streams, including passenger services, retail, and cargo operations. The discussion also covered strategic planning, marketing, and customer service, providing a comprehensive overview of the airport's business model. This session was particularly enlightening, as it demonstrated the real-world application of business concepts studied in class.

Tour of Terminal 1

The highlight of the trip was the guided tour of Manchester Airport's Terminal 1. Students had the opportunity to see firsthand the bustling environment of an international airport terminal. They observed the check-in counters, security checkpoints, and boarding gates, gaining a deeper understanding of the passenger journey from arrival to departure.

Adding to the excitement, students had the chance to watch numerous planes land and take off. The sight of planes soaring into the sky and touching down on the runway left a lasting impression on everyone. Students used flight radar apps to track the aircraft, enhancing their understanding of flight paths and air traffic control.



The trip to Manchester Airport was not only educational but also inspiring. Many expressed newfound interest in pursuing careers in these fields, motivated by the real-world applications they observed.

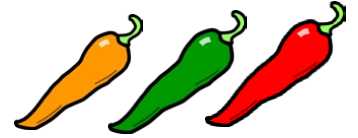
Year 10 Anna said, *"I really enjoyed today. It was an amazing experience. I enjoyed learning all about the aircrafts and watching them take off. I also liked looking at the inside of an aircraft and sitting there for a talk and having the opportunity to visit in the cockpit."*

More photos
next page >>





Chili Challenge Winners



Our winners w/e 4 April were:

Year 7	Archie H (Mrs Butcher) - Calder
Year 8	Erin M (Miss Gregson) - Douglas
Year 8	Harry C (Mr Momoniat) - Hodder
Year 10	Oliver S (Mrs Brindle) - Calder
Year 11	No entries



Our winners w/e 2 May are:

Year 7	Harry G (Mrs Lockwood) Hodder
Year 8	Bella D (Miss Howell) Douglas
Year 9	Emily C (Mr Momoniat) Calder
Year 10	Evie C (Miss Beesley) Douglas
Year 11	Jake L (Mr Metcalfe) Douglas

These pupils have now received their chilli tokens to claim their free breaktime snack from the dining room.

Due to the short week next week, there won't be a challenge until the week after - w/c 12 May.

Pupils:

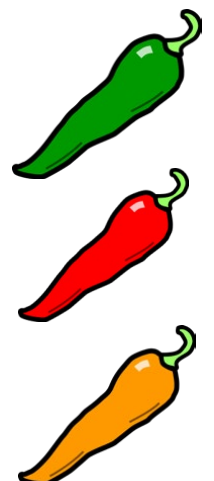
Pick up your challenge sheet from the top of the post boxes in your dining areas. When you've had a go at them, pop your answers in your year group post box.

GET INVOLVED!

Reminders - Only one entry per person per week (no group effort!), make sure you have put your full name and House on your entry - if not, it won't be counted.

The leaderboard looks set to remain like this...

Douglas	1st
Ribble	2nd
Calder	3rd
Hodder	4th



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Year 11 Returns to Former Primary School for Neurodiversity Awareness Month Assembly

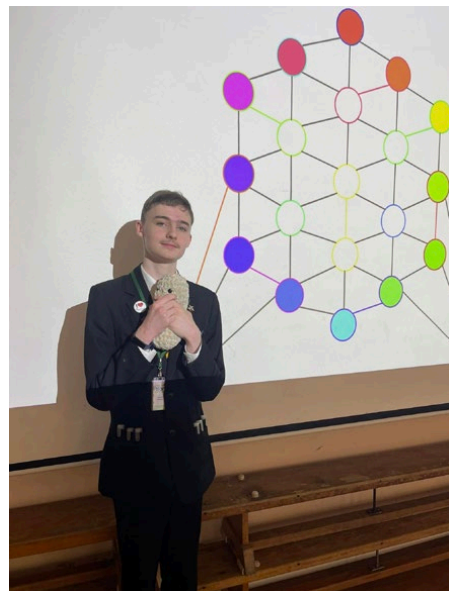


On 2 April, Head Prefect Daniel McC, returned to his primary school to deliver an assembly for Neurodiversity Awareness Month about what it means to be neurodivergent.

Neurodiversity Awareness Month (NDM) is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurodevelopmental disorders and learning disabilities.

Taking place in April, it aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual.

Attending Whitefield Primary School until joining Priory in 2020, Daniel explained to Key Stage 2 children how his brain works differently to others.



Whitefield teacher, Mr Jackson, said "Dan delivered the best explanation I'd ever heard on what autism is and how autism helps him in his life.

"Dan made us laugh with his stories about football and test scores! It was a joy for many of the teachers to see how successful Dan's time at Priory has been.

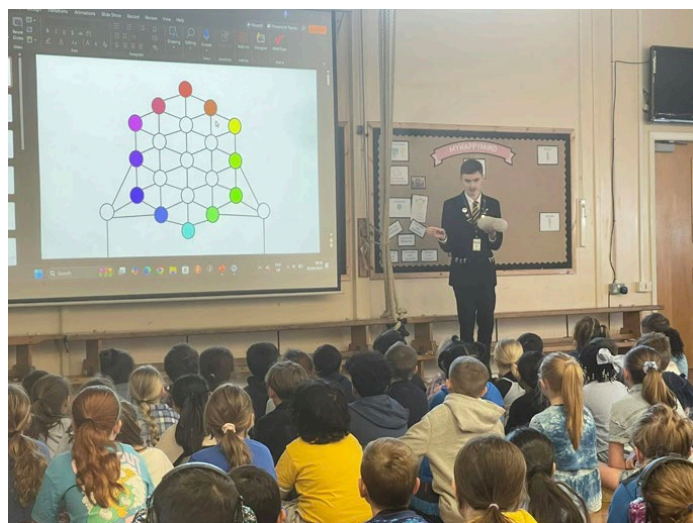
"Dan would make an excellent teacher! He delivered his presentation so well and the children all loved it."

Head of Year 11, Mrs Bullock said, "We are incredibly proud of Daniel for delivering an inspiring assembly on Neurodiversity Awareness at his former primary school.

"Neurodiversity Awareness Month promotes the importance of acknowledging that neurodivergent individuals can bring unique and valuable perspectives, skills and talents to schools, workplaces and communities.

"Daniel's assembly provided an opportunity to celebrate and support neurodivergent individuals, challenge stigma and stereotypes, and promote inclusivity and acceptance in our communities.

"Well done, Daniel, for representing Priory so brilliantly."



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HMRC Visits GCSE Business & Enterprise Students



HMRC Enlightens Students on Taxation and Its Impact

Last month, our GCSE Business & Enterprise students had the unique opportunity to attend an insightful talk from three visitors from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). These professionals, who work daily in the field of taxation, took time out of their busy schedules to educate our students about the real-world implications of tax collection and its usage.

The session began with a comprehensive presentation that covered key aspects of taxation. Students learned about the various types of taxes collected by HMRC and how these funds are utilised to support public services and infrastructure. One of the most striking facts shared was that the UK Government collects approximately £600 billion in taxes annually!

Throughout the presentation, students were engaged with worksheets designed to reinforce the concepts being discussed. These activities provided a hands-on approach to understanding the complexities of taxation and its importance in maintaining a functioning society.

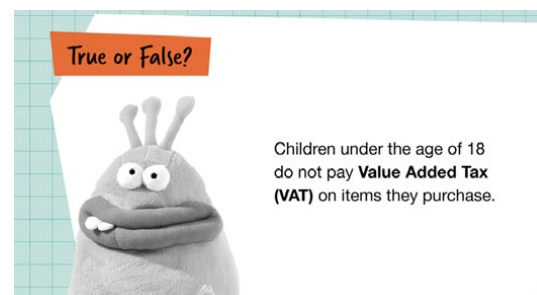
The HMRC visitors emphasised the significance of tax in funding essential services such as healthcare, education, and public safety. They also highlighted the role of taxation in promoting economic stability and growth.

Students were encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions, making the session both



informative and engaging. The visitors' real-world experience and expertise brought a practical perspective to the theoretical knowledge students have been acquiring in their coursework.

Overall, the talk was a resounding success, leaving students with a deeper understanding of taxation and its critical role in society. Thank you to HMRC for their valuable contribution to our students' education and look forward to more such enriching sessions in the future.



False. If you've ever bought a chocolate bar the price you paid was a bit more because the business selling it has to pay VAT on it. So even children pay VAT on things they buy!

There are some items that are zero rated for VAT which means customers won't pay tax on them even if businesses are charged tax on them. These include things like books and children's clothing.

British Science Week Poster Competition Entries

7 - 16 March



BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK 2025



During British Science Week our pupils were tasked with creating a poster on the theme of 'change'.

They rose to the challenge and produced a range of ideas including changes in seasons, adaptations of animals such as different varieties of foxes and how each is different, Darwin's finches and why each one has differences in their beaks due to the available resources, as well as human life cycles and many more.

The range of winning posters can be seen in this picture and house points and prizes will be distributed to all pupils.

Well done Key Stage 3!

Mrs Potter
Assistant Head of Science



VE Day Remembered at Priory

On Thursday, 8 May we joined the rest of the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

During their Learning for Life lesson, pupils watched a BBC Bitesize video where Norma, only 11 years on VE Day, speaks about the day itself, rationing, food and cooking more generally, and the 'Blitz spirit'.

Mr Farron topped off his display in the Rose Garden with a Union Jack surrounded by vibrant red ceramic poppies whilst English

teacher, Mrs Brindle, introduced Jim to everyone entering or passing by EN5.



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Welcome Year 6 & Good Luck Year 11: Behind The Scenes of a Photoshoot



On Tuesday 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. The weather was kind to us too.

The photos will grace our prospectus, social media profiles and Open Evening marketing 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 - Fynn L (Cop Lane), Taylor G (Cop Lane), Harry G (Howick CE Primary), Tilda M (Little Hoole), Niall M (Lostock Hall Primary), Zahra M (Kingsfold), Emeli P (New Longton), Isla D (Broad Oak), Zach B (Middleforth), Charlotte M (Penwortham Primary), Amaya M (Penwortham Primary), Testimony I (St Stephens), Angel H (Whitefield).

We can't wait to share the final masterpiece!



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Pupils Discover a Variety of Careers in the RAF

This week Lenny Brayshaw joined us from the RAF Careers Engagement Team.



Lenny spent lunchtime with us in the Bistro talking to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils who are interested in a career or apprenticeship in the RAF. Following our lunchtime drop-in, Lenny led an hour seminar regarding various aspects of RAF training and careers. We were joined by over forty enthusiastic pupils across Years 7 to 11, many of which were interested in the variety of roles within the RAF, apprenticeships, and the opportunities available outside the core career work.

Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith said "We are grateful to Lenny for giving us some time this week to further inspire our pupils, following his attendance at our STEAM Careers Fair. The pupils enjoyed the discussion and asked some interesting questions around what the RAF actually do day to day. They all now know that being able to iron will save them time in the RAF ironing lesson!"





Apprenticeship, Adult Education & Employer Opportunities Showcase

Wednesday 7th May
4:30-7pm @ our Leyland Campus

runshaw.ac.uk

 This is an ideal opportunity for students to speak with the college's apprenticeships team, to also make industry links and set up any work experience before September comes.

More information and to register >> <https://runshaw.ac.uk/study-at-runshaw/adultcollege/>

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This is the next instalment of a series of articles where we get to know our trainee teachers. Trainee teachers attend two placements in the academic year so are with us either from September to Christmas or January to June. They initially observe then start to take over sections of lessons, leading to being in charge of several classes by the time they finish their placement with us. Along with assignments and studies in pedagogy, they work towards their Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status by the end of the summer term.

MEET THE TEACHER



This week we interviewed a trainee teacher who has been taken under the wings of the English department.

Meet The Teacher - Miss McCord (English)

What made you want to become a teacher?

I had the most amazing English teacher. She pushed me to go further than I thought I could.

I remember we had a poetry competition and I had just moved from the middle set to the top set. We had to write a 100-word poem and she gave me such strong praise for it and it really boosted me.

When I had moved into the top set, everything clicked for me and my teacher pushed me to do better. I want to do the same for others, inspire them.

I completed an English with Education Undergraduate Honours Degree at Ulster University and I am now at Edge Hill doing my PGCE.

What do you like about your placement at Priority?

I like the structure of the day. It's very professional and everyone is challenged. I like the support the pupils receive and all the extra-curricular English clubs are well-attended which shows the pupils care.

What's the hardest thing about your job?

Definitely marking! In English there is a lot of marking.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to do horse-riding, I have a horse at home and I want to get back on that again, which I haven't since I moved to England. I also like reading and poetry.



Mapping Success: Year 11 Geographers Take on Preston



Year 11 Geography Students Complete Urban Fieldwork in Preston. A report by Mr Metcalfe, Head of Humanities

Last week, our Year 11 Geography students took part in an exciting and important piece of their GCSE studies: their Urban Fieldwork Study, based in Preston City Centre. With clipboards, maps, and survey sheets in hand, the students set out to investigate two key enquiry questions:

Does the land use of Preston become more varied as you move along a 2km transect from the suburbs into the CBD (Central Business District)?

Does the environmental quality of Preston improve as you move along a 2km transect from the suburbs into the CBD?



Working with exemplary effort, the students showed real respect, maturity, and diligence throughout the day. Their hard work and behaviour were a credit to both themselves and the school. Staff and members of the public alike commented on their positive attitude, enthusiasm, and polite manners.

During the fieldwork, students completed detailed environmental quality surveys at regular points along the transect. These surveys allowed them to assess factors such as litter, building maintenance, noise levels, and overall cleanliness. Alongside this, students carried out RICEPOTS land use surveys – recording and categorising different types of land use such as residential areas, offices, shops, entertainment venues, and public spaces.

Collecting real-world data provided students with valuable insights into how urban areas like Preston are structured and how environmental quality can change between the suburbs and the busy city centre. By gathering their own evidence, they will now be able to draw meaningful conclusion, helping them to better understand key urban concepts in their GCSE course.

The next steps for the students are just as important: they will now be writing up their fieldwork in their Geography lessons, supported by their teachers. This will not only strengthen their overall understanding but will also be vital preparation for their Paper 3 exam in the summer, where fieldwork skills

and enquiry-based questions play a major role.

I would like to thank all the students and Mrs Kursitis and Mrs Simpson for accompanying the students and providing essential support throughout the day. Their guidance helped ensure that the fieldwork ran smoothly and safely, giving every student the best possible opportunity to succeed.

We are incredibly proud of how our students represented the school during this important academic experience. Fieldwork is an essential part of becoming a well-rounded geographer, and it was fantastic to see so many students engaging with their surroundings and applying what they have learned in the classroom to the real world.

Well done to all our Year 11 Geography students – we look forward to seeing your excellent fieldwork write-ups and supporting you further as you prepare for your final exams!

Mr Metcalfe
Head of Humanities



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Duke of Edinburgh Silver Go Rock Climbing

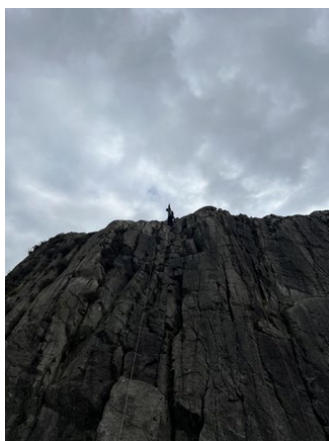


Last week, our Silver DofE students travelled to Eskdale for a rock climbing day, giving them the perfect opportunity to bond as a group ahead of their summer expedition.

We were incredibly lucky with the weather, which made for a brilliant day out on the rock. Pupils developed key skills such as belaying, communication, trust, and supporting one another through each challenge. It was fantastic to see them encouraging their peers and growing in confidence with every climb.

DofE Leader and Humanities Teacher, Mrs Cauchi, said, "The walk up to the crag turned out to be a little more than Mrs Kursitis and I had anticipated, but the pupils powered on ahead, leaving us both trailing behind! Everyone had a great time and left the day with a real sense of achievement."

To round off a brilliant day, the group stopped at McDonald's on the way home - cue a very lively minibus for the final stretch of the journey!



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London Calls For Priory's Performing Arts Students



Just before the Easter Holidays a group of students went on an fun packed performing arts trip.



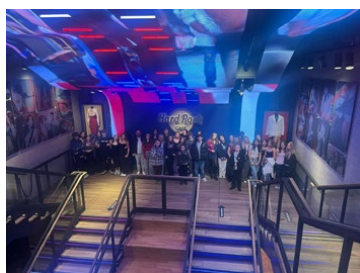
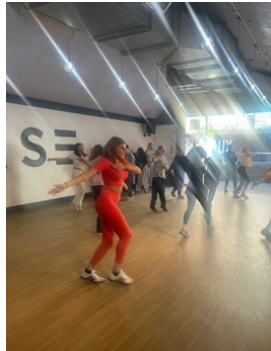
Day 1

Students arrived bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ready for an exciting three days away.

First stop, a musical theatre workshop based on Hadestown. Students got to meet theatre professionals from the show where they learnt one of the songs and a dance routine from the musical itself. This gave students a real insight into what it's like to work in the industry and the amount of stamina needed for such roles.

We then settled down to a lovely meal at Hard Rock Café which everyone enjoyed, and was much needed! After this we headed for the Lyric Theatre where we watched Hadestown - It was AMAZING! This time even Mr Taylor could follow the storyline!

This musical is slightly different to the norm as the orchestra is on stage as part of the action which



meant students were not just taking in the acting but also the musical element of it too.

Day 2

Well, after such a long day yesterday we were all relieved to get a lie-in and a nice hot breakfast.

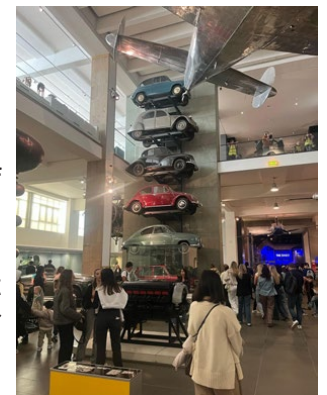
We boarded the coach - first stop, the Science Museum. Students went off exploring and interacting with everything while some of us had a good laugh at making Mr Taylor pose for pictures but in fact we were filming him!

Next stop, lunch down by the river where unfortunately Mr Taylor had a near accident with some Greek food.

Once everyone's bellies were full we went off to the Tate Modern to look at the artwork. One room really caught some people's eyes!

After a day of education and culture we headed off to stuff our faces at Pizza Hut - I've never seen so many pizzas, boy these students can eat!

Now off to the Royal Albert Hall. We were meant to be driven there but we announced that we were going to see the sights and walked instead. What we didn't tell the students was that the walk would be about 25 minutes so there was a lot of "Where are we going? Are we nearly there yet? How much further?".



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London Calls For Priory's Performing Arts Students *(continued)*

I ♥
Drama

Day 2 (Continued)

After burning off the copious amounts of pizza we arrived at the Royal Albert Hall. We all got our dancing shoes on and boogied the night away with an evening of Motown, What a night to remember! We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It truly was a magical night and everyone came away feeling extremely happy. It was a evening we will never forget.

Day 3

After two fun-packed days, singing and dancing, and lots of laughs, we ended the three days with a leisurely shopping trip. This was a pleasant, relaxing end to our holiday.

Once clothes had been bought, it was homeward bound. What should have been a quiet ride home unfortunately ended with a sickness bug sweeping through the bus. Staff and students were ill which is not the ending we wanted to an amazing trip.

I want to say a big thank you to the staff who gave up their time to help with the trip - you all helped everything to run smoothly, especially Mr Taylor for being on sickbag duty!

Thank you to all the students; it was a pleasure to take you on a trip that gave us all so many memories. I was so proud of your theatre etiquette, you were such advocates for yourselves and our school.

Miss Howell,
Lead Teacher of Drama

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



Learn to Succeed

Culture Day - An Occasion For All

Culture Day was a colourful, successful and informative day!

This is the third year Priory has organised a 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 hand-painting all week, music from different cultures playing at break and lunch (MaBaL), a food sale at break and pupils dressing up in their traditional cultural clothes or their national team's sports kit. There was also a cookery masterclass held after school where pupils learnt how to make samosas and spring rolls.

Pupils were asked to donate £1 if they chose to wear their own clothes and all money raised in donations from the event will go to the Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi) (FOMO). On final count, Priory has raised an amazing £400.



FOMO is a charity which runs 14 centres, caring for 2,000 orphans in Africa. The orphans are provided with food, clothes, blankets, mosquito nets, education, medical fees and most of all love and support.

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. Celebrating our culture is important. Culture Day is 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.

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Learn to succeed

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During Learning for Life on the Thursday, Audrey Toft, a trustee from the Culture Day's chosen charity, Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi), delivered an assembly to Year 7 about how the pupils' donations 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 everyone entered into the spirit of the event 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".

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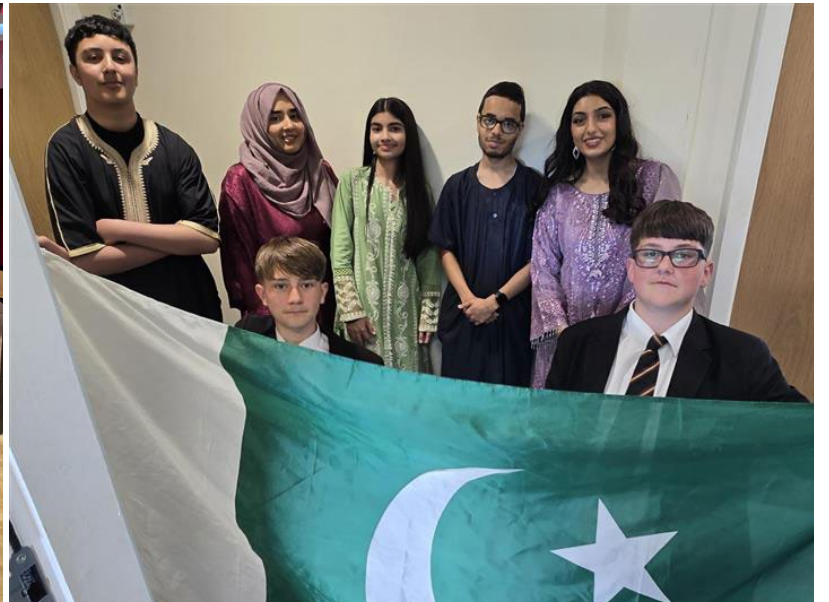
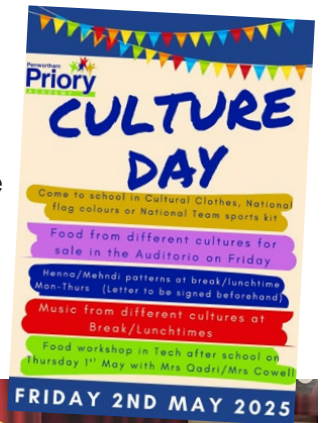


Learn to Succeed

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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 - which were absolutely delicious!

Culture Club is every Wednesday lunchtime in HX1. Open to all year groups to attend, have some fun and meet new friends while learning about our diverse cultures.



On Thursday after school, pupils learnt how to make samosas and spring rolls.



Learn to succeed

Post-Performance Round Up

By Miss Howell, Lead Teacher of Drama

Chequered Flags to Chequered Futures, a verbatim play written by Mark Wheeler about three friends who ended up in a tragic road traffic collision.

Why this Play and why now?



As many of you are aware we have lost three members of our Priory family to traffic collisions this academic year and this impacted many of the students and staff.

Every year Priory puts on a performance that is educational, informative and thought-provoking - this year I felt we had do something that has affected us all.

I like to think of Performing Arts not just as entertainment, but as a tool convey powerful messages, to educate and to provoke change. I feel that too many times we shy away from what needs to be said, too many times we shy away from what makes us uncomfortable and too many times we shy away from the harsh reality of life. Well, not in this school. I am proud that we will face these things and allow our students to be a part of that.



Change doesn't just happen and unless we keep educating, change will never happen! The one thing that this play made us realise is that we are all responsible for change, regardless if we are driving or not.

The students were honoured to meet Chris and Nicky Gilfoxy; Chris who was a passenger in the car of the story. The students got to meet him before the performance and were able to ask him many questions. This really



put the play into perspective and brought it into reality.

The students all came away with the same thoughts about how even though this happened 18 years ago that everyone in that car and their families still suffer the effects of what happened. Relationships have been lost, panic attacks still happen, nightmares about the accident still consume their sleep and the fear still holds them back in areas of their life. A moment in their life changed everything!

I want to thank everyone for supporting the students and staff with this play. It has been challenging, and the students should be so proud of themselves for portraying a real story with maturity.



Learn to succeed

Future-Ready: KS4 Pupils Connect with Sexual Health Experts



Last week we were joined by Kat Wood from the Sexual Health Team for a lunchtime meet and greet in the Year 10 and Year 11 Bistro.



The aim of the visit was to enable our older students to see how approachable the team are, in case they are needed in the future when pupils leave Priory.

Our visitors played educational games with the pupils regarding sexual health and aimed to quash any misconceptions pupils had. As part of the visit, pupils were given contact cards for the future, should support be required.

Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith said, "We were pleased Kat could join us for this session. The older pupils enjoyed the game and I was reassured to hear that many of the responses were correct based on previous learning in lessons.

"Our pupils' response and engagement was positive and I have booked Kat in again for June. She has decided to 'switch up' the misconception questions to provide further challenge to pupils."



New Facebook Group For 2025 Intake

For a second year, we have set up a Facebook group exclusively for parents/carers whose children are joining us from September 2025.

Whilst we will post bulletins in the group, these will only be reinforcements and reminders of information that has already been issued directly to parents. In addition, the group will also act as a forum for everyone to ask general questions and to get to know one another.

Parents of last year's intake, our current Year 7, have told us that they found the group helpful and a valuable resource, particularly during their first half term at Priory.

New parents can click the link to join. You will then be asked to provide the name of your child before being accepted to the group.

www.facebook.com/groups/priory2025intake

The group will remain open until the end of the Autumn term.



Learn to succeed

Exams Begin: Good Luck Year 11!



Good luck to all our Year 11s as they embark on their GCSE examinations.

Their first exam was English Literature on Monday morning and it was great to see so many of the year group arrive early for their free fruit and pastries in the Bistro alongside some last minute calming of nerves by Head of Year Mrs Bullock, and the English department.

Free pastries and fruit will be provided in the Bistro for Year 11 from 8am in advance of every morning GCSE exam. Mrs Bullock and other key staff will also be there to support pupils with any questions during this time.

Stay positive, believe in yourself and do your best - you've got this!

Early Lunch During Exams

A reminder that until Wednesday, 18 June, lunch will move to 12.15pm - 12.50pm. Period 4 will commence at 12.50pm.



Learn to succeed

Year 11 Pupil Hits the Keys to Success in National Piano Contest



Talented pianist Agnes came third in a national piano competition.

Year 11 Agnes attended the Lytham Performing Arts Festival and entered two competitions. She was in the Under 16 category where she was up first and played a composition of her choice. She scored 87 out of 100.

"I played Le Petit Ane Blanc. It was tough as I had to play first out of everyone so I felt under pressure as I had to get the feel of the piano.

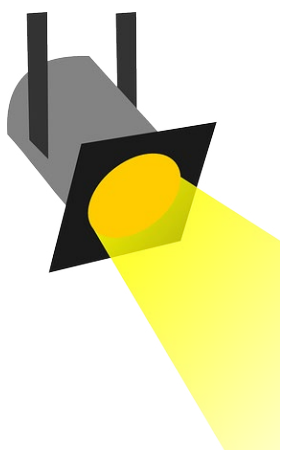
"There were people from all over the UK involved. I came third overall which was unexpected!"

Agnes also entered the Under 18 section where she chose to play Chopin – she had to play a baroque or a classical piece.

"I finished fourth in that but I was grateful as other competitors were older than me."

"The festival was a great experience, competing against other talented pianists.

"I am going to enter my ABRSM Grade 8 examination this summer after my GCSEs."



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? These make great stories to inspire others.

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@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Learn to succeed

This is the next instalment of a series of articles where we get to know our trainee teachers. Trainee teachers attend two placements in the academic year so are with us either from September to Christmas or January to June. They initially observe then start to take over sections of lessons, leading to being in charge of several classes by the time they finish their placement with us. Along with assignments and studies in pedagogy, they work towards their Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and Qualified Teacher Status by the end of the summer term.

MEET THE TEACHER



This week we interviewed two trainee teachers who have been taken under the wings of the PE department.

Meet The Teacher - Mr Anjum & Miss Derbyshire (PE)

What made you want to become a teacher?

Mr Anjum - My PE teacher at Witton Park Academy, Mr Hatton, was a massive inspiration to me. He had a big impact on my life. Mr Hatton was my PE teacher, my GCSE teacher and also my Head of Year so he was extremely influential for me. He inspired me and I want to pass on my love of sport to the next generation. I am a big Manchester United fan and I play handball and cricket.

I went to Blackburn Rovers Sports College and the University of Huddersfield studying Physical Education & Sport.

Miss Derbyshire - I love sport and I want to pass that onto the pupils. I want to show how valuable sport is in your life and the kind of impact it can have.



I am from Blackburn and went to St Wilfrid's Sixth Form and then UCLan to study Sport & Exercise Science.

What do you like about your placement at Priority?

Mr Anjum - The team around me are supportive and there is a strong relationship with the pupils.

Miss Derbyshire - The wide variety of abilities in all the pupils and how much the teachers here want to instil a love of sport in the pupils.

What's the hardest thing about your job?

Mr Anjum - For a PE teacher, the late finishes with matches and extra-curricular clubs.

Miss Derbyshire - Some pupils do not want to do sport so it's about trying to bring out their potential as, once they have a go and find out what they like, a lot of pupils do enjoy it.

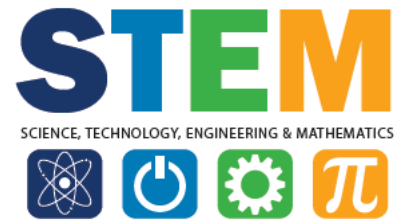
What do you like to do in your free time?

Mr Anjum - I am sports-mad so I schedule my life so I can watch Manchester United!

Miss Derbyshire - I play semi-professional football for Chorley.

Learn to succeed

BAE Systems Bring AI to Life at School Roadshow



Pupils in Years 7 and Year 8 were treated to a fascinating insight into the world of artificial intelligence when BAE Systems, in partnership with the RAF, visited the school for an engaging roadshow.

BAE SYSTEMS

The event aimed to introduce students to AI and its real-world applications, and it certainly succeeded in capturing their interest. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly Fluffy, an AI-powered robotic dog who stole the show with impressive feats. From balancing on hind legs to navigating a maze of pupils without a single collision, Fluffy demonstrated the precision and capability of AI in robotics.

Students also got hands-on experience with AI in music and video production. Working together, they used AI to generate an original pop song, selecting random words and musical styles while ensuring their creation adhered to copyright guidelines. They then took their project a step further by producing a pop music video featuring an AI-generated performer singing their newly created song.

Beyond the fun and creativity, the roadshow provided students with valuable insights into the diverse career pathways available in engineering, showing them the depth and breadth of opportunities within the field.

Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, who organised the visit, said "It was an eye-opening experience that left pupils inspired and excited about the possibilities AI and engineering can offer.

"With engaging demonstrations and interactive learning, the BAE Systems and RAF roadshow was a memorable experience that underscored the importance of AI in shaping the future."



Learn to succeed

Exciting Outdoor Transformation Underway at Penwortham Primary School



Penwortham Primary School is thrilled to be undergoing a fantastic transformation of its outdoor learning and play environment.

With the creative vision of award-winning gardener Mr Farron and the invaluable support of Priory's Estates Team, Phase One of the outdoor area makeover is nearly complete and already making a difference to the pupils' experience.

Mr Farron was invited to redesign underused spaces to create a unique, inspiring and engaging outdoor area for our neighbouring primary school's youngest learners. His work so far has focused on the Reception class garden, which is now a vibrant, welcoming space that supports both play and exploration.

"The space has been completely revitalised," said Mr Farron. "We've made it even more accessible, and much more fun for the children. They can now enjoy the lawn area and we have also begun work on an imaginative 'cave area' with natural arches that the children will love to explore. We'll soon be adding a brand-new mud kitchen too."



Miss Penarski, Headteacher at Penwortham Primary School, said, "The school community is incredibly grateful for the dedication and collaboration involved in this project, and the children are already benefiting from the enriched learning environment. We are now eagerly looking forward to starting Phase Two, which will continue to build on this success."



BEFORE

AFTER



Learn to Succeed

Priory+ Awards

Spring Term Achievements



On 1 May, Mrs Cowell presented another cache of badges and certificates to pupils who had achieved the next stage in their Priory+ Awards.

Over 250 pupils achieved this recognition during the Spring term and, last Thursday, those who chose to be personally presented by the Vice 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



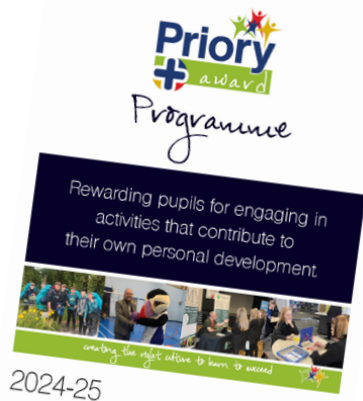
Learn to succeed

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/personal-development/wider-opportunities



Learn to succeed



Our Personal Development Award Programme aims to encourage pupils to engage in a wide range of activities, both in and out of school, that contribute further to their own personal development, and rewards them for doing so.

Personal Development is important for everyone at every life stage. It is important as it empowers us to grow, adapt and lead more fulfilling lives. It helps us develop valuable skills, self-awareness, and resilience, which can positively impact various aspects of our lives, from relationships to career success and overall well-being.

Rewards

Priory+ is rewarded with a star badge, certificates for pupil's Record of Achievement and Achievement Points towards trips.

Criteria

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

Awards Achieved Spring Term

Bronze 1 Award	48
Bronze 2 Award	77
Bronze 3 Award	33
Silver 1 Award	18
Silver 2 Award	18
Silver 2 Award	13
Gold 1 Award	16
Gold 2 Award	12
Gold 3 Award	10
Platinum Award	7
Total	252

Priory+ Award Activities

Awarded for achievements in Personal Development

Culture and Heritage	Future Citizen	Health and Wellbeing	Skills Builder	Bright Futures
Visit to a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Castle ➢ Religious building ➢ Museum ➢ Art gallery ➢ Theatre ➢ Musical event ➢ Dance event ➢ Sporting event ➢ Heritage site or building Participate in or watch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Competition ➢ Religious event ➢ Cultural event ➢ Creative art event ➢ 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 – Inc. assembly Participate in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ an election or vote ➢ a community event or festival 	Participate in an activity that keeps you physically fit and well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Participate in a sport ➢ Ride your bike ➢ Go for a walk or jog ➢ Create an eating and drinking plan ➢ Sleep the recommended time Participate in an activity that keeps you mentally and emotionally well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Meditate ➢ Mindful activities ➢ Get organised ➢ Create a positivity book ➢ Plan your future ➢ Manage your money ➢ Pray 	Continue or learn a new: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Skill ➢ Craft ➢ Language Develop employment skills such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Leadership ➢ Organisation ➢ Resilience ➢ Initiative ➢ Communication ➢ Presentation ➢ Teamwork ➢ Problem solving Join a club or an activity in school which develops a skill.	Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ KS4 options, further or higher education ➢ Apprenticeships ➢ T Levels ➢ Colleges and universities ➢ Careers and jobs ➢ 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



Reflecting On Our Ofsted Inspection

A Message From The Principal

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the many of you who took the time to complete the Parent View questionnaire as part of our recent Ofsted inspection. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive and supportive, as were those from our pupils, and they were greatly appreciated by both the inspection team and the school leadership.

As I reflect on the visit, I continue to feel immensely proud to be the Principal of Priory. It is a privilege to lead a school that has been recognised once again as Good in all areas of the Ofsted inspection framework. This is a strong and sustained outcome, and one which reflects the commitment, professionalism, and care shown by staff, pupils, and our wider community.

The inspection confirmed that we are:

- Good for Quality of Education
- Good for Behaviour and Attitudes
- Good for Personal Development
- Good for Leadership and Management
- And, Good Overall



While we are delighted with this outcome, we remain resolutely focused on our journey of continuous improvement. As noted in the report, Priory has *“taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.”* However, we do not view this as a moment to stand still. Rather, it motivates us to continue building on this success with ambition and purpose.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend our pupils, who were once again a credit to themselves, their families, and the school. The inspection team observed that our pupils feel safe, happy, and valued at Priory. They praised the respectful and caring relationships between staff and pupils, and it was especially pleasing to hear that pupils themselves spoke positively and with pride about their school.

Equally, the inspectors recognised our high expectations for behaviour and conduct. They saw first-hand that these standards are embedded across the school and that pupils consistently rise to meet them, both in lessons and around the school site.

Continued next page...



Continued from previous page...

We were also pleased that Ofsted highlighted the school's high aspirations for academic achievement. Our pupils are motivated and ambitious, and our staff remain dedicated to supporting every pupil in reaching their potential.

Beyond academic outcomes, we are especially proud that inspectors saw our provision for Personal Development as a real strength. From clubs and enrichment activities to cultural trips and international experiences, Priory offers a wide range of opportunities that help broaden our pupils' horizons and prepare them for life beyond school.

What the inspection affirmed is what we already know: that the culture of care, respect and ambition that underpins life at Priory is strong and enduring. Our staff work tirelessly to ensure the safety, wellbeing, and success of every child—and we are heartened to see that this commitment continues to be recognised.

Being a Principal is both a great responsibility and a tremendous honour. Please rest assured that I will continue to lead Priory with professionalism and a quiet determination to ensure it remains the right school for your son or daughter—a place where young people can thrive academically, personally, and socially.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, hardworking pupils, supportive parents, and valued community partners. Together, we ensure that Priory is a school where young people enjoy rich, meaningful experiences and leave well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support and partnership and you can be assured that we will remain committed to delivering the very best education possible for every child in our care.

With my very best wishes,

Mr M Eastham, Principal



Learn to succeed

Year 9 Prove #TheseGirlsCan

P.E
DEPARTMENT

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

The event aims to empower girls to confidently stay active and encourages them to take part in a variety of activities such as rock climbing, roller-skating, spinning and padel.

PE Teacher, Miss Derbyshire, who accompanied the girls along with Miss Beesley, said, "They all got fully involved with all activities and it was great to see them step out of their comfort zones and try new things."



"They all started off quite nervous and quiet but it ended in them feeling empowered and confident - so all in all a fantastic day!"

"The girls were a credit to themselves and the school."



Learn to Succeed

Behind The Scenes: The Pastoral 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 and care for our pupils, these unsung heroes play a vital role in creating a positive learning environment at Priory.

In the sixth part of this series, we're shining a spotlight on the Pastoral Team as we explore their contributions and learn more about the people who ensure our pupils are in school, are safe, and their wellbeing is looked after, every day.

The Pastoral Team is probably the one which has grown the most at Priory, from one member of staff historically to a team of eight now, focusing on Pupil Well-Being, Attendance, Behaviour for Learning and Family Support.

They are a vital part of Priory with their main emphasis on making sure the mental and emotional well-being of pupils is cared for and the Pastoral Team will deal with any worries or concerns to make sure every child is happy, safe and equipped to learn. They also work closely with the Heads of Year who have both an academic and pastoral role.



Assistant Principal, Head of Pastoral Care and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Crank, leads the team.

"We need our young people in the classroom learning and our main role is to offer the best support to make sure that's where they are.

"Parents may ring and ask us just to check on their child as they were having a bad morning and we can send them a welfare text back to confirm how they are.

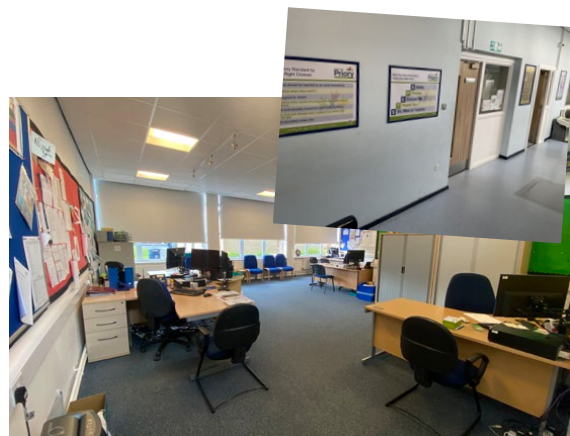
"Or they may contact us about a uniform issue, to tell us their child has forgotten their tie, and we are there to make sure all these things are dealt with to ensure our pupils can just focus on coming into school to learn.

"Dealing with mental health issues is also a big part of our role and at Priory we have our own counsellor in Ms Lowe, Managing Director of Charlotte Lowe Psychological Services, who comes into school with her team twice a week for any child who may need extra support from a professional counsellor.

"We break down the barriers, or any anxieties, to ensure every pupil has the best experience in attending school and succeeds during their time at Priory.

"It's not just about our pupils, however – we also have a Family Support Manager in Mrs Willis who provides support for our families."

The team is located in the Pastoral office in the central area of the school, with Head of Year offices and meeting rooms further along the corridor, and if pupils need to see any member of staff then they will always be made welcome.



Learn to succeed

Year 9 Pupils Get a Glimpse of the Future in AI Workshop



Year 9 pupils who have chosen to study ICT or Business for their Options have had the exciting opportunity to dive into the world of Artificial Intelligence.

The hands-on workshop, led by Imole Ajayi from Loughborough University, was both engaging and educational, and offered pupils a glimpse into how AI is shaping our world—and how they can be part of that future.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the 'Intelligent Piece of Paper' activity. In this clever exercise, students played a game of noughts and crosses (tic-tac-toe) against what appeared to be a simple sheet of paper. However, this paper was 'programmed' with a set of rules that mimicked the decision-making process of a computer. It was a fun and interactive way to understand how algorithms can simulate intelligence—even without a screen!

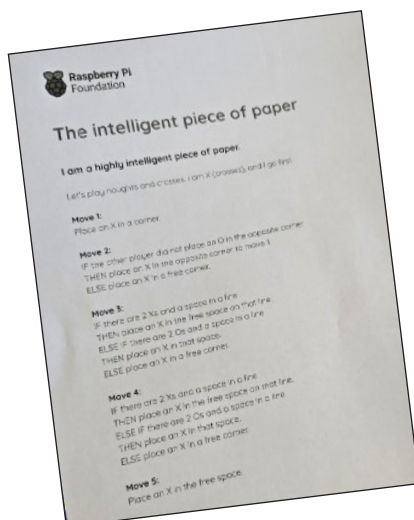
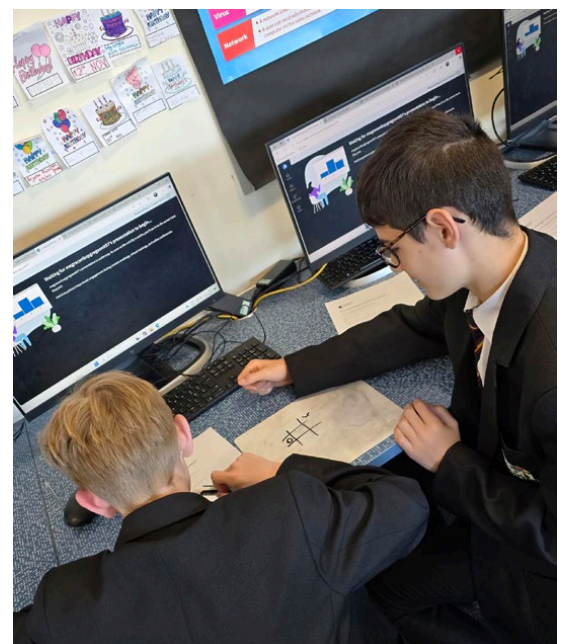


The workshop also explored the creative side of AI. Students were introduced to Craiyon.com, a website that uses AI to generate images from text prompts. They experimented with different descriptions and watched as the AI transformed their words into unique digital artwork. This sparked discussions about how AI learns to interpret language and visuals, and the implications for art, design, and media.

"Imole guided students through these activities with enthusiasm and clarity, making complex concepts accessible and inspiring curiosity about the possibilities of AI," said Mrs Qadri, Head of ICT & Computing.

"The workshop left students not only more informed but also more excited about the role they can play in the future of technology."

Stay tuned for more innovative workshops like this one!



Learn to Succeed

Impressive Effort from Year 7 Girls at UCLan Tournament

SPORTS REPORT

The Year 7 girls football team took part in the Rotary Club Football Tournament at UCLan Sports Arena last Thursday, 15 May.

The girls got off to a great start winning their first match 1-0 courtesy of a brilliant goal by Freya B. The second game saw no goals, drawing 0-0 but set them up for a brilliant 4-1 win in their third game, with goals from Reya S, Niamh K and Freya B (2).

"The girls narrowly missed out on a place in the quarter finals, losing 1-0 in their last game", said PE Teacher, Miss Derbyshire.

"The girls represented the school extremely well and showed great effort and sportsmanship throughout the whole tournament."

Well done girls!

Team: Emeli P, Niamh K, Freya B, Matilda M, Amaya M, Ellie M, Reya S, Emily G



Class of 2001 Priory Uniform

Look what turned up during a recent loft clear-out - original Priory uniform and those infamous planners from 2001!

One of our lovely teachers (and proud alumna) brought it in to school after it was rediscovered amongst her late mum's keepsakes. We're thrilled to add it to our growing archive of school history and we're sure it'll spark a few memories (and maybe a few fashion flashbacks!) for some of our alumni parents.

If you've got any old photos, uniform items, or other Priory treasures gathering dust, we'd love to give them a good home. We promise to look after them forever - no PE kit left behind!

Contact Mrs Yates by email at j.yates@priory.lancs.sch.uk or pop into Reception during school hours. We'd love to see what you've got!



Learn to Succeed

Wired for the Future: Students Tour National Grid Site

Last week Ms Smith and other staff took groups of young people down to the Hutton Substation to tour the site and learn about what the National Grid does as a company and its different careers.

Pupils had a lengthy health and safety briefing, donned PPE and entered the secure site. This visit is part of a number of activities the National Grid offers us to introduce pupils to careers in engineering and electricity.

Ms Smith said "It has been great to see so many pupils appear on the '*Interested in electricity careers*' list. This is the first day of trips and have two more to follow. The attendance list for these is well subscribed, without pupils knowing a trip was planned. The pupils, as expected, were sensible and followed health and safety instructions well. I hope pupils now have a greater understanding of what the "*Giant metal structure in a field*" does, its significance and the roles required to maintain it.

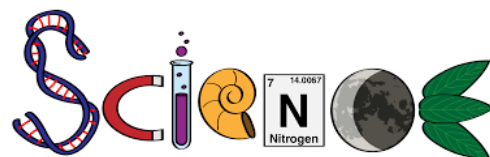
National Grid staff were astounded by the array of interesting questions pupils asked about their work and the site. Questions included - Where are the highest pylons? To where is the longest stretch of cable between pylons? What happens if part or all of the Hutton site fails to work?

Pupils learned that the pylons across the River Ribble are some of the tallest in the country. Pupils also saw the equipment which was floated up the River Ribble and discussed the activities around that process, including problems and solutions. Pupils enjoyed the visit and came away with further knowledge of electricity transfer.



Learn to succeed

From Primary to Priory: The Science Dissection!



As the winners of the 2024 Priory Science Challenge, Middleforth CofE Primary claimed the opportunity to have a science lesson delivered by Priory staff. They took this opportunity just before half term, requesting a lesson on heart dissections!

Science Technician Mr Evans and Head of Science Mr Bedford, made the short journey to Middleforth to deliver the lesson.

The pupils waited eagerly for the cross-phase collaboration, bringing the Year 6 class face-to-face with the wonders of biology.

Mr Bedford said, "The pupils were able to recall a wide range of details about the heart including the structure, function, and various parts, before applying their understanding by looking at a dissected heart."

He went on to say, "Their teacher, Miss Howarth, said this is not something they would normally be able to deliver; the class really enjoyed the experience and were grateful to Priory for making it possible."



From Primary to Priory

On Tuesday this week, Year 7s Amelie and Angel ventured back to Whitefield Primary School.



The pair accompanied Mrs Farley to talk to the Year 6 children who will be joining us in September about what life is like at Priory and the differences and similarities to Whitefield.

A representative from their former primary school said, "Amelie and Angel even managed to sneak in to Mrs Nugent's class to see their buddies from last year and help Mrs Nugent with some jobs!"

Head of Year 7 & Transition Manager, Mrs Farley, visits all our primary schools in the summer term to meet each new Priory pupil and their class teacher as it is important to us that we get to know each pupil individually.

We will welcome all our 2025 intake on Weds, 2 July at the New Pupil & Parents Evening, followed by Induction Day on Thurs, 3 July.



Learn to Succeed

Building Futures: Tyson Construction Visits Priory For Careers Talk

Last week pupils who are interested in a career in construction were invited to a careers talk by Philip Helm from Tyson Construction.

Philip talked to pupils about the importance of personal qualities and attributes developed in school and their relevance in the future. He discussed different roles in the organisation and qualification pathways to them. He also talked about Tyson as a company and showed pupils images of developments in the locality.

Lead Practitioner for Careers Development and Priory's Careers Adviser, Ms Smith said "I am so pleased to have been offered the opportunity to work with Philip and Tyson as we have a large cohort of interested pupils.

"Over 40 pupils attended this session and Philip has offered to allow pupils to come and see the Quinn Street site in Leyland develop. At the time of writing, I plan to take a group of pupils to the site to look at the site footprint with footings and service lines. In the next few months we plan to revisit to watch the site develop to completion".

Philip has said to Ms Smith that he was impressed with the school site and facilities, the vast range of activities offered to pupils as demonstrated in our termly newsletters and the enthusiasm of pupils for construction. This enthusiasm was demonstrated when a number of pupils remained behind to discuss Tyson's current construction experience through discussion and photographs.



PRESTON COLLEGE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

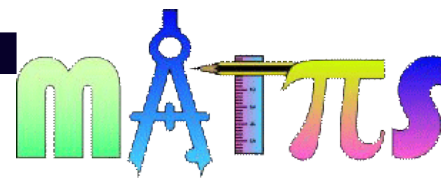
**APPRENTICESHIP
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MONDAY 30 JUNE 4-6PM

REGISTER TODAY!

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Learn to succeed

It All Adds Up: Priory Pupils Smash National Maths Challenge



Year 7 Zach was the star of the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge at Priory.



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

Run by the UK Maths Trust, it's a national competition for Years 7 and 8 where there are multiple choice answers and it's completed in school. Pupils use their best problem-solving, fluency and reasoning skills to tackle some really difficult questions

Maths teacher Mr Hunter has run this challenge for a number of years and this year got more pupils involved – with 99 sitting the first round.

Year 7 Zach achieved 102 points and received a Gold Certificate and he was Best in School.

Zach said: “I was surprised as I struggled to concentrate and didn't think I had done as well as I had. I do like Maths but my favourite subjects are Art and Music.”



Adam, also in Year 7, was just a point behind and also achieved a Gold certificate. He said: “It's the first time I have done anything like this and it was fine. It got harder as we went along but I was happy with my score.”

Both pupils went through to the next stage which took place on Tuesday – the Junior Kangaroo.

Year 8 Kaif received a Silver certificate, he was Best in Year 8, and said: “I am pretty happy with that.”

Year 7 Oliver H also received a Silver Certificate. “It was really hard so it was a big achievement to get a Silver Certificate.”

Mr Hunter said: “They have all done brilliantly, especially the Year 7s who got the highest scores. We trialled a bigger intake this year and 99 pupils were involved which was a success.

“They smashed it and all have done really well. To get a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate is a huge achievement as it is a hard challenge.”



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 Tuesday, 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.

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.

Year 8 Leon W said, "I didn't know about 3D printing but now my knowledge has been expanded - now I can make 3D models and designs on 'Onshape' and use them on 'Cura'. I've also learnt how 3D printing can be used in different industries, and in future careers.'

Emma N added, "Today was quite complicated and hard to understand but I'm very glad I did it because I never actually realised what 3D printing was and now I see that it is very interesting and is used lots in construction and other careers."

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Learn to succeed

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Freya C said, "Today I found out actual jobs I did not know used 3D printing such as Formula One racing, when making props and in nursing. I would like to be a fashion designer and it was helpful to know how some materials can come from the 3D printer. I did not know about doctors using 3D printers for hands."

Lillia S continued on the same theme with, "Prosthetic limbs can also be made in the medical field. Also, food can be made from a 3D printer!"

Thinking ahead, Oliver C concluded, "I've learnt about what I want to take into my Options with Computing definitely one of them, thanks to this workshop."

Pharaoh agreed, "This has also made me see Tech and Engineering GCSEs in a new light."

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.



These websites allow students to research 3D printed designs that others have created >>
www.thingiverse.com | www.printables.com

3D PRINTING WEBSITES

www.thingiverse.com

www.printables.com



Learn to succeed

Where to next, Year 11?

With their GCSEs almost over, our Year 11 pupils are looking ahead to life after Priory – obviously tinged with sadness at going but excitement at the next stage of their education.



We spoke to a number of our pupils about their immediate plans for the future.

Jake L has his career mapped out.

“I want to go to the GCHQ – the Government Communications Headquarters. In short, it’s ethical hacking for the Government!”

“I have always had a thing for computers and I want to help people and keep information safe.

“I am going to Cardinal Newman College next to study A-Levels in Computer Science, Maths and Physics and then maybe apply for a degree apprenticeship at GCHQ.



“I have enjoyed my time at Priory. I did the Astronomy GCSE last year and got a Grade 5 and that was good as it’s an extra qualification to do.”

Chloe aims to go to Runshaw College and study A-Levels in Biology, History and Criminology.

“When I was younger, I wanted to be an actress and I have been in all the school shows, including Matilda, Mary Poppins, Legally Blonde and High School Musical.

“I have enjoyed having the chance to be part of these in Priory – they have all been good productions.

“I am not sure about an actress now so I am thinking about becoming a forensic scientist. I love all the true crime documentaries.”

Ronnie said: “I want to become a joiner and am currently looking for an apprenticeship. I made a bench with my dad last year and it’s something I enjoyed.

“I came to Priory in Year 8. I like all the teachers and have taken part in extra-curricular activities such as football.”

Jake S fancies making his millions as a property developer.

“My uncle does it and so it’s something I want to do but I know you have to start with some money to build your business and I am still working on that!

“I am going to Newman College to study Maths, Economics and another A-Level which I haven’t decided on yet as it depends on my GCSE results.

“I have had a good time at Priory, made lots of friends and the teachers have been good.”

Talented musician and artist **Agnes** will pursue a career in science.

Agnes plays the piano to a high level, taking part in UK competitions, and is a fantastic artist, recently designing Priory’s new-look House logos (more to come on this in a later newsletter).

However she loves chemistry the best – and that’s where she feels her future lies.

Continued next page...

Learn to succeed

Continued from front page....



"I have thought about becoming a doctor but it's very competitive and chemistry is my favourite subject so I think I will be better suited to a laboratory job.

"I am going to LUSoM (Lancaster University School of Mathematics) to study Maths, Further Maths, Biology and Chemistry A-Levels. I wanted to do Geography as well but they said five was too much!

"I have enjoyed Priory. The facilities are brand new and that's why I chose to come here. I have also had a lot of opportunities to develop my music, I have played the piano in assemblies, and also entered art competitions."

Chittara is keen on engineering but is also thinking about a career in quantum mechanics.

"I have also thought about quant training which is using maths algorithms to find out how trading works. There are a few options – it's the same journey to a point and then I can choose which way I want to go.

"I will either go to LUSoM or Newman College and study four A-Levels – Maths, Physics and then either Economics, Chemistry or Further Maths, depending where I go to."

Thomas aims to be an engineer but is still deciding which route to follow.

He said: "I may go to Preston College and do automotive engineering or Runshaw College and do electrical engineering.

"I like to know how things work, I have always had a curious mind.

"My twin brother Archie is here too and he is going to Cardinal Newman to do Law or Business – we are very different people.



"My grandad and step-dad were engineers so I think that's why I want to go that way.

"The teachers have been helpful at Priory and it's a good environment, I have made loads of friends."

Hannah will go to Runshaw College to study Psychology, Criminology and Business.

She said: "I want to be a psychologist as I like to look into people's minds and help them understand themselves.

"I have liked the teachers at Priory. Mr Bedford has helped me in Chemistry and Ms Beswick has been helpful too."

Will can see pound signs!

"I am going into joinery at Preston College, then I want to build my own houses and open up my own business. I want to be a millionaire by the time I am 30!"

The last day for Year 11 is on Monday, 16 June.

After their last core subject exam in the morning, pupils will head out to the Priory gardens for shirt-signing followed by an awards presentation in the Assembly Hall. Pupils will leave immediately after the presentation, at approx 12.45 pm.

Learn to succeed

Tears and Triumph: Miss Beesley Bids Farewell To Her Year 11 Football Stars

Miss Beesley admitted there were tears as her Year 11 football team played their final match.

PE teacher Miss Beesley has guided the girls from Year 7 and watched them grow and develop through the years. They reached the final of the South Ribble Cup against Balshaw's High School last Friday, 4 June but lost 9-4 at UCLan Sports Arena.

Miss Beesley said: "It was the first ever South Ribble Cup for girls teams this year and the fact we are one of the first two teams to get into the final is a fantastic achievement.

"It's testament to the drive nationally that we have had to promote girls' football overall.

"We were 4-1 down but then came back to 6-4 before a few mistakes cost us but I am immensely proud that we got to the first girls' South Ribble Final and came runners-up. There was a lot of emotion! Goals were from Mia C, Molly and Caitlyn.

"I am sad they are going. I have been with them since Year 7 and I am so proud of them all. I have watched them grow into strong, confident, independent women who have been flying the flag for girls' football."



Striker Caitlyn, who plays for Penwortham Town, said: "It's been fun playing football with this team. When we came it was all new but we have formed friendships and done so much together. It's the team, the atmosphere, the competitiveness, the friendships. I have already signed up for Runshaw College's football team thanks to everything at Priory."

Defender Olivia said: "I have enjoyed being part of this team. We have made such great memories. We have been positive, we have shown a passion for football and we have had fun. We all love Miss Beesley for everything she has done for us. She has stuck up for us and looked after us!"



Inaugural runners up South Ribble Cup June 2025.



The girls in Year 8 after winning a South Ribble tournament.

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Building Futures: Students Explore Construction Careers with Tyson



Last week we continued our collaboration with Tyson Construction in inspiring future construction industry careers.

Ms Smith and Mrs Lockwood took 15 young people, who attended the previous week's Tyson talk to the building site at Quinn Street, Leyland. Pupils were able to see the footings of homes and the incoming services, tarmac roads and parking being laid, main drain lines being laid and staff facilities such as the canteen and site office.

Ms Smith said, "It was good for pupils to see paper plans in their actual real life form. Pupils learnt a lot about site considerations, how things were constructed and other interesting building facts. Pupils were keen to see the canteen, but were disappointed it was not as good as theirs in school and one pupil was disappointed there was no tuck shop! Questions regarding pay and interesting finds on digging were posed amongst the flurry of expected and unexpected questions."



Philip Helm, Business Development Director at Tyson Construction has since contacted the school and said "I just wanted to say how impressed I was throughout. The school visit was really well organised and the pupils were engaged, well-behaved and asked some fantastic questions — both in the classroom and during the site visit. Their enthusiasm was brilliant to see".

Ms Smith plans to take the same pupils again in September to see the site rise from the ground and hopefully again in future months to completion.



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Year 9 Pupils Commended for Attempt to Save Injured Bird



Four Year 9 pupils tried to save a bird's life after finding it with a damaged leg on the school's fields.

Freya, who has parrots at home, said: "I saw it on the field with what looked like a damaged leg and I alerted a teacher. They said to leave it and see if it was still there the next day as it might fly off."



"We went back the day after and it was still there and its leg was bleeding."

"We identified it as an Oystercatcher and Lily caught it. We took it inside and it was alert; it looked like it was just its leg that was hurt."

"As I know a bit about birds, I was able to give it some water while we called the nearby vets."

"While we were waiting we called it 'Mark', no idea why as we don't know whether it's a boy or a girl!"

Mr Oakes took it to Ribble Vets at the end of Crookings Lane and said: "The vets were really concerned for the Oystercatcher's injuries and said it looked like it had some form of string or netting wrapped around its feet. They promised to take good care of Mark."



"A bit later, they rang to inform me that Mark had a broken leg, and both of his feet were extremely damaged and painful for him."

"Due to the extent of his injuries, the vet made the difficult decision to put Mark to sleep."

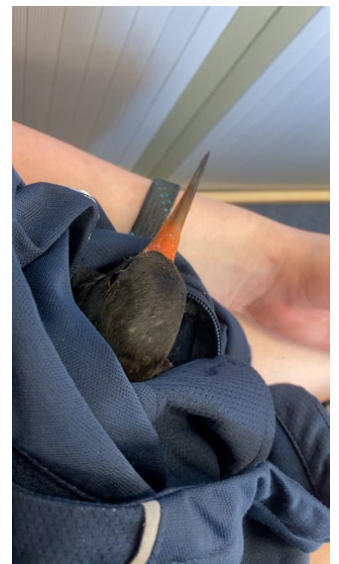
"They were very thankful to the girls for bringing Mark to their attention and said that while this outcome is sad, they did a great service to the bird by saving him from a potential predator attack while he was in this condition."

"They also said, whether they had acted earlier or not, the outcome would have been the same."

Ribble Vets were grateful to Penwortham Priory Academy for promoting a caring attitude with our pupils.

All four girls involved will receive recognition for the efforts through the Priory+ Award Citizenship strand and have received positive behaviour points through Arbor.

Well done, Freya B, Lily E, Amelia L and Lily H.



Pupils Step Into the Past to Shape the Future of Architecture



Last Friday Ms Smith and Mrs Lockwood took a group of pupils to County Hall in Preston. The aim of the visit was to inspire future architects through viewing Victorian, Edwardian and 1970's architecture and interior design features.



On the visit pupils learnt about County Hall's place in the Georgian area of Fishergate and its 1903 extension built in keeping with the original 1878 building which is further into Pitt Street.

Pupils saw one of the original prison cell doors from when Lancashire Constabulary was based there. Pupils were in awe of the Council chamber's opulent features including the stained glass windows moved from the original chambers. Pupils were given access to the main stained glass window in County Hall which members of the public rarely see. The traditional elements were contrasted by the Christ Church development from the 1970s with its marble staircase, chapel features and external door handles. Staff and pupils were impressed with the internal chapel doors which depicted Lancashire's architectural features and visual elements. Ms Smith and Mrs Lockwood marvelled at the resin-encased bugs and grains within the carvings of the elaborate doors.



Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith said, "We were delighted that County Hall had agreed to our visit on this particular theme rather than as a visit regarding its function within Lancashire. Vanessa Carthy and her Learning & Development team enjoyed the visit which was a first for them. Vanessa's team hopes to enthuse more young people to work for Lancashire County Council in the future and this trip allows youngsters to feel more familiar with the environment. Vanessa was so impressed with our young people that she has offered further visits in the future".



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Year 7s Shine in Design Technology Challenge



As part of the Year 7 Technology rotation, students are challenged to complete a Product Design task.

This term, pupils have been designing and making a functional and aesthetically pleasing torch based on their research of different cultures of the world.

Design Technology teacher, Mrs Lockwood, said, "I've been impressed by the efforts of my recent classes as they toil tirelessly in the workshop to modify and shape their pieces of acrylic to recreate their design based on a culture of their choosing."

Students have been getting in good habits of donning personal protective equipment (PPE) of goggles and aprons. They have also been learning about the importance of Health and Safety in the workshop while using tools such as junior hacksaws, vices and files.



Once the hard graft with the hand tools is complete, the class build a small circuit of a coin battery and LED to finish the torch. They then evaluate their practical work and learn more about the materials and components involved in the project.

Alongside the Product Design unit, Year 7s also complete Graphic Design and Food Preparation & Nutrition as part of their Technology rotation.



Learn to succeed

Learning Never Stops: Mr Oakes Earns Distinction in ICT Apprenticeship

Mr Oakes has shown that even when you are employed at Priory, you carry on learning!

Mr Oakes came to Priory as an ICT Technician two years ago and has just passed his Level 3 Information Communication Technology Support Technician Apprenticeship, with distinction.

Mr Oakes, who is from Oldham, said: "I have always been into computers although I did like art as well. In Year 6, I was given a prize for being a 'computer know-it-all!'"

"At that time, there was one computer for around 30 pupils and it's a lot different now.

"I was working in a small primary school as an IT Technician where everything was self-taught. I was a one-man band, and I had no formal training.

"I saw a job at Priory advertised as an ICT Technician, had my interview and I was given the job in November 2023.

"My background when I came to Priory was in working on Apple-based systems, so I had to learn about the Microsoft platform in a secondary school environment, on the job.



"Essentially, I am a firefighter for the IT Department. If anything goes wrong at Priory, I am the first line support and I'm physically there to sort it out. I also work and manage the digital signage system around the school.

"There is never a dull day and that's in a good way, it's always different and I could never go back to a desk job. "We work closely with Lostock Hall Academy, we work together on IT, and it means it's busy all the time. I am hoping to do more qualifications and it's great that Priory is supporting me."

Mr Bolton said: "When Mr Oakes came for the interview, we knew he would fit in personality-wise and it was just about enhancing his PC skills for our environment.

"We put him on an Apprenticeship course and used the Apprenticeship Levy to fund his training to give help with more formal qualifications in IT Support.

"His final project was to improve the Wi-Fi in the English classrooms for the laptops there which he was successful with, and he has qualified with distinction.

"He has also used his creative skills to digitally enhance the logo for the House badges which we are all proud of. He is a big addition to the IT Support Department and to Priory, supporting the school and students in a variety of ways."

Taejuan Helps Launch New Youth Centre in Avenham

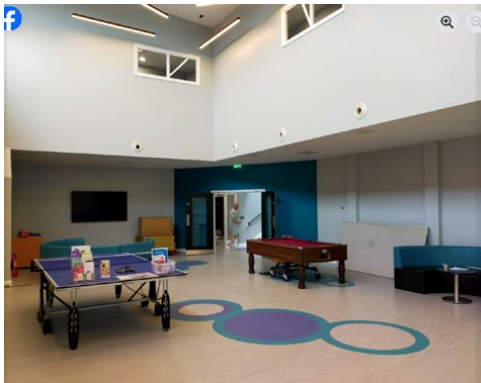
Today (20 June), Year 10 pupil Taejuan is taking part in the grand opening of The Foxton Youth and Community Centre in Avenham, a project he has been involved with for over three years.

Taejuan first made headlines in 2023 when, as a Year 9 pupil, he successfully helped secure £2.4 million in government funding for the centre through a bid to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Since then, he has continued to work closely with the team behind the project.

At today's event, Taejuan will be delivering speeches to dignitaries and government representatives, hosting tours of the new facility, and even speaking with the BBC.

Cath Coffey, Senior Youth & Community Manager at the Foxton Centre said, "His involvement is part of his ongoing learning and development, and a testament to his commitment to making a difference in his community."

We look forward to sharing more about this incredible achievement in our next edition.



Wasted Lives: Fire Service Delivers Powerful Road Safety Message



Our Learning For Life day for Year 10 pupils was on the theme of Personal Safety. The day included a presentation by Wasted Lives from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service.

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

Mr Taylor, who lead the day, said "Given the tragic news which our school community has had to digest this school year, the day took on particular poignancy for all involved.

"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."



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After Five Years, We Bid Farewell to Priory's Year 11s

Monday marked an emotional milestone as our Year 11 pupils spent their final day together at Priory.

This year group's journey has been unlike any other. They began their high school experience in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, transitioning from primary school during lockdown. Despite the challenges, they've shown remarkable resilience, determination, and growth - qualities that have defined their time with us far more than the circumstances they started in.

Following their morning Physics exam, the celebrations began in earnest at break time. Under glorious sunshine, pupils gathered in the Priory Gardens for the tradition of shirt-signing with laughter, sadness, and messages of friendship.

The day continued with a Celebration Assembly, led by Mr Eastham, Mrs Cowell, and Head of Year Mrs Bullock. Pupils were recognised for their achievements with a host of well-deserved certificates, awards, and trophies. The highlight of the assembly was a nostalgic farewell presentation, featuring photos from their early school days, shared memories, and reflections on what makes this year group so special. There were plenty of giggles - and a few cringes - as pupils looked back on their time at Priory.



Continued overleaf...



Learn to Succeed

... Continued from front page.

To mark the occasion, every pupil received a small keepsake from Mrs Bullock, including a Class of 2025 keyring handmade by the Technology department ,and a card with this inspiring message:

"As you close this chapter and step into the next, remember how far you've come and how much potential you hold. The future is bright, and so are you – so keep dreaming big, working hard, and most importantly, keep shining your unique light wherever you go. Wishing you all the luck, laughter and success in the world. You've got this!"

The pride and emotion were shared by families too. Parents expressed their admiration on our social media:

"To think they started high school in the middle of the Covid-19 era and yet, here they are finishing strong, not defined by how it all began, but by the determination, growth, and positivity they've shown along the way."

"Started in lockdown and gone from strength to strength. Well done all – enjoy your well-deserved summer break."

While some pupils returned for final exams later in the week, we look forward to welcoming everyone back in school on 21 August for their GCSE results, and of course, celebrating in style at the Prom on 25 June.

We wish all our Year 11 pupils the very best in their future endeavours, and extend our heartfelt thanks to parents and guardians for their unwavering support throughout the years.

Now, with wings ready to soar, our pupils leave Priory to follow their dreams wherever those paths may lead.

Enjoy the summer, everyone!



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Class of 2025: The Prom

CLASS OF
2025

This year group certainly knew how to celebrate their Penwortham Priory Academy finale in style!

Proms are occasions renowned for their glitz and glamour and this year was no exception, with sharp suits and stunning gowns. The event, held at Bartle Hall, Preston, 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 for the past five years.

The pupils arrived in spectacular fashion in vehicles of many shapes and sizes, from trucks and tractors to motorbikes and a cavalcade of sports cars. Our photographer was ready to capture the moment with proud parents watching on.

Awards, put together by both pupils and staff ensued after the buffet meal and it seemed the photo booth was a huge hit (though we'll keep those snaps under wraps for now!). The evening tailed away with some moves on the dance floor and many farewell hugs at the end of a very memorable night.

A huge thank you to Head of Year 11, Mrs Bullock, for making the event so special, and to our pupils for making it truly unforgettable.

It was a fabulously deserved celebration to round off Class of 2025's time at Priory. We look forward to seeing everyone again on GCSE results day Thursday, 21 August.



The photographer's link to the gallery of images taken on the night has now been emailed to Year 11 parents where they can download and share their favourites. Photos taken on the school's iPad can be accessed by pupils on the Year 11 Teams.



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2025



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Japanese Club Bids Sayōnara for the Summer



Every Wednesday lunchtime in MFL1, a group of enthusiastic pupils gathers for our Japanese Club. Open to all year groups, the club offers a relaxed and welcoming space to explore the Japanese language, culture, and even the art of origami.

Led by the wonderfully dedicated Mrs Small, a local Japanese resident who volunteers her time each week, the club has become a firm favourite among pupils for a number of years.

While the sessions are informal and fun, Mrs Small's passion for her native country has inspired some pupils to take their interest further - one former student even achieved a GCSE in Japanese, and two current Year 10 pupils are preparing to sit the exam next summer.

This week marked the final session of the summer term, as Mrs Small prepares to travel back to Japan to visit her family. To show their appreciation, the group, along with Head of Languages Mrs Scully, presented her with a card and flowers as a heartfelt thank you for her commitment and kindness.



Japanese Club will return in the autumn term, and all pupils are welcome to join. Whether you're curious about the language, love origami, or just want to try something new - come along and give it a go.



Learn to Succeed

Year 10 Pupil Celebrates the Opening of Preston's New Youth Centre

Last week, we shared the news that Year 10 pupil, Taejuan, would be helping to launch the brand-new Foxton Youth & Community Centre in Avenham, a project he has been passionately involved with for over three years. We're now pleased to report that the centre officially opened its doors on Friday 20 June, with Taejuan playing a key role in the celebrations.

The opening event welcomed guests including local dignitaries, community leaders, and representatives from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. Taejuan, alongside other young people who helped shape the project, gave speeches, led tours, and shared the story of how the centre came to life - from the successful £2.4 million funding bid to the design and development of the new space.

Taejuan said: "It was brilliant showing the MP, the Mayor and people from the BBC and media around.

"I was very proud of it all and being a part of it. We were there for hours but it was exciting."

The new facility, located on Knowsley Street in Preston, replaces the original 1969 building and has been designed with young people at its heart. It features a kitchen, wellbeing and gaming rooms, a rooftop terrace, and a multi-purpose hall - all chosen and shaped by the youth forum Taejuan is part of. He also contributed to a video campaign early in the project, highlighting the need for a modern, inclusive space for young people in the area.

"We are now open to the public and it's nice to see the children come in. I have been volunteering with them and it's great when they come inside and see all the new facilities. We have attracted a lot of new people.

"My favourite parts of it are the gaming room, where we have an X-Box and a Playstation, and the sports hall, although it's bit smaller than Priory's!"

Taejuan's involvement has been described as "a testament to his commitment to making a difference in his community," and we couldn't be prouder of his achievements.

We look forward to seeing how Taejuan continues to inspire others through his dedication.

***Photos courtesy of Blog Preston*



Learn to Succeed

Celebrating Eid al-Adha with Sweet Treats and Shared Culture



On Friday, 13 June a group of 30 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a vibrant celebration to mark Eid al-Adha, one of the most significant festivals in the Islamic calendar.

Organised by Mrs Karodia, the event aimed to foster cultural awareness and understanding, promote inclusivity, and community spirit among pupils of all backgrounds.

The celebration took place at Cube Desserts in Preston, where pupils enjoyed a delicious meal and dessert. The evening was filled with fun games, laughter, and the chance to learn more about the traditions and meaning behind Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha, also known as the Festival of Sacrifice, commemorates the devotion of Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) and is a time for prayer, charity, and festive gatherings. The event provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to explore these themes in a relaxed and joyful setting.



Mrs Karodia said, "The pupils embraced the spirit of the occasion, engaging in conversations, asking questions, and building friendships across different year groups and faiths. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, reflecting the inclusive values our school strives to uphold."

"A heartfelt thank you to all the pupils and staff who participated, making the evening a truly memorable occasion!"

A big thank you to Mrs Karodia for organising such a meaningful and memorable evening. Events like these help us grow not only in knowledge but also strengthen our community and appreciation for the diverse world we live in.



Learn to Succeed

Year 10 Pupils Take First Steps To Qualify As Peer Mentors



Last week, a second cohort of Year 10 pupils began their first of two workshops to qualify as Peer Mentors.

To become a Peer Mentor pupils must attend two full day training sessions in school with external trainer, Mr Tahir Mahmood, where they are given an introduction to mentoring and 'buddying' younger ones.

Peer mentoring can support children and young people by:

- Enhancing social competence,
- Building security within the setting and wider community by realising their worth as social beings,
- Improving attendance and educational attainment whilst
- Developing friendship skills in a positive environment.



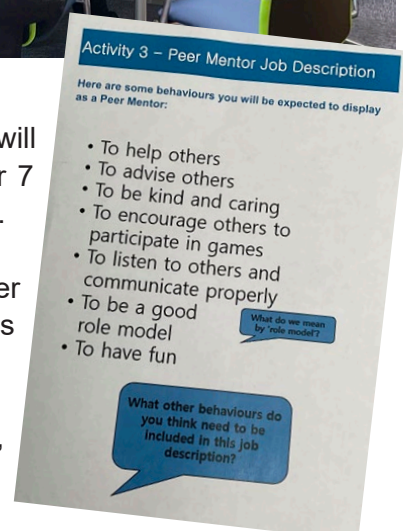
During the sessions pupils will develop their listening and team working skills, they will discuss scenarios that they could come across and how they can manage them effectively. Among other tasks, pupils participate in role plays and communication challenges across five strands to gain a 10 hour ASDAN accredited certificate. They also bag themselves a £25 gift voucher as a reward.



Ms Smith, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, said, "In September we will have a Peer Mentor station in the Hex and they will be there for our new Year 7 pupils whilst they are finding their feet and have questions about our procedures.

"It is great that these pupils want to give up their own time to support our younger pupils. Not only does this course boost their motivation and confidence but makes the perfect addition to a college application or CV too."

The second and final session will take place on 7 July. Well done to Phoebe W, Eleanor R, Noah W, Yusuf K, Haniya A.



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Late Admissions Accepted After Appeal*



Unfortunately one parent hadn't heard the news that our admissions have now closed and we are over-subscribed for our 2025 intake.

Earlier this week, a determined duck and her fluffy entourage of nine ducklings attempted to enrol at Priory - clearly impressed by our reputation for outstanding facilities and pastoral care!

After a brief (and very cute) attempt to waddle through the front doors, they were sent on their way. However, Mother Duck wasn't having any of it and has taken refuge in the Mediterranean Garden until we receive her appeal.

While we can't offer them a timetable or a locker, we're happy to welcome them as honorary members of our school community. Their arrival has certainly added a splash of joy and we'll be keeping a close eye on their progress as they settle into their temporary waterside accommodation.

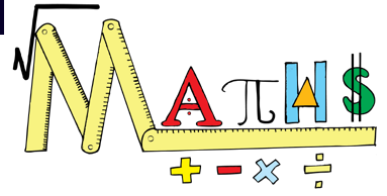
It's not every day you get a reminder of how lucky we are to work in such a beautiful, nature-rich environment, but this little family certainly made sure we didn't forget!

**policy applies to cute ducklings only*



Learn to Succeed

Calculated Success for Priory at Maths College



Four top Priory pupils celebrated winning a tough maths competition at LUSoM (Lancashire University School of Mathematics) on Thursday.



**LANCASTER UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS**

Head of Maths Mr Kenrick selected a team of four Year 7 and 8 pupils who had excelled in the recent UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, run by the UK Maths Trust.

Zach, who was the Best in School at the recent UKMT competition, alongside Kayden, Adam and Dexter all spent the morning at LUSoM taking part in solving maths puzzles and problems.

There were 13 schools from across Lancashire competing for the top prize - with Priory pupils celebrating first place.

Zach said: "It was similar to the UKMT Challenge. There was a lot of problem solving. We were happy to win as a team."



They each won a goody bag full of items like calculators, a puzzle game and more.

Mr Kenrick said: "It was a hard competition but we were delighted to come first.

"It was good to go to LUSoM. We had a Year 12 looking after us. He told us all about LUSoM, how they have a drop down curriculum to do puzzles one day, all about the different modules and also opportunities at BAE Systems and Dyson.

"He talked really positively about the college and it is the best college for maths around here so to win the competition there means a lot."

Reward Trip Day

A Wild Day Out at Blackpool Zoo



On Tuesday, 24 June, a group of our well-deserving pupils enjoyed a fantastic day out at Blackpool Zoo as part of this year's Rewards Trips.

These trips were organised to recognise pupils who have consistently demonstrated excellent behaviour, strong attendance, and upheld the Priory standard throughout the academic year.

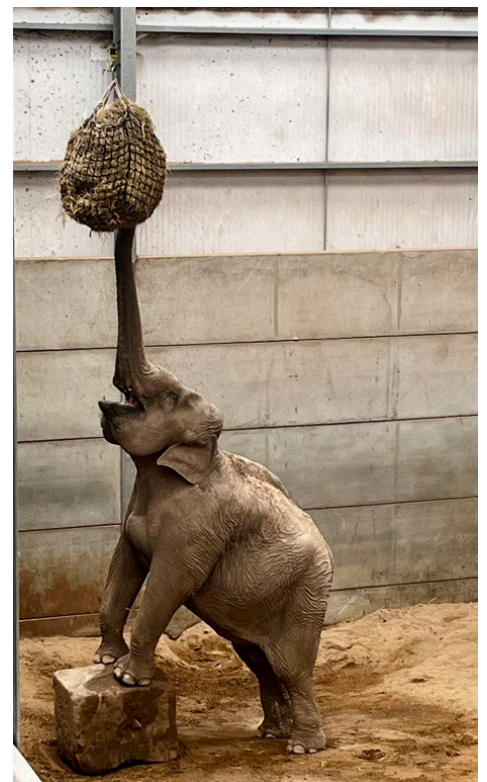
The zoo trip was one of three options offered, alongside visits to the Trafford Centre and Blackpool Pleasure Beach. With limited places available, the lucky few who chose the zoo were treated to a day filled with fascinating creatures.

Travelling by school minibus, the group arrived ready to explore. One of the highlights of the day - captured in a cracking photo - was when a particularly cheeky rainbow lorikeet decided to perch on Vice Principal Mrs Cowell's head during a feeding session!



These trips were not only a reward but also a chance for pupils to relax, bond with friends, and enjoy a memorable experience outside the classroom. A big thank you to the staff who accompanied the trips, and those who organised enrichment activities for pupils who chose to stay in school, and of course, to Mrs Massey for co-ordinating the whole day - no mean feat!

We look forward to seeing even more pupils earning their place on next year's adventures!



Learn to Succeed



Year 10 Business Pupils Find An Enterprising Way For Charity Fundraising

Our Year 10 Business & Enterprise pupils are currently taking part in the Derian House £50 Junior Business Challenge, a fantastic initiative that encourages young people to develop their entrepreneurial skills while raising vital funds for Derian House.

The overall aim of this challenge is to grow the original £50, which the charity loans to us, into a larger sum. All proceeds from the events taking place will go directly to Derian House, helping them continue their invaluable work supporting children and families across our region.

Our Business pupils have been split into six groups where each group has come up with fundraising ideas and created a business plan to raise money for Derian House.

Taking part in this event will support students in gaining practical experience in being confident and presenting their ideas to a senior decision maker; organising an event to gain a profit (for donating to Derian House); organising finances; networking and negotiating whilst considering external factors such as the school day, litter, safeguarding themselves and their audience; developing a marketing strategy and being ready to adapt if things go wrong – working through any challenges. They have all put their plans before Principal Mr Eastham, who has approved them.

Shreya said: “My group is organising a house non-uniform day and it’s £1 to do it. We are also going to see if we can get some donations from Tesco and sell things on the day.”



Alan said: “Our plan is to sell confectionery and we have chosen Sports Day as we think

that’s the day when most people will be in one place and will want to buy treats and so we will be able to sell more.”

Darcey said: “Our idea is a bake sale and each of our group is baking something to sell. We are also going to host a 'guess how many sweets in a jar' and 'guess the name of the teddy' activities. We learnt about Derian House when they came in to give us a talk and we all know it’s a very good cause to raise money for.”

Steven said: “We are organising a charity football game which will be held on Monday, 7 July after school – school football team v non-school football team – and also a penalty shoot-out where we are hoping to get the teachers involved.”

Charlie said: “We are going to do a car wash and wash the staff’s cars on the last week of school.”

Continued overleaf...





... continued

Zain added: "I am used to cleaning cars at home so I think I can do a good job! I have enjoyed GCSE Business, I want to

be a top business entrepreneur!"

Archie said: "My group is going to have a raffle. We have been around the local businesses and asked for donations."

Lewis added: "The Derian House talk was interesting and it inspired us as a group to try and raise as much as we can."



As a school we feel very privileged to have such great relationships with local businesses in the area. We have received some fantastic donations to use as raffle prizes - more on this will be posted in our newsletter, social media and Year Group Teams. Alongside these donations, Halfords has donated items to support our car wash and Smyths has donated the teddy which will feature in the 'guess the name of the teddy' activity.

SCOPay is now live to purchase raffle tickets, non-uniform day contributions and face painting. There is also a permission slip (see SCOPay) which must be completed by parents if pupils would like their face painted on Sports Day.



Alongside the events on the poster opposite, students are also hosting a staff car wash on the last week with Halfords donating the equipment. We also have a group hosting a Year 10 charity football match on Monday, 7 July after school.

May we thank all families in advance for your support towards our pupil's business challenge and the work they are doing to raise money for Derian House



Culture Day Fundraising Appreciation

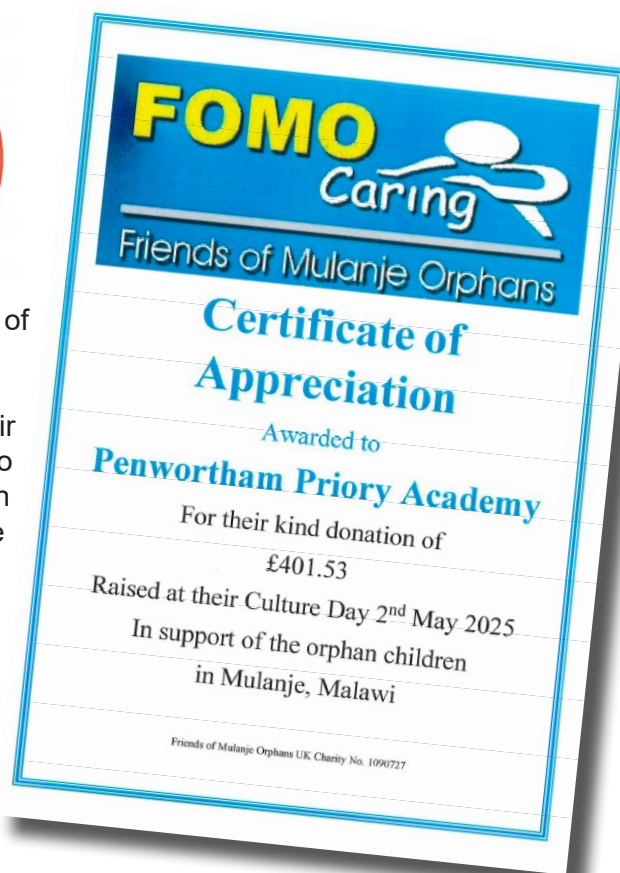


Following the Culture Day back in May, we have received this Certificate of Appreciation from Friends of Mulanje Orphans (Malawi) (FOMO).

Pupils were asked to donate £1 if they chose to wear their own clothes on Culture Day, and the fundraising was added to further with henna painting and a food sale. All money raised in donations from the event went to the charity, and together we raised over £400!

FOMO is a charity which runs 14 centres, caring for 2,000 orphans in Africa. The orphans are provided with food, clothes, blankets, mosquito nets, education, medical fees and most of all, love and support.

Well done to everyone who contributed. We look forward to celebrating our diversity, faiths and cultures again next year!



Well done to Year 11 leaver, Rosie Statters, who was spotted in this Farmer's Weekly Facebook post.

Arriving in style at last Thursday's Prom held at Bartle Hall, Rosie appeared twice in the post which currently has over 8.1k likes!



Learn to succeed

Year 8 Can Look To The Stars With GCSE Astronomy in September



Priory is hoping more pupils will be seeing stars and signing up to GCSE Astronomy.

Year 8s can now sign up to the Astronomy Club, with a view to sitting GCSE Astronomy in Year 10, which will start in September and runs after school for one hour a week during term time until 4.10pm.

Science Technician Mr Evans will take pupils through Cosmology, Exploring Starlight, Stellar Evolution and Planetary Motion.

He said: "This is for any Year 8 (going into Year 9) interested in astronomy to just come along and find out what it's all about. If you decide to do GCSE Astronomy, it's great practice for Year 11 as you sit it in Year 10."

"We cover a lot of topics, such as looking at galaxies, and the maths involved in the motions of planets around the sun. We overlap with physics in parts."

"There is coursework and an optional 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. It's just an added extra – a bonus GCSE if you will."



Year 10 Freya has just sat her Astronomy GCSE. She said: "I took it because I like physics and it's interesting looking at the stars and space."

Wictoria said: "It's an extra GCSE, it's something different and I have enjoyed it."

Evie added: "I really like physics, I want to take it at A-Level, and it has got a lot of astronomy in it. I found the part where we studied alien life really interesting."

"To anyone thinking of taking it I would say give it a go. You have nothing to lose. It's an extra GCSE and it's an impressive one as not a lot of schools do it."



There is only a limited number of places so if you're currently in Year 8 and would like to take part make sure you pick up a letter from Mr Evans (you'll find him in the Science Prep Room) or see your Science teacher.

Letters will also go out in Science lessons in the first days of September for pupils to sign up.

Parents can email j.evans@priory.lancs.sch.uk with any enquiries.

Learn to Succeed

From Primary to Priory The 2025 Science Competition



Last week, Year 5 pupils from our partner primary schools joined us for our annual science competition. Pupils went head to head in a range of activities to see which school would come out on top.

The afternoon began with a science quiz on an array of topics before moving on to identifying adaptations of organisms and how these adaptations helped them to survive.

For the practical round, pupils tested some very similar looking white powders and had to carry out scientific experiments on them to deduce the identification of each one. There was fierce debate between salt and sugar before deciding!

After a round of identifying hazards in a science lab, each group was given a maze, a magnet and a metal object. This was a relay to see how quickly the four members of the team could successfully navigate their way around.

Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, said, "This was a close-fought battle to the end with New Longton All Saints and Lostock Hall Primary School in a tie-break situation."



With one question on the periodic table, Lostock Hall Community Primary School was declared the overall winner and left with the accolade.

Both schools have now been invited to return with their class to have an afternoon of science with us. These will be planned individually to meet the needs and interests of the schools. Notably, with last year's winners requesting a session on dissections!

"The feedback from the school was very positive and has given me some great ideas to start planning next years' event", Mrs Potter concluded.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Business Pupils Find Enterprising Ways You Can Support Them To Support Our Charity

Derian House Fundraising Week: Monday 14 July – Friday 18 July



Our Year 10 Business & Enterprise pupils are taking part in the Derian House £50 Junior Business Challenge – a fantastic initiative that helps develop entrepreneurial skills while raising funds for a very worthy cause.

During the final week of term (Monday 14 – Friday 18 July), the group has organised a range of fundraising activities, with all proceeds going directly to the charity.

Some require a contribution via SCOPay however, some activities will require cash, so we are asking parents and pupils to please do check which events you may wish to take part in. Alongside the events on the poster (see back page), students are also hosting a staff car wash during our last week, with Halfords donating the equipment.

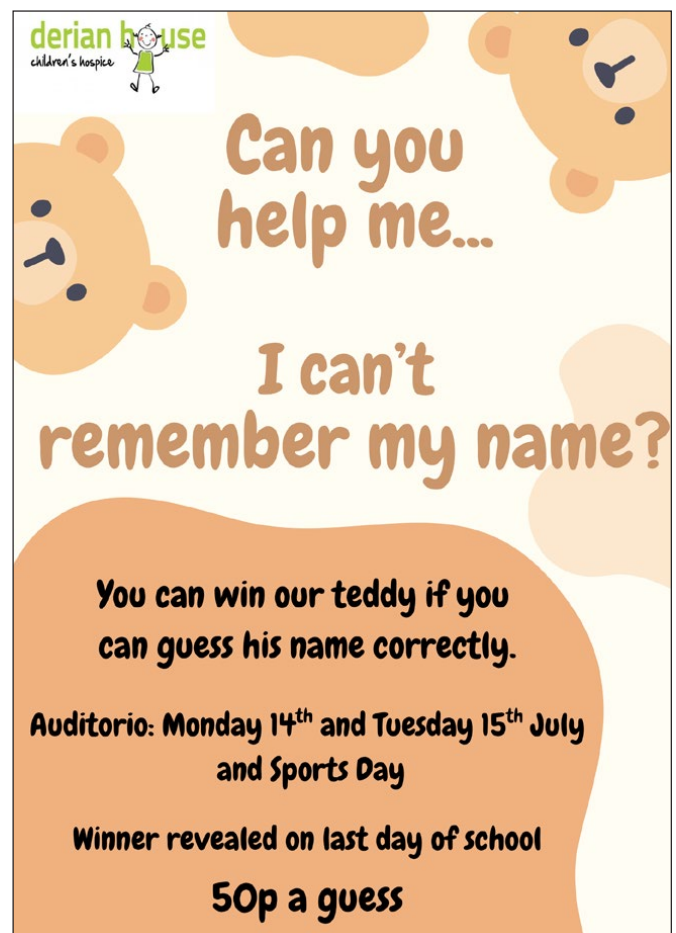
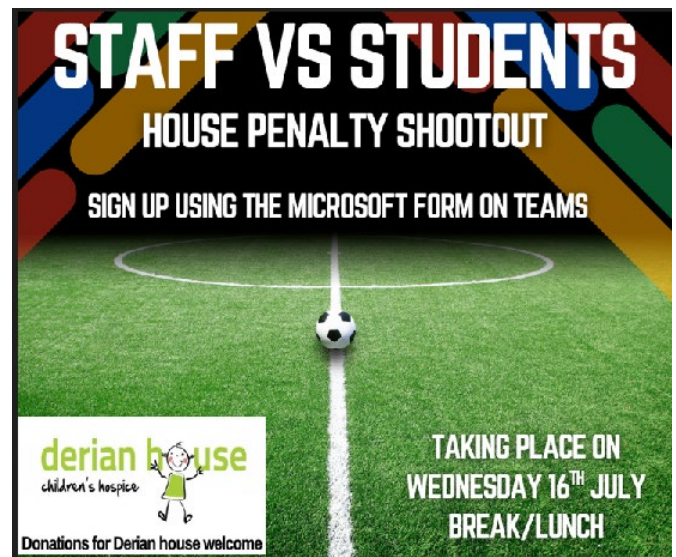
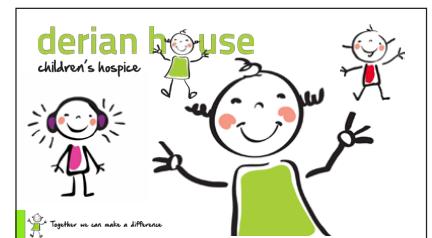
Parents can pay for some of the activities via SCOPay:

- Raffle tickets - £1 per strip
- House colours face painting on sports day (inc permission slip) - 50p
- House colours non-uniform day - £1

Pupils will need to bring cash if they wish to take part in:

- Guess the name of the teddy - 50p a guess
- Guess the number of sweets - 50p a guess
- Bake sale
- Pupils vs staff penalty shootout (donations bucket)
- Confectionery stall (sports day)

May we thank all families in advance for your support towards our pupils' business challenge and the work they are doing to raise money for Derian House.



Learn to succeed

Priory Welcomes Its 2025 Intake



This week we were delighted to welcome our new intake of pupils and their families as they began their journey with us at Priory.

Wednesday evening saw our New Pupil & Parent event, where families had the opportunity to meet key staff, ask questions, and gather essential information about uniform, transport, and the transition to high school. Mr Eastham addressed parents in the Assembly Hall, introducing the school's values, expectations, and support systems.

Meanwhile, in the Auditorio, Mrs Farley welcomed our new pupils and introduced them to their future classmates. Year 7 pupil, Angel, spoke confidently about her own experiences of starting at Priory, before the children spent time getting to know their Form Tutors in their new environment.

On Thursday, our new pupils returned for their official Transition Day. The day began with a welcome from Mr Eastham in the Assembly Hall, followed by some fun icebreaker activities—including a lively game of pupil bingo! Pupils then took part in taster lessons in English, Maths and PE, helping them get a feel for the school day and build confidence ahead of September.



Mrs Farley, who has been visiting pupils in their primary schools over the past few months, said: "It was such a joy to finally have the whole year group together for their Transition Day. There was a real buzz of excitement in the air, and although a few pupils arrived with understandable nerves, they quickly settled in and

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Learn to Succeed

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embraced the day. From exploring the school site to getting stuck into lessons and activities, they really impressed us with their enthusiasm and curiosity. I'm confident they'll make a fantastic start in September – and I know many are already looking forward to Summer School!"

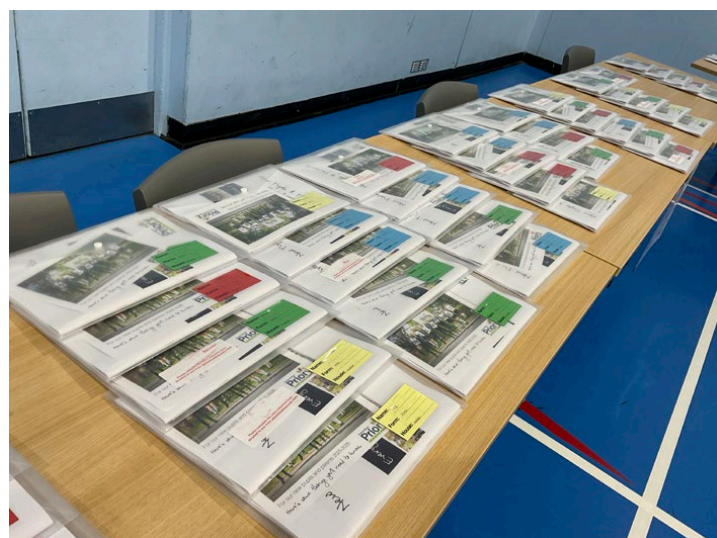
Before heading home, our Year 7 helpers gave the new pupils a guided tour of the school, including our award-winning gardens, the Hex, Technology block, sports facilities, and more.

A huge thank you to our brilliant Year 7 and Year 10 helpers who supported both events – your kindness and leadership made a big difference!

All parents should now have received a 'First Day Arrangements' letter, which is also available to download at:

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/transition

We look forward to seeing many of our new pupils again at Summer School on 19 & 20 August, and welcoming everyone officially on Tuesday, 2 September.



Learn to succeed

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!

Zach said: "I like the teachers. It is different to primary school as you definitely get more homework and you walk between lessons."

"I do the football training every Thursday and the 3D Printing Club every Friday."

Charlotte said: "I like that there are more people than at primary school and I have made friends easily. I enjoy PE the best."

Emeli said: "I like History and PE. I go to Drama Club after school and am part of the football team."

"It's a lot bigger than primary school. I was a little nervous when I first came but I soon settled in."

Harry said: "I like lunchtimes as I get to talk to my friends. My favourite subject is PE."

Fynn said: "I enjoy it at Priory. I like lunchtime. I like pain au chocolat and chicken wraps. I like PE and play badminton, basketball and also football training."

"It was different when I came here but I took it all in my stride."

Niall: "I like all the subjects and the teachers are

nice. I attend Graphic Design Club and Textile Club. I like making things, I am making a dog for my sister."

"I was nervous when I first came here as I only had one friend but I have made a lot of friends. To any Year 6s, I would say don't be nervous and you will always make friends."



From Paintbrushes to Pastry – A Fond Farewell to Mrs Cowell

After 24 years' service at Priory as an Art teacher and then Food Technology teacher, as well as being Vice Principal, Mrs Cowell is hanging up her paint brushes and apron, and retiring.

"I think you reach a point in your career where you think 'what's next?' and I always think you should leave on a high. Having just had the latest Ofsted inspection and maintaining our 'Good' rating I'm leaving on that high. The judgement reflects the hard work of everyone at Priory and it's testament to the fantastic staff, a team I've been instrumental in forming and guiding, making Priory as amazing as it is.

"We have created a challenging and strong curriculum and achieved such a lot in the 24 years I have been here. Now I think it's time for someone else to take the teaching and learning reins to take the next steps."



Mrs Cowell said she loved Art at school which also, quite unusually, led to a passion for baking.

"Baking is something I have done since I was a child. I had an amazing art teacher in a chap called Mr Taylor. When I was around 14 he set a task to 'make a cake that's not a cake.' I made a tortoise and it has sparked a passion in me. It wasn't just the baking, although what's inside is important, but it was about the sculpture too.

"I went on to study Fine Art, specialising in Sculpture, at university which is why I became an art teacher first.

"Then around five years ago, I made the transition to Food Technology teacher after Ms Lewis-Lavender retired. It was a great opportunity and I have learnt so much from doing it and loved sharing my passion for cooking and baking with the pupils."

Before becoming a teacher, Mrs Cowell worked for five years at a psychiatric hospital before going into teaching in her late 20s.

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“Some people said it was good grounding! I enjoyed it and I have some unusual stories from my time there. I actually have a British Amateur Weight-Lifting certificate as I had to train to take patients into the gym!

“I was thinking about the ambulance service or occupational therapy before taking that job in occupational therapy, but a number of people in my family were teachers – my mum and grandma were teachers – so I decided to take that route and I guess I have never looked back.”

After three years as an Art teacher in Colne, Mrs Cowell came to Priory as Head of Art in September 2001. In 2014, she was appointed Vice Principal and more recently she has become a Food Technology teacher as well. Anyone who has seen and tasted Mrs Cowell's creations knows how talented she is at this!

“I have never been overly ambitious,” said Mrs Cowell.

“I came to Priory and became Head of Art but I never had a big ambition to be a head teacher or anything like that, I have just seized opportunities which have come my way.

“I have done such a lot since I have been at Priory. I have taught art, I was part of the teacher training process as a professional mentor for trainee teachers. I've been a Head of House and an Assistant Head – I think I have only missed out Head of Year!



“I have always been dedicated to teaching since I came into the profession – it's always been about what is best for the pupils.”

Mrs Cowell has looked into becoming a Youth Leader in September but is still considering her future.

“I won't miss the traffic from Blackburn! I will, of course, miss the staff and the pupils though, and teaching Food Technology.

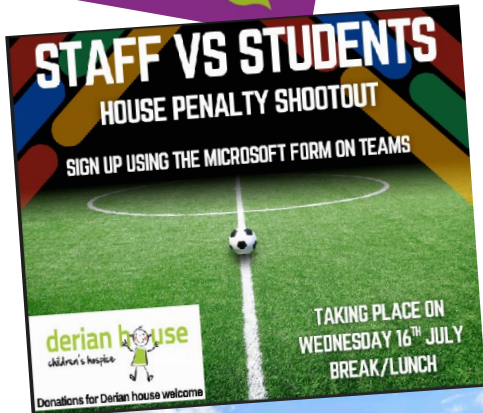
“I have so many funny stories I could tell about the pupils but I won't embarrass anyone. Teenagers are hilarious and a lot of fun to work with! There have been so many positive memories and I have made friends for life. It's been a big part of my life and I'm honoured that I have had the opportunity to play my part in making Priory the brilliant school it is.”

Mrs Cowell has donated an olive tree which will be planted by gardener Mr Faron in Priory's gardens symbolising knowledge and giving a nod to her Greek heritage and her passion for food teaching. Who knows, it might grow big enough for pupils to sit under and draw too!



On Wednesday, 9 July after school, staff and special guests gathered for a valedictory celebration in the Priory Garden where they enjoyed coffee and cake. Our MaBaL (Music at Break and Lunch) during the week was also entirely chosen by Mrs Cowell and included such classics as Aretha Franklin's 'Respect', DJ Jazzy Jeff & The French Prince's 'Summertime' and Nora Jones' 'Come Away with Me'.

Learn to succeed



Year 10 Business & Enterprise Pupils' Fundraising Week

Our Year 10 Business & Enterprise pupils are taking part in the Derian House £50 Junior Business Challenge and during this week the group has organised a range of fundraising activities, with all proceeds going directly to the charity.

With some events still on-going, here's what they have been up to so far.

Thank you to all our parents and local businesses who have supported them along the way!

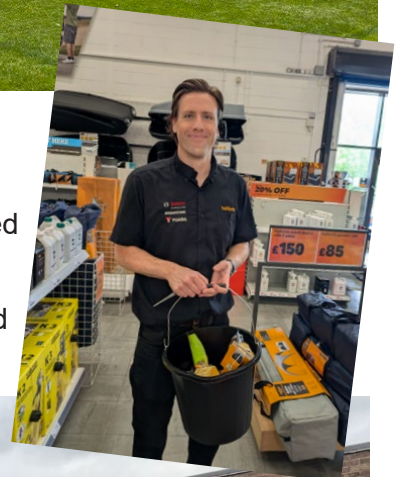
Wednesday lunchtime's staff v students penalty shoot-out.



Staff Car Wash

Well done to Dev, Charlie, Ciello and Zain, and their helpers, who have worked tirelessly washing staff's - and some visitors' - cars throughout the week.

A particular thank you goes to Halfords for donating the car shampoo, sponges and other essential resources.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Business & Enterprise Pupils' Fundraising Week



Bake Sale

And they all sold like hot cakes too!



Raffle

Local businesses have been tremendously generous and have donated some smashing prizes for our raffle.



Tickets are still available via SCOPay for parents to purchase up until 2pm on Thursday (17th). £1 per strip.

The winners of the raffle, sweet jar and guess the name of the teddy will be announced at the end of Thursday.

Learn to succeed

Reaching New Heights: House Rewards Climbing Wall Experience



Pupils from Douglas House – this year's House winners – were treated to a thrilling climbing wall experience as a reward for their outstanding contribution through a series of competitions, challenges and other House events, in addition to demonstrating good behaviour and attitude to learning throughout the year.

The mobile climbing wall was set up in the school yard, offering a fun and challenging activity for pupils to enjoy with their peers. With some extra spaces available, the opportunity was also extended to pupils from other Houses who have made a positive impact across the school.



Organiser and Calder House Leader, Mrs Massey, said "The pupils' behaviour and effort was excellent. It was great to see pupils trying something new and showing great resilience to beat the wall, trying different routes. The service provider commented on the great behaviour, politeness and enthusiasm of Priory pupils".



It was a fantastic way to celebrate the team contribution and to end the year on a high – quite literally!



Learn to succeed

Summer Arts Festival 2025

Pupils took to the floor in our Auditorio last Tuesday evening where our audience was once again treated to some outstanding performances.

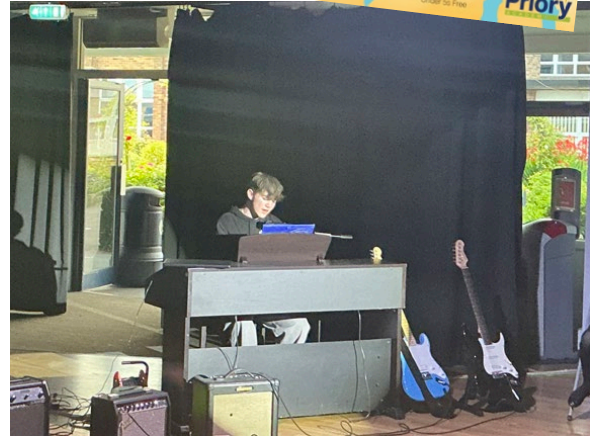
"Every year we are so impressed with the range of talented pupils we have here," said Lead Teacher of Music, Mr Taylor. "They never cease to surprise us. It's great to watch how their talents have developed and how they are growing into such confident performers."

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. We also enjoyed a number of Year 11s performing for the very final time as we wish them all the best for the future.

We were pleased to see our Year 7 pupils confidently show their creative talents and confidence in front of a live audience which bodes very well for future productions and concerts.

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 showcase of GCSE artwork and a mini exhibition of Key Stage 3 2D and 3D designs which made it a truly memorable evening to experience all of the Creative Arts in one place.



Learn to succeed



Learn to succeed

Year 7s Lend a Hand at Penwortham Primary Sports Day



A group of our enthusiastic Year 7 pupils stepped up to support Penwortham Primary School with their annual sports day on 8 July.

The pupils helped run events, cheered on the younger children, and represented Priory brilliantly throughout the morning.

PE Teacher, Mrs Bullock, said "It was a fantastic opportunity for them to give back to one of our local primary partners and show leadership in action. Well done to everyone involved!"

Well done to Luna C, Avalyn H-V, Amaya M, Charlotte M, Joshua S, Benjamin W, Ellie M, Charlie H, Ava G, Eva B, Charlotte C, Emily G, Freya B, Isla D, Emeli P, Niamh K.



Learn to succeed

Eco Club Returns to Brighten Up Leyland Road



Last week, four of our dedicated Eco Club members returned to Leyland Road to continue their community gardening project - an initiative they've proudly supported over the past year.

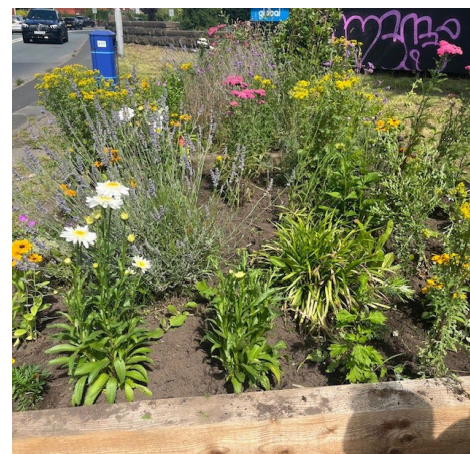
Working alongside South Ribble Borough Council, the team focused on revitalising the planter they've helped maintain through previous visits. With gloves on and tools in hand, four enthusiastic pupils rolled up their sleeves to weed and plant a fresh selection of greenery.

Mrs Massey, who accompanied the group, praised their efforts: "This is a site we've worked on twice before, and the impact of our hard work is really starting to show. The boys worked incredibly hard, and in just two hours, we managed to get all the new plants in. It's made such a difference - the planter is looking fantastic!"



The Eco Club continues to demonstrate how small acts of care and teamwork can make a big difference in our local environment. Anyone who is interested in joining up with the club should see Science teacher, Mrs Massey in SC1.

Well done to Year 8 Harley H and Harry W and Year 9 Kenzie S and Alex B.



Learn to succeed

Feathered Guests Prepare for Their Next Journey



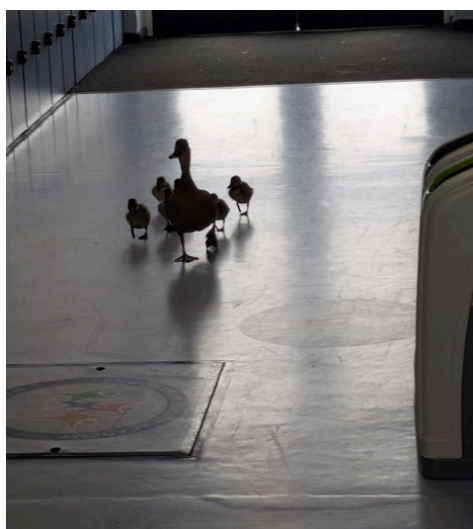
Before the summer term comes to an end, we thought we would update you on our beloved duck family.

The mother duck and her remaining ducklings continue to capture our smiles and are growing stronger each day, thanks to the care of our staff and the peaceful sanctuary they've found in our Mediterranean Garden.

Though we sadly lost three ducklings, the resilience of the rest of the brood has been remarkable. Head of English, Ms Beswick, has become a familiar morning presence by the pond, feeding and chatting with the ducks before lessons begin.

Meanwhile, our gardener Mr Farron has happily become their guide, taking them on early morning walks through the corridors to prepare them for their upcoming relocation - much to the amusement of staff and pupils! Next week, he will accompany them to their new home at the Ribble estuary, where they'll continue their journey in the wild.

We'll miss our feathered visitors dearly. Safe travels, little ones!



Learn to succeed

Clara's Karting Sponsorship Dreams To Race Ahead



Year 9 Clara is accelerating toward success both on and off the track.

Over the weekend, Clara took another step in her go-karting journey by attending the Goodwood Festival of Speed, a national motorsport event in Chichester, where she pitched her passion and potential to prospective sponsors. With her sights set on the next level of competition, Clara is seeking support to fuel her ambitions and continue making waves in the world of karting.

Clara spent the day engaging with exhibiting companies, showcasing her achievements and determination in hopes of securing sponsorship that will provide the financial backing needed to progress in the sport.

Her impressive track record includes qualifying for the UK regional championships in the 2024-25 season. Most recently, she was named a 'Trafford Titan' at the prestigious TeamSport venue in Manchester, an accolade that adds to her growing collection of awards.

Clara's confidence and skill behind the wheel continue to flourish, and she's fast becoming a role model for young girls entering the sport. Her success is helping to raise the profile of female go-karting nationally, inspiring the next generation of racers.

You can follow Clara's journey on Instagram >>

@cmbkarting



Learn to succeed

Priory Take Third Place at Annual South Ribble Athletics Event

SPORTS REPORT

On 23 June, we took 44 pupils to Stanley Park in Blackpool to compete in the South Ribble U14s Athletics Competition, which featured athletes from 11 schools across the district.

It was a fantastic day of athletics, with pupils from Years 7, 8, and 9 representing the school across a wide range of track and field events. The competition was fierce, but our students rose to the challenge with determination, enthusiasm, and great team spirit.

There were outstanding individual performances throughout the day, with many pupils achieving personal bests and placing highly in their events. The support and encouragement among teammates created a positive and motivating atmosphere.

Year Group	Boys' Position	Girls' Position	Overall Position
Year 7	2nd	4th	2nd
Year 8	7th	3rd	4th
Year 9	6th	5th	5th

A special mention goes to Year 8 Hollie L who delivered an exceptional performance in the 200m event, breaking the South Ribble record with a remarkable run. Her achievement was one of the standout moments of the day and a proud highlight for the school.

PE Teacher and Head of Year 11, Mrs Bullock, said "We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who took part and represented the school with pride and passion. Finishing third overall out of 11 schools is a fantastic achievement - well done to everyone involved!"



Learn to Succeed



Year Group	Event	Name	Place
Year 7 Boys	100 Metres	Harvey R	2nd
Year 7 Boys	200 Metres	Reuben P	3rd
Year 7 Boys	Discus	Alegria A-M	1st
Year 7 Boys	Javelin	Keelan S	1st
Year 7 Boys	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 7 Boys	Shot Putt	Riley R	3rd
Year 7 Girls	1500 Metres	Ellie M	3rd
Year 7 Girls	Discus	Emily G	2nd
Year 7 Girls	Javelin	Charlotte C	2nd
Year 7 Girls	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 8 Boys	Triple Jump	Joe W	3rd
Year 8 Girls	200 Metres	Hollie L	1st New Record
Year 8 Girls	300 Metres	Willow P	2nd
Year 8 Girls	Relay	Relay Team	3rd
Year 9 Boys	Discus	Noah W	1st
Year 9 Girls	100 Metres	Millie D	1st



From Primary to Priory The 2025 Maths Challenge



Penwortham Priory Academy once again opened its doors to some of the brightest young mathematicians in the area for the second annual Priory Maths Challenge, held last week.

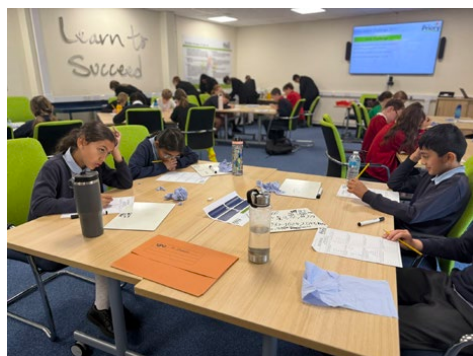
The event welcomed Year 5 pupils from six local primary schools, with seven teams competing in a fun-filled day of logic, puzzles, and problem-solving. The challenge was designed to stretch students' thinking and encourage teamwork, as well as featuring some solo challenges. Each round tested different mathematical skills, from number fluency and reasoning to spatial awareness and lateral thinking. Students collaborated, calculated, and competed with enthusiasm and determination.

Maths Teacher, Mr Evans, who co-ordinated the event said, "After a closely fought contest, Tarleton Community Primary School earned the runner-up spot with a commendable 179 points. But it was Lostock Hall Community Primary School who once again claimed the champion's trophy, defending their title with an impressive 191 points!

The event concluded with a celebratory presentation and plenty of smiles all around. Staff and student helpers were praised for their warm welcome and organisation, and the visiting pupils left inspired and proud of their achievements.

Special mention goes to our Year 9 helpers Emily, Saachi, Zara, Suzie, Alexis, Declan and Tancho.

We can't wait to see what next year's challenge brings!



Learn to succeed



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