

Summer 2026



Learn to succeed



An introduction from the Principal...

Dear All,

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

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

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

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

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

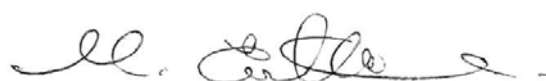
Whilst all the time, gaining opportunities, from reliable adults, on how to become good citizens of the future. *Their 'Learning for Life'.*

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

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

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

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



Mr Matt Eastham, Principal
Penwortham Priory Academy

A Full House For Priory's Easter Bingo

On Wednesday, 25 March the assembly hall was abuzz once again as Year 7 and Year 8 pupils and their families gathered for an Easter bingo fundraising event.



The evening was filled with fun and friendly competition as attendees vied for an array of egg-cellent prizes. Mr Eastham, our Principal, showcased his new-found talent as the number caller, adding a delightful change to his daytime role.

Each line win elicited cheers as winners received goodie bags brimming with chocolate treats. The stakes were raised for full house wins, which were awarded hampers packed with chocolate, wine, and assorted Easter gifts.

More fun and games followed with bonus prizes for the winners of 'Heads & Tails' which went down to the wire and brought many giggles with it!

Not forgetting the raffle, which featured a handcrafted floral planter from our award-winning gardener, Mr Farron (flowers donated by Newgate Nurseries).



The event proved to be a spectacular success, raising over £850, surpassing last year's figure and marking a significant contribution to our school's fundraising efforts.

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by our helpers - Year 10 Lily E, Reese L & Ria S and Year 8 Ava G.

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



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End-of-Term Rewards Day Brings Fun and a Well-Earned Break

Rewards

Pupils were treated to an action-packed session in the sports hall on Thursday, 26 March as part of our end-of-term rewards event.

Those who met the criteria — 95%+ attendance, positive behaviour choices, and consistently demonstrating the Priory Standard — each enjoyed a dedicated hour on a range of inflatable activities.

The sports hall was transformed into a giant playground, complete with inflatable assault courses featuring mangles, slides and hurdles, sumo wrestling suits, gladiator jousts and the ever-popular bungee run.

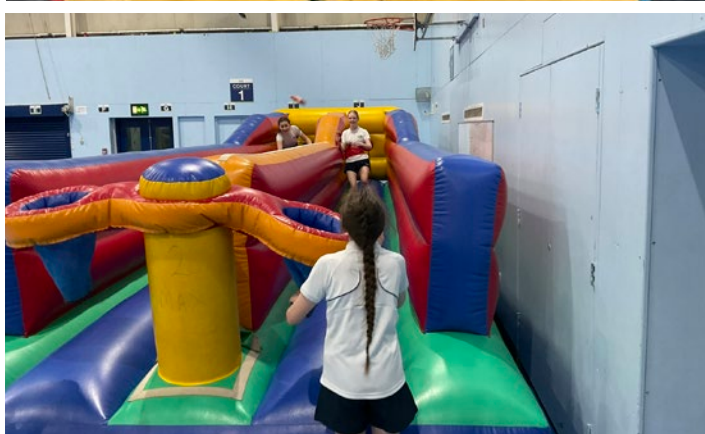
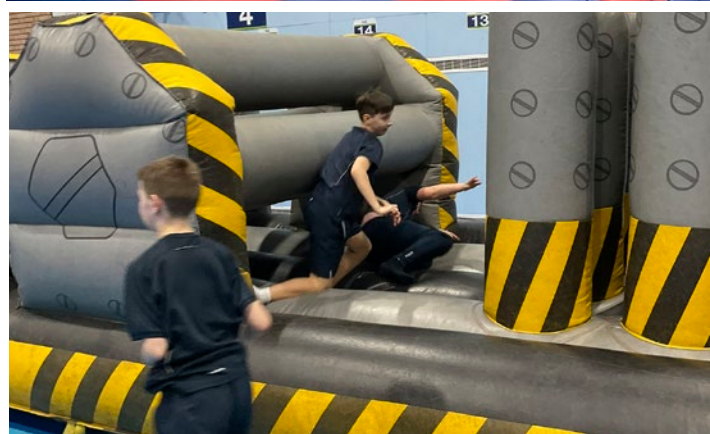
From the moment pupils stepped inside, the hall was filled with energy, encouragement and plenty of laughter. Pupils threw themselves into every challenge: racing head-to-head through the mangles, bouncing their way across obstacle courses, and battling friends in oversized sumo suits. The sumo ring proved especially popular, with pupils shuffling, spinning and toppling in padded suits that brought giggles to everyone watching.

Even the staff couldn't resist getting involved — with the PE department and Mr Mo having a sneaky go during break and lunch! Their attempts at the bungee run and jousting provided just as much entertainment for the pupils as the activities themselves.

The event was not only a celebration of positive behaviour and attendance, but also a chance for pupils to unwind, have fun and enjoy time with their peers after a busy term of hard work. The Pastoral Team would like to thank all pupils who qualified this term — their effort, attitude and commitment continue to embody what Priory stands for.

A huge thank you to House Leader Mrs Massey for organising the event, and to our families for their ongoing support.

We look forward to celebrating even more pupil successes next term!



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DofE Silver Tackles The Lakes for Activity Days



The DofE season here at Priory has really kicked off this month, with two of our Silver DofE groups heading out for their activity days in the Lake District.

We started last Monday at a very windy Wastwater, where both groups took to the canoes and embraced some challenging and at times chaotic water sports. On the way home, pupils stopped at McDonald's, and we allowed the students to choose the music for the drive back. This lasted a respectable 30 minutes before Mrs Kursitis and Mrs Cauchi felt it was time to step in and educate them on some better music choices!



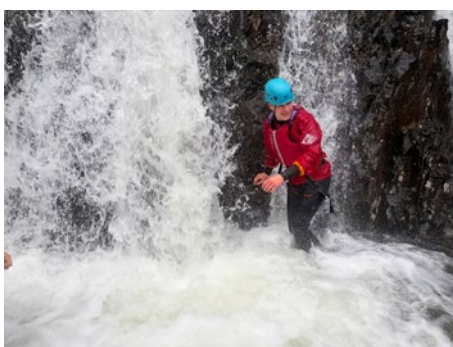
On Tuesday, the wind once again caused issues, so we adapted our plans and headed to Langdale for some ghyll scrambling; a first for many. This involved climbing, scrambling, and wading up a mountain stream, tackling waterfalls and rocky sections along the way. The students showed fantastic resilience, teamwork, and determination throughout the day.



We were supported by Path to Adventure, who have had nothing but praise for our pupils, commenting on their attitude, behaviour, and how well they supported one another, something we are incredibly proud of.



A brilliant start to the DofE season and a fantastic reflection of the Priory spirit.



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In Our Community

Farewell and Happy Retirement

On the last day of term we said goodbye to Denise, our lollipop lady - as she retires.

We've always been very grateful to Denise, not only for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Penwortham Primary School and Priory pupils on their walk to and from school every day, but for the positive relationships she has built up with our pupils over the years - she'll be greatly missed!



Priory's Gardens Welcome Penwortham In Bloom Visitors

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome two committee members from Penwortham in Bloom who visited our award-winning gardens to gather inspiration they could take back into the local community.

Priory's gardener Mr Farron was pleased to show Brian and Geoff around the grounds as they begin to come into bloom, with highlights including an appearance from our wooden creature, Eddie the Eagle!



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September 2026 - We Are Full!

Priory is certainly the place people want to be – we are proud to say we are full again!

We have now received our numbers for our September 2026 starters and we are oversubscribed again – in fact we have been asked to take an extra five pupils so our total is 155.

We know our school is innovative, forward-thinking and an amazing place to be and it's superb so many of our community agree with us!

From our state-of-the-art buildings, award-winning gardens and our groundbreaking self-service dining experience to now becoming only the second school in England to sign up to the Junior Darts Corporation, we are certainly leading the way.

Head of Year 7 and transition Mrs Farley said: "It's amazing news to be over-subscribed again.

"When we have our open evening, or attend primary schools, I think the resounding conclusion is that Priory feels friendly and welcoming which is why so many pupils want to come here and so many parents want their children to come to us. Added to that are our excellent GCSE results and the fact that staff go the extra mile for pupils, it's made us extremely popular.

"Over the years, we have built up such a strong reputation in our community which we are very proud of.

"We also never stop, we have high expectations of everyone connected with the school, we keep up with all the modern day changes in education, and we aspire to be even better!"

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Culture Day 2026

An Occasion For All



Culture Day was a colourful, successful and informative day!

This annual staple of Priory's school calendar was organised once again by Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri. There was Henna hand-painting all week, music from different cultures playing at break and lunch (MaBaL), a food sale at break and pupils wearing their traditional cultural clothes or their national team's sports kit. There was also a cookery masterclass held after school on Thursday 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 £432.74.



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



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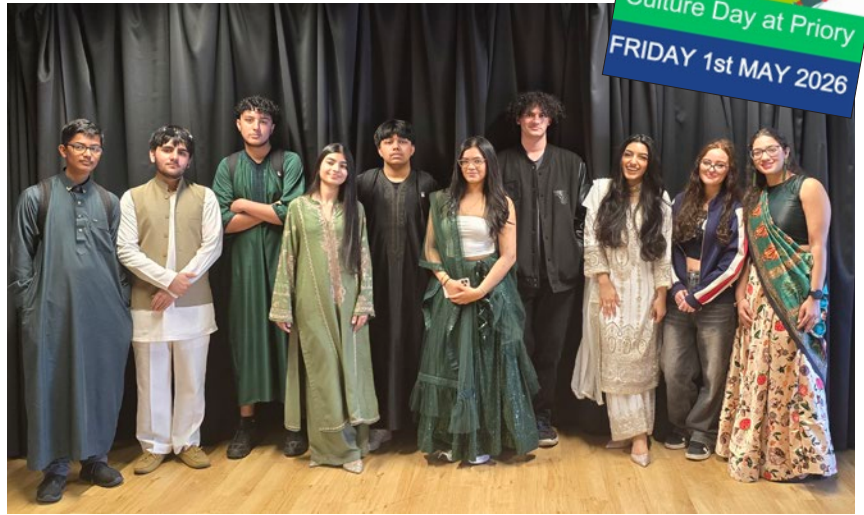
share their background with their peers."

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!"

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!



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After School Cookery Club Celebrates Culture Day

As part of Culture Week, pupils enjoyed a deliciously creative session at the After School Creative Cookery Club last Thursday.

Open to all year groups, the workshop was led by Mrs Qadri and Mrs Lockwood and gave pupils the opportunity to explore food traditions from different cultures through hands-on cooking.

During the session, pupils learned how to make samosas and spring rolls, practising important food-preparation skills such as chopping, folding and seasoning. They discovered that samosas are traditional triangular pastries, popular in South Asia and beyond, often filled with spiced potatoes, peas or meat. Spring rolls offered another cultural contrast, showing how similar ingredients can be prepared in different ways across the world.

The Food Technology room was filled with teamwork, enthusiasm and wonderful aromas as pupils worked together to create their dishes. The session was a fantastic way to celebrate culture through food, while also building confidence, creativity and practical life skills.



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Hard To Swallow - Bold, Raw and Remarkable: A Production to Be Proud Of

WRITTEN BY MISS HOWELL, LEAD TEACHER OF DRAMA

I am incredibly proud of everyone involved in our recent production of the play, *Hard to Swallow* by Mark Wheeler. From the students on stage to the lighting and sound technicians working behind the scenes, every individual contributed with commitment, maturity, and professionalism, resulting in a powerful and moving piece of theatre.

The cast approached an extremely challenging and traumatic story with sensitivity, honesty, and courage. Their performances were raw, truthful, and emotionally compelling, showing a deep understanding of the difficult themes at the heart of the play. It was clear how seriously they took their responsibility as storytellers, treating the material with respect while still delivering performances that were engaging and impactful.

Our technical team played an equally vital role in the success of the production. The lighting and sound were used with great skill to shape atmosphere, build tension, and support the emotional beats of the play. Their work enhanced the storytelling throughout, often subtly, but always effectively, demonstrating strong teamwork and technical confidence.

Audience reactions spoke volumes about the impact of the performance. Some viewers were visibly emotional, with a number moved to tears. Others described the play as tense, raw, and a hard watch - comments that reflect the seriousness of the subject matter rather than any discomfort with the production itself.

Above all, audiences were united in their praise for the students, consistently describing them as amazing and expressing admiration for their bravery and talent in tackling such difficult material.

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Learn to Succeed



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Engaging with a story as traumatic as *Hard to Swallow* is never easy, but the process has been an invaluable learning experience. It has helped students gain a deeper understanding of the issues explored in the play, encouraged empathy, and opened up important conversations both in rehearsals and beyond. This production demonstrated the power of theatre to challenge, to educate, and to create meaningful dialogue.

I would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the staff who supported the production behind the scenes — for their guidance, encouragement, and time throughout the process. Finally, thank you to everyone who came to watch and support the students. Your presence, feedback, and engagement meant a great deal and helped make this production such a meaningful experience for all involved.

Well done to everyone. This is one of my biggest proud teacher moments!

Miss Howell



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Year 7 Step Into the World of Work For Mega Day



Year 7 students took part in an exciting MEGA Day on Friday, 24 April, organised in partnership with the IN4 Group. The event was designed to replicate a real day of work experience, giving students an opportunity to develop workplace skills and explore careers in the digital and cyber industries.

To reinforce the professional focus of the day, students attended school dressed in work-appropriate clothing. Blazers were replaced with shirts and ties, many borrowed from family members, and some students even arrived dressed in full business suits! This helped set clear expectations and encouraged pupils to take pride in their presentation, just as they would in a real working environment.



The day began with a MEGA assembly, followed by a structured timetable of interactive workshops led by IN4 Group professionals. Throughout the day, students participated in hands-on sessions including Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), Micro:bit coding, LEGO SPIKE robotics and Spheros, all designed to promote teamwork, problem-solving and creative thinking.

A standout activity was the Cyber Calendar challenge, where students applied their digital knowledge and collaboration skills to complete a series of tasks. Team BLOO were crowned winners of the competition and were presented with a gift from MEGA staff, recognising their excellent teamwork and effort.

The afternoon concluded with a quiz and feedback session, followed by a careers talk exploring pathways into the digital sector. The day ended with a celebration assembly, prizes and a final reflection on the skills students had developed.

Head of ICT & Computer Science, Mrs Qadri, summed up by saying, "The MEGA Day was an inspiring and valuable experience, providing Year 7 students with a genuine insight into the world of work while building confidence, aspiration and employability skills. We would like to thank the IN4 Group and MEGA staff for delivering such a professional and memorable event."

More photos over...



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Construction Course Success at Preston College For Year 10 Pupil



A huge congratulations to Year 10, Kenzie, who has been attending a construction course at Preston College every Wednesday afternoon throughout this academic year.



Kenzie's commitment, enthusiasm and positive attitude were recognised at the Construction Awards Evening on 29 April, where SENCo Mrs Holland was delighted to be present to see him receive the Employability Award.

The event recognised the achievements of students studying construction through the School Links Programme, which enables pupils to gain hands-on experience in a college environment while completing their school education.

Mrs Holland commented *'It was fantastic to see Kenzie's hard work rewarded, he has received positive praise from the college throughout the year and is always keen to tell us what he's been working on and managed to build each week.'*

The college explained that the final Employability Award is presented to a Year 10 learner who consistently demonstrates outstanding professional qualities, and Kenzie was identified as a potential recipient within the very first weeks of the course. His tutors praised him for always approaching tasks with a positive mindset, showing a genuine eagerness to develop his skills, and for displaying a natural talent for brickwork.

In addition to his practical ability, Kenzie was commended for being polite, respectful and smiley, making him a pleasure to work with in the college environment. Tutors commented that these qualities,

combined with his growing technical skill, mean he has a very promising future and "will be a great apprentice one day".

The evening concluded with closing remarks from Mark Taylor, Director of School for Construction at Preston College, who thanked partner schools and employer sponsors for their ongoing support. The awards event celebrated not only academic and practical success, but also the strong partnerships between Preston College, the Eric Wright Learning Foundation, local schools and industry.

Well done to Kenzie on this fantastic achievement - a testament to his hard work and dedication.



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Young Poets Impress in School and College Competitions

Our pupils have been showing their creative talents in two poetry competitions.

The English Department ran a poetry competition in school, the Priory Poetry Prize, where pupils were asked to write a poem on justice, nature, peace or history.

All pupils had a poetry masterclass and there was a winner chosen from each class before the English teachers selected a winner from each year group.

The final winners were Year 7 Lila, Year 8 Alegria and Year 9 Esme.



English teacher Mrs Robinson-Ali said: "All the poems were of an extremely high standard and it was difficult to choose a winner from each class and then each year group!

"At the end we had ten and we had to choose three. It was very tricky.

"Hopefully this will encourage more of a love of English and I think some pupils didn't realise they had a love of poetry until they took part in the competition. I think many surprised themselves!

"The winners all zoomed in on a particular topic, they were all abstract which we liked."

Lila said: "My poem was about deforestation. It was difficult trying to get words to rhyme so it took a while but it was fun to do. I was surprised to win!"

Alegria's poem was about justice. He said: "I like English and was surprised as I did not think I was capable of winning."

Esme said: "My poem was about myself. I did it for fun!"

Year 7 Alba took it on herself to enter Runshaw College's Sophie Scholl Awards and her poem was highly-commended by them.

It was part of Runshaw's events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

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Sophie Scholl was 18 when the war started in 1939 and she actively resisted the Nazis, founding the White Rose, a non-violent resistance movement. Sophie and other members of the group were caught in 1943 and executed and, during her trial, remained steadfast against the power of the Nazi state.



Alba said: "Sophie was inspirational and she stood up for what was right, even if people disagreed. I hope my poem reflects this. I enjoy English."

You can read Alba's poem below.

A Poem Inspired by Sophie Scholl

Beneath the smoke, the sky was torn,
The night was split by a fires roar,
Her hair blew in the bitter wind,
unharmd by man but she felt within,
Let kindness grow where I have bled,
that's what she always said,
She knew what she wanted to say,
'you're wrong,' 'you're wrong' every day,
She bore no shield and held no sword,
Her battleground was a lecture hall
She spoke with a voice of clear youth,
As she shared her thoughts and fears and views
She spoke the truth that streets denied,
Of silent graves, of justice tried,
Each match the truth, each flame a fear,
That fuelled the fire we call fear,
And the fire burned and burned and burned,
And the world turned and turned,
But her memories live on forever, ever, ever,
Because it's for the better.

By Alba P - year 7

SPORTS REPORT



Priory Girls Perfect Routines For Street Competition Success

REPORT BY MISS BEESLEY, PE TEACHER

On Thursday, 30 April our Priory dancers took part in the first South Ribble Street Dance Competition held at Wellfield Academy.

The girls had to learn a set routine from a beginner, intermediate and advanced category and perform this in front of the two judges. After weeks of practices, our girls were ready to dance. Year 7 Alba and Chloe were up first for the beginner routine to Tao Cruz's Dynamite song, followed by Imogen and Scarlett competing for the Year 8s.

All put in a fantastic level of effort and were successful in their categories, with Alba placing 3rd, Chloe 2nd, Scarlett 2nd and Imogen 1st.

Imogen, Scarlett and Chloe all entered the intermediate category to a throwback song from Usher 'Yeah.' Unfortunately, the girls weren't successful in call backs, but performed brilliantly none the less.

Well done to all four girls, you did an amazing job and your efforts have been rewarded.

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Immersive Learning: Pupils Explore WWI Battlefields in Virtual Reality



A few weeks ago, we had the exciting opportunity to experience history in a completely new and immersive way, thanks to a set of virtual reality machines provided by Time Travel Education.

Pupils across Key Stage 3 took part in these sessions, where they were able to explore the battlefields of the First World War through 360° virtual reality. This allowed students to step back in time and gain a vivid understanding of what life was like for soldiers during the war. Rather than simply reading about trench warfare in textbooks, pupils could see the landscapes, conditions, and environments for themselves.

The experience was both educational and impactful. Students were able to visualise the harsh realities of the trenches and the scale of the battlefields, helping to bring an important part of history to life in a way that is difficult to achieve in a traditional classroom setting.

The experience was particularly valuable for those students who will be visiting the Belgian battlefields this week as it allowed them to meet their guide in person, who visited the school dressed as a First World War soldier. This brought a real sense of excitement and atmosphere, helping to capture students' imagination and interest before the trip. It provided a preview of the locations they will soon see in person, helping them to feel more prepared and connected to what they will experience during the visit.

Humanities teacher, Mrs Cauchi, who organised the experience, said, "Overall, the sessions were a fantastic success, giving students a memorable and engaging insight into an important period of history."



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Compost Corner

Mr Farron's Spring Update

Welcome to the Spring edition fellow composters!

This season you will experience a combination of new blooms, all grown here at Priory, providing our ever-increasing wildlife visitors from early morning and evening to appear. So far this year we have had sightings of a fox, hedgehog, moles, squirrels, rats, rabbits, mice and then a variety of birds including ducks, gulls, magpies, pigeons, blackbirds, sparrows, thrush, yellow hammers, finches, tits and oyster catchers. Although beneficial, most are a nuisance to young plants. However, it's just a case of live and let live.

The combinations of plants will be a confetti of colour and fragrance throughout Priory gardens. There are sunny spots where *Verbena Bonariensis* mingles through other plants brilliantly tying through a display of tiny neon blooms.

Best for bees – Catmint Peta (Blue Moon) is a pretty shade of lavender and is a magnet for bees and butterflies. *Digitalis* (Fox Glove) – the colours of this are purple, cream, white and rose and can only be described as elegant speckled blooms.

Long lasting plants – *Silene Campion* are pure white starry flowers and have a real elegance. Poppy



Coral flowers provide a reef of oriental blousy blooms. *Knautia Pastels* which are pretty pin-cushions, bloom from May to September plus others growing in pots ready to go into the garden.



From Compost Corner to Confetti Corner

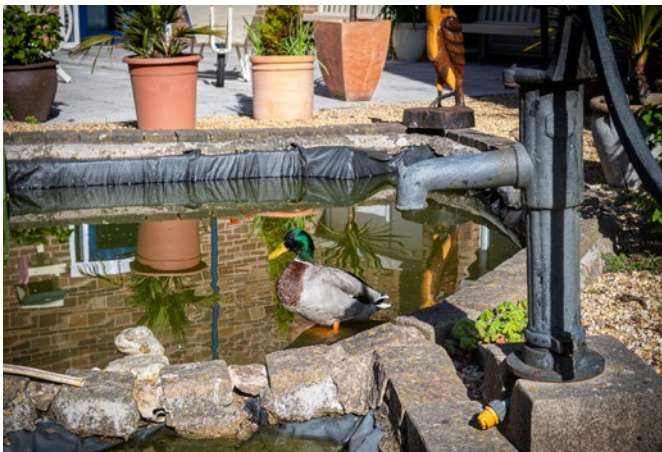
More new additions are pricked out and ready to pot on. The plants are *Dhalia*, *Sunflower*, *Cosmos*, *Sweet Peas*, *Californian Poppy* and *Gaillardia*. The *Gabriel Oak Rose* is an opulent rose and has long continuous flowering and is named after the hero of Hardy's 'Far From the Madding Crowd' and has a strong fruity scent situated in the centre of Priory Gardens.



So an abundance of fragrance and colour now awaits for all to see and look out for. I truly appreciate our pupils' respect for our gardens and wish you all a wonderful season.

Oh, and look out for the waterlily about to surface in the courtyard!

Mr C Farron
Head Gardener



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Future-Ready: Year 10 & 11 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 for the second time this academic year. This time Kat has 'switched up' the misconception questions to provide further challenge to pupils as they were finding the questions too easy to answer, based on their learning on Learning for Life Days."



Kat later fed back, "It was another fab lunchtime health stand with your students. I saw some new faces at this one too, which was lovely and we had some good conversations".

Maths Success Adds Up for Priory Pupils

Year 8 Rosie says her favourite subject is Food Technology but it didn't stop her celebrating Maths success.

Rosie took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge for Years 7 and 8. It's a national multiple-choice competition and 95 Priory pupils had a go.

Rosie was Best in School with a score of 84 and admitted: "I didn't expect that at all. I felt like I guessed at a lot of it so I was shocked when I had the highest score. I do enjoy Maths but my favourite subject is Food Tech. I want to be a primary school teacher so Maths will help."

Emma was the best in Year 7 with 80 points. She said: "I was surprised as it was tricky but it was a good challenge."



These two will take part in the second round of the Junior Maths Challenge, the Junior Kangaroo. Other pupils collected certificates for achieving Silver in the challenge.

Millie said: "It was pressure doing it and it was hard." Heather added: "I enjoyed it – it was a good challenge."

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Year 8 Girls Take Part in Cricket Leadership Programme

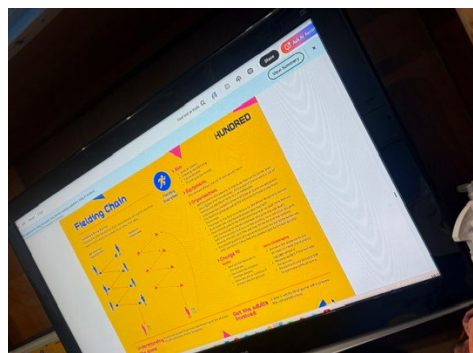
On Thursday, 7 May, sixteen of our Year 8 girls took part in an exciting Girls' Leadership Course during the school day at Priory, delivered through the Lancashire Cricket Foundation.

The leadership course is part of the England & Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) commitment to making cricket a gender-balanced sport and providing girls with opportunities to develop both on and off the pitch. The session focused on introducing students to leadership roles within cricket and helping them build confidence, communication and teamwork skills.

Throughout the day, the girls were involved in a range of practical activities, including leading warm-ups, learning how to score matches, developing umpiring skills, and supporting the delivery of cricket sessions. These activities gave the students a new perspective on the sport and highlighted the many different ways they can stay involved beyond just playing.

The programme also links to the ECB's wider girls' pathway, which includes initiatives such as All Stars Cricket and Dynamos Cricket, and aims to inspire girls to take on future leadership roles while developing important life skills.

Mrs Bullock, PE Teacher and Head of Year 8, said, "All students represented the school brilliantly and should be extremely proud of their engagement, enthusiasm, and willingness to step into leadership roles. We are delighted to support opportunities like this and look forward to offering more leadership experiences in the future."



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Checkmate! School Chess Tournament Draws to a Thrilling Finish

Pupils from across the school came together for an exciting afternoon of strategy and competition at this year's Priory chess tournament, organised by Mrs Swire, who leads the weekly lunchtime chess club.



A dedicated group of players from Year 7 through to Year 11 took part, demonstrating impressive skill, concentration and determination. The tournament was held on the afternoon of Thursday 30 April, with competitors battling their way through a series of closely fought matches.

The camaraderie and supportive spirit on display were a delight to see, with pupils encouraging one another throughout while enjoying a juice and a biscuit - or two! The positive atmosphere truly reflected the inclusive nature of the chess club.

Such was the level of competition that the tournament overran, meaning the final stages had to be completed during a lunchtime session the following week (8 May). With the Year 11 competitors about to embark on their final exams, the competition was brought forward, making it a special end-of-year event for those involved.

After several intense rounds, four finalists were selected. The final proved especially memorable, featuring a head-to-head battle between the two Alexes. In a tense and closely contested match, Year 8 Alex P emerged victorious, earning the title of Priory Chess Champion. His name will now be added to the school trophy. Alex W was our runner up, with Oliver H and Archie H in third and fourth place respectively.

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a special thank you to Mrs Swire for organising such an enjoyable and successful event.

Chess Club runs every Thursday lunchtime in Hex 3 and is open to pupils of all abilities from all year groups; new players are always welcome.



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Year 10 Footballers Into The South Ribble Cup Finals

MATCH REPORT BY MR RAYNOR

After victory in the previous round over Brownedge St Mary's, Priory's Year 10 boys football team were in South Ribble Cup semi-final action on Wednesday (20 May).

Drawn at home against Hutton Grammar, the boys took to the field in confident mood against their local rivals. Playing against a strong wind blowing down the pitch in the first half, meant Priory had to weather a Hutton storm for large parts of the first period.

Dixon, in goal, produced some excellent saves to prevent Priory falling behind, and was ably supported by the back three of Lomax, McClure and Igbo.

With only a couple of minutes to go before the break, Priory managed to work the ball upfield, where Mapstone took advantage of the chance to shoot. His crisp right foot shot giving Priory a 1-0 lead at half-time.

After a formation change at the break, and with the wind now at their backs, Priory raced ahead in the opening minutes of the second half.



Tayburn doubled Priory's lead with a follow up shot from close range, almost straight from the kick-off. Just four minutes later and Priory made it 3-0 with Mapstone adding his second of the game after a good team build up. The lead grew to 4-0, ten minutes later, when tireless midfielder Hyde struck a low shot into the bottom corner.

With a comfortable lead achieved, team coach and Maths teacher, Mr Raynor made a few changes to the team, giving opportunities to Horton, Tanchev and Sutton. This perhaps gave Hutton fresh hope, and to their credit, they pulled two goals back.

With only a couple of minutes remaining, Ajibosin raced after a through ball into the Hutton penalty area. With a calm left footed effort he finished from a tight angle, closing the door on any faint comeback hopes that Hutton may have had.

Mr Raynor said afterwards, "I'm really proud of the lads for their efforts in reaching the final. They had to battle against the wind in a tough first half, but got their rewards in the second half. They're all looking forward to a Cup Final after the half-term break."

Year 11 - What's Next?

Class Of
2026

Our Year 11s are planning some amazing future careers as they finish their GCSEs.

One though is focusing on a major short-term goal – swimming the English Channel! Divya wants to go to Newman College to study Sports, Maths and Business A-Levels. However first up is conquering the English Channel as part of her 'Ocean's Seven Challenge.'

Divya has already completed the Cataline Channel last year and has two more tough open-water channel swims lined up over the summer.

"The English Channel will be tough as it's cold conditions, there are jellyfish and it's a major shipping channel so it's busy. It's 23 miles straight across but you end up doing a lot more. The aim is to do that in July and then swim the North Channel in August.

"In between revising, I have still been training three hours a day so it has been tough!"

Divya has high ambitions: "The youngest person to do all seven oceans is a 20-year-old New Zealand girl so I want to break the world record and do

them all by the time I am 19. That's the plan."

Molly could be gracing the West End as she has secured a coveted place at The Pendleton School of Theatre – a nationally acclaimed centre for performing arts in Greater Manchester.

"I have a conditional offer. We had to audition which was an acting, dance and singing workshop."

Molly has taken part in shows for LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts) and also all the school productions.

"I want to fulfil my dream. I would like to perform in the West End but also I wouldn't mind doing some straight acting."

Head Prefect **Hiylie** also has her sights set on being famous – whether a DJ or an actress.

Hiylie aims to study drama at Runshaw College although her audition isn't until July.



She said: "It is stressful having an audition but we shall see. I do have an agent and have already been on a children's show on the BBC called High Hoops. I like serious acting. If I don't make it as an actress though I would like to be a DJ, I have my own kit."

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Learn to succeed

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Seth wants to own his own business and is going to Blackpool College to study Hospitality and Catering Skills Level 2.

He said: "I want to have my own café. I am really good at cooking and I want to develop my skills further. I enjoy it."

Alana, alongside **Harmony**, have secured an Apprenticeship at Ashbridge Nurseries.

Alana said: "I want to work with children but it's a benefit that we will be earning money straight away too."

Head Prefect **Tarela** is following in the footsteps of her parents and going into the medical profession.

"I want to go to Lancaster Grammar School for Girls and do A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. My dad is a pharmaceutical doctor while my mum is a nurse – I want to be a doctor."

Callum is aiming for a career in sport. "I want to go to Runshaw College and study Sports & Fitness. I play football and I just want a career where sport is involved."

Taylor is off to Runshaw College to complete a T-Level in Design Engineering as he sees his future on a degree course at BAE Systems.

Yaseen is also keen on engineering. "I want to go to Preston College and do a BTEC Level 3 in Engineering. It's something I have always wanted to do."

Jacob is hoping to follow a practical career path and secure a place at Preston College, enrolling on a Level



2 Plumbing course. Having already gained experience working in labouring and field-based roles, he says he finds the work "very interesting" and is looking forward to developing his skills further.

Harry is setting his sights on an engineering apprenticeship, with a clear ambition to specialise in metal fabrication. He is focused on building a strong CV to stand out to employers, already achieving success beyond the classroom.

He said, "As part of a football team, I became a tournament winner, and I have also represented Great Britain in taekwondo, earning a bronze medal in Moldova."

Looking ahead, Harry plans to join the police cadets to further strengthen his applications and help secure a top apprenticeship, with the goal of progressing into a full-time engineering role.

Looking Ahead

From elite sport and performing arts to engineering, healthcare and skilled trades, our Year 11 pupils are leaving with ambition, determination and a wide range of exciting pathways ahead of them.

Whether continuing in education, starting apprenticeships or pursuing specialist training, they have already shown the commitment and resilience needed to succeed.

We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved during their time with us and look forward to hearing about their future successes in the years to come.



Double Success as Priory is Shortlisted for Two National School Food Awards



Huge congratulations to Mrs Barker, Mr Bolton and our catering team led by Mrs Morley and Mrs Billings, who have been shortlisted for two of The School Food People Awards for Excellence.

The awards aim to recognise individuals and teams that have made a 'real difference' to school food and education catering.

Strategic Business Development Manager, Mrs Barker, and Strategic Estates Development Manager Mr Bolton have been shortlisted for the Nan Berger Memorial Award, which recognises exemplary work in innovation, accreditation and collaboration.



The Penwortham Priory Academy catering team has also been named finalists for the Secondary School Catering Team Award, recognising their dedication to improving students' lunchtimes.

Together, these achievements are a real testament to the fresh thinking and positive changes the school team has made by developing self-service school lunchtimes, which deliver a smoother, more enjoyable dining experience for students and staff alike.

The team will attend The School Food People Awards for Excellence in Birmingham on the evening of Wednesday, 8th July, along with all the finalists from across the school food community, where the winners will be revealed.

Congratulations to each of them on this well-deserved achievement and good luck!



Learn to Succeed

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

REPORT BY MRS QADRI, HEAD OF ICT & COMPUTER SCIENCE



Year 10 GCSE Computer Science, BTEC Digital IT 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 2

The highlight of the trip was the guided tour of Manchester Airport's Terminal 2. 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 at the Runway Visitor Centre. 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.



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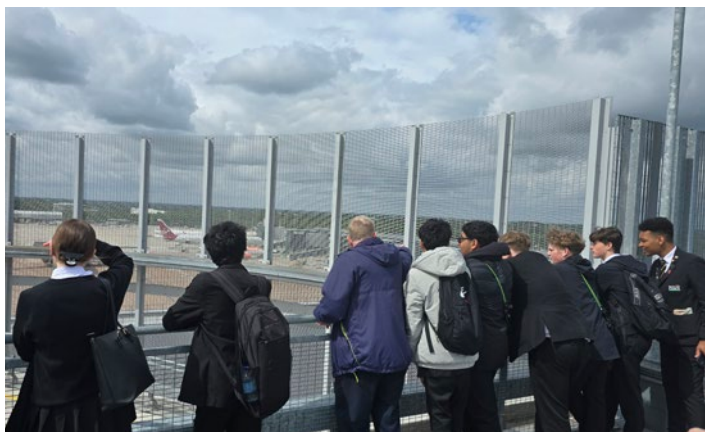
Learn to succeed

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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 Brooklyn said, "I study Business and ICT so it was good to see both the technical and the business side of the airport."

"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. We also managed to go in and see the British Airways Concorde too at the Runway Visitor Centre."



Learn to succeed

Half-Term Adventure Boosts Well-Being and Confidence



Year 7, Alyx, made the most of the half-term break by embracing the outdoors and trying something new to Preston. She completed a cycle of the Guild Wheel - a fantastic 21-mile route around Preston - before heading to explore The Vault Youth Zone, a newly opened space designed to inspire and support young people.

Cycling the Guild Wheel was no small achievement but Alyx's visit to The Vault offered a different kind of adventure. While there, she took part in a cookery session before tackling the climbing wall.

Experiences like these highlight how making positive choices can support both mental and physical health, while also building confidence and resilience.

We would encourage all pupils to take a look at what The Vault Youth Zone has to offer. With a wide range of activities and welcoming facilities, it is a brilliant place to learn new skills, meet friends and challenge yourself in a supportive environment.



www.vaultyouthzone.org

Well done to Alyx for an inspiring half-term; a fantastic example of how to stay active, positive and adventurous!



Running for a Cause: Year 8 Pupil Takes on Pretty Muddy 5K

Last weekend, Year 8 Max showed remarkable determination when he took part in the Preston Pretty Muddy 5K Race for Life on Saturday, 6 June.

He completed the challenge in memory of his grandad, who recently passed away following a battle with prostate cancer. Despite dealing with his loss, Max chose to honour his grandad in a positive and inspiring way, by raising both funds and awareness for Cancer Research.

Throwing himself into the event with enthusiasm, he tackled the muddy obstacles with a smile and a great sense of fun throughout.

Thanks to his efforts, Max raised an impressive £230 for Cancer Research. Even more inspiring is his commitment to continue making a difference, as he is already thinking of new ideas to support the cause.

Head of Year 8, Mrs Bullock said, "We are incredibly proud of Max for his resilience, compassion and determination to create something positive from a difficult time. What a fantastic achievement!"



Learn to succeed

Year 7 Pupils Train to Support Visually Impaired Classmate

Two Year 7s have gone above and beyond to ensure they can support their friend Imogen.

Imogen is partially sighted, she was registered blind when born but can see a little.

When she started at Priory, she met up with Humayraa and Sophie and they have both started training in sighted guiding so they can better support Imogen. Their training is with Imogen's VI teacher, Mr Manley, a Habitation Specialist.

Learning Support Assistant, Miss Dixon, who supports Imogen in school said: "Humayraa and Sophie are amazing. They have taken it on board really well and have concentrated on what they are being told – although it's fun as well."

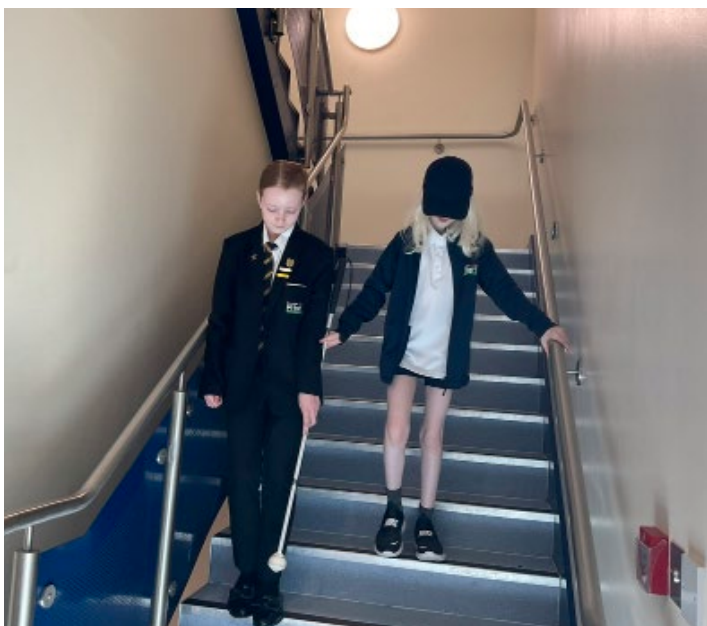


"It's an ongoing training programme and they have had one lesson so far."

"It's supporting Imogen should she get into difficulty and recognising what could cause this such as it being busy, dark or rough underfoot. It's to help her physically."

Sophie said: "I have learnt a lot, it's just a nice thing to do."

Imogen's mum said: "I think this is wonderful and a real example of true friendship and solidarity."



Learn to succeed

Priory Pupils Perform at Penwortham Live



Priory pupils helped to ensure Penwortham Live was rocking!

The live music festival, organised by South Ribble Council, took place in May and featured performances across multiple venues, celebrating local talent.

Year 8 Morgan is a regular performer at events and sang and played his guitar in a 45-minute section.

"I have played at Longton and Chorley Live so I am used to playing in front of an audience. I play the Stone Roses and Gerry Cinnamon, music like that.

"I have been playing the guitar since I was five and have had music lessons with KTB Music for around two years. I would like to build a career on it. I got into performing through Open Mic nights. My friends think it's pretty cool."

Year 9 Imogen's performance was one-time only.

She said: "I have had singing lessons since Christmas and wanted to perform but I won't do it again. I sang 'Take Me Out' and four other songs.

"While I enjoy singing, I want to play bass and I would prefer to be more in the background. I am part of 'The Rock Project' out of school."

Year 9 Erin is also part of the 'The Rock Project.' "I sang with the group at Penwortham Live. I enjoy performing so it was good. I do have lessons and I would like to take my singing further."

Year 8 Ruby took to the stage and performed 'Hopelessly devoted to you.' "I have been having singing lessons for a while and have performed in front of an audience a couple of times. I am part of the Pauline Quirk Academy."

Photo credit: Central Radio Community Photographer David Beech



Learn to succeed

Penwortham Priory Academy Awarded Funding to Rebuild 3G Pitch

Priory will have a brand new state-of-the-art FA-accredited 3G pitch by August.

With contractors making a start this week, the current 3G pitch, along with the fencing, will be ripped up and it will be replaced by a £650,000 rebuild which conforms to all FA standards.

The majority of it is funded by the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation while the school will contribute £220,000 towards it, which also includes a complete refurbishment of the boys and girls PE changing rooms and the addition of two referee changing rooms.

Assistant Principal Mr Gee said: "The current fencing is 22 years old, with the 3G carpet replaced 12 years ago and this generally only has a shelf life of 10 years. You can see the wear and tear on it.

"The funding has been awarded to enable us to meet growing community demand. This will ensure we have some of the best school football facilities in Lancashire.

"It will transform grassroots football in South Ribble, with the new excellent facilities, and help the massive increase in girls football as well in the area. It's already fully booked and we can use it all year around so it's a big asset to the community. It will be brilliant when it's completed."

Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "The Football Foundation is working closely with our partners – the Premier League, The FA and Government – to transform the quality of grassroots facilities in England by delivering projects like this across the country.

"Good quality playing facilities have a transformative impact on physical and mental health and play an important role in bringing people together and strengthening local communities.

"This grant award to Penwortham Priory Academy towards developing top of the range 3G facilities is fantastic news for the local community and will help give more people access to a great place to play."



Learn to Succeed

GCSE Art Pupils Embrace Sustainable Fashion at University of Lancashire Workshop



Following the success of their first printmaking workshop, our Year 10 GCSE Art students, alongside a small group of Year 9 students who will be beginning their GCSE Art studies in September, recently attended the second workshop in the University of Lancashire's exciting three-part creative programme.



Hosted within ArtLab and led by experienced university staff, this workshop focused on the important themes of sustainability, creativity and innovation through textiles. Students explored how artists and designers can help reduce waste by reusing and repurposing materials, whilst learning valuable practical skills that support more sustainable approaches to fashion and design.

The session introduced students to the concepts of reduce, reuse and recycle, encouraging them to think critically about the lifespan of clothing and the environmental impact of the fashion industry. Throughout the day, students experimented with two traditional textile techniques: Sashiko, a decorative Japanese stitching method traditionally used to repair and strengthen fabric, and appliqué, where pieces of fabric are sewn onto another surface to create decorative designs and patterns.



Using unwanted garments and recycled textiles, students were challenged to transform existing clothing into new accessories or creatively reimagined fashion pieces. The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their textile skills while exploring how sustainable design can be both practical and visually engaging.

As with the previous university visit, students worked in a professional

Continued over...



Learn to succeed



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creative environment and benefited from the expertise and guidance of university staff. The outcomes produced during the workshop will provide valuable primary source material and practical experimentation that can be incorporated into their GCSE Art portfolio coursework.

To celebrate their achievements, the day concluded with a professional-style photoshoot, allowing students to showcase their finished pieces and experience an important aspect of presenting creative work within the fashion and design industries.



Lead Teacher of Art, Mrs Shaw, said, "The students demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to experiment throughout the day. It was another highly successful workshop that not only developed their artistic skills but also provided an inspiring insight into studying creative subjects at university level. We look forward to the final workshop in the series and sharing more of our students' creative achievements."

Year 9 Girls Show Determination in Rounders Tournament

SPORTS REPORT

Year 9 girls represented the school with enthusiasm and teamwork at a South Ribble Schools Rounders Tournament, delivering a series of closely fought performances.

The team grew in confidence as the tournament progressed, working cohesively in each game and demonstrating impressive skills across the field. Strong bowling and sharp fielding were particular highlights, with several well-executed plays preventing the opposition from building momentum and scoring freely.

Although results did not quite fall in their favour, each match was tightly contested, with only narrow scorelines separating the teams. The girls showed great resilience and determination throughout, supporting one another and maintaining a positive attitude.

Team spirit was especially evident in the final game against Balshaw's, where the players rallied together with encouragement led by Sandra B. A number of excellent catches and stumpings showcased their developing skills and determination to finish the tournament strongly.

Miss Beesley praised the team's efforts, saying, "The girls played well together and grew in confidence with every game. Their bowling and fielding were particularly strong, and although the results didn't go our way, they showed fantastic team spirit right through to the final match."

Well done to all involved for a spirited and encouraging performance.

Team - Imogen C, Evie S, Sandra B, Tasha R, Freya C, Mia-Grace S, Layla G, Charlotte G, Daisy G.



Priory Welcomes Back Former Pupils for Work Experience Placement



Last week, Priory was delighted to welcome back former pupil Alfie Whitney, who joined the Technology department for a week of work experience.

Alfie, who left Priory in 2023, is currently studying Graphic Design at Runshaw College and is already setting his sights on a future career in education. His return to school gave him the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience while also inspiring current pupils with his enthusiasm and commitment.

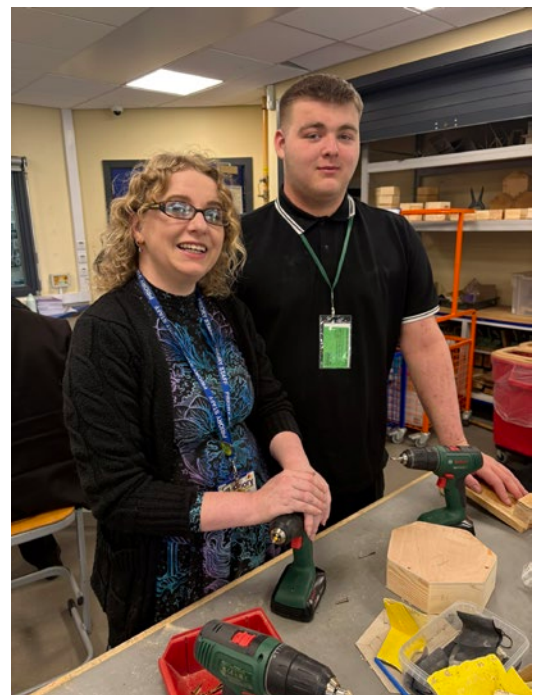
During his placement, Alfie proved to be a fantastic addition to the department. He quickly settled into school life and approached every task with energy and professionalism. Over the course of the week, he supported students across a range of subject areas, including Food Technology, Art and Engineering, offering guidance and encouragement in lessons.

Alfie also played a key role behind the scenes, helping to enhance classroom display boards, assisting with maintenance checks alongside the Technology team, and working with the IT support staff on a variety of technical tasks. His willingness to turn his hand to anything - from supporting learning to helping declutter and organise - made a real difference to the department.

Staff were particularly impressed by Alfie's positive attitude and readiness to get involved in all aspects of school life. His experience at Priory clearly continues to influence his ambitions, and it was a pleasure to see him giving back to the school community.

Alongside Alfie, Priory also welcomed Class of 2024, Owen Beck, into school last week. Owen is studying BTec Computing and spent time working with the IT team as part of his work experience placement through Runshaw College.

It is always fantastic to see former students returning to develop their skills and contribute to school life. We are incredibly proud of our past pupils and look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.



Learn to succeed

Year 10 Engage in Hard-Hitting Road Safety Day



Our Learning For Life day for Year 10 pupils yesterday was on the theme of Personal Road Safety and this included a presentation by Wasted Lives from Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service plus colleagues from Lancashire County Council.

The visitors 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. Additionally this year there was input about the law relating to the growth of e-bikes and e-scooters along with reaction tests for pupils with goggles imitating the effects of alcohol on a driver's reactions.

We are pleased to report a note of praise passed from the lead deliverer, Clare Burscough from Lancashire Fire & Rescue. She has described the Year 10's behaviour as "A1 and Impeccable." As Clare travels to schools throughout Lancashire she experiences a multitude of settings so it was lovely to hear her feedback that our Year 10 cohort stood out so positively.

Mr Taylor, who lead the day, said "As a school community, we continue to mourn former pupils who have lost their lives recently so the day was again poignant, bringing 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."



Learn to succeed

Skool's Out For Class of 2026

Class Of
2026

Last Friday marked an emotional milestone for Year 11 as their time at Priory came to a close.

This year group began their high school experience in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, transitioning from primary school by swapping induction evenings and taster days for face masks and hand-sanitisers. 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 Chemistry exam and a revision session for Monday's Physics exam, the celebrations began in earnest. Under blustery grey skies, the rain held off for pupils to gather in the Priory Gardens for the tradition of shirt-signing with laughter, sadness and messages of friendship.

The afternoon continued with a Celebration Assembly, led by Mr Eastham and Head of Year Mrs Eastham. 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.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in school on 20 August for their GCSE results, and of course, celebrating in style at the Prom on 8 July.

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.



Learn to succeed

Class Of
2026



Learn to succeed

World Cup Fever Takes Over PE Lessons

Priory pupils embraced the spirit of international football last week as the PE Department transformed lessons into a thrilling World Cup Tournament Week.

Six pitches were set out across the school's sports field, allowing pupils to compete in their own World Cup-style competition while representing nations currently competing on the world stage in the USA, Mexico and Canada.

Swapping their usual PE kit for national team colours, pupils proudly showcased their football skills and support for teams from around the globe.

Head of PE & Sport, Mr Bullock, said: "We had England, Morocco and Turkey shirts, so we there were a few different nationalities taking part. It's just a bit of fun and a chance to get into the World Cup spirit as the tournament enters its final stages."

The week produced plenty of memorable moments, with fierce competition and some highly contested matches despite the soaring temperatures. Just like in the real tournament, hydration breaks were introduced to ensure pupils stayed safe while enjoying the action.

Mr Bullock added, "Competition has been huge, with some very competitive games despite the heat last week. Like in the real competition, hydration breaks have been mandatory!"

The event proved a fantastic way to combine physical activity, friendly competition and international sporting excitement, with pupils fully embracing the World Cup atmosphere throughout the week - including Year 8 Isla and Emeli who were eager to cheer England on against DR Congo on Wednesday evening!

Even our gardener, Mr Farron, got in on the act with this small nod to the championships in Priory's Mediterranean Garden.



Learn to succeed

Priory Take Fifth Place at Annual South Ribble Athletics Event

Priory pupils showed off their track and field skills at the South Ribble Athletics Competition.

It was a full day at Stanley Park in Blackpool with, for the first time, Year 10s included in the main day rather than have a separate event.

There were 11 schools taking part, with more than 60 pupils competing for Priory. The competition was fierce, but our pupils rose to the challenge with determination, enthusiasm, and great team spirit. There were outstanding individual performances throughout the day and many pupils placing highly in their events.

The Year 7 girls came second overall while Priory won four gold medals: Year 9 Hollie L (200m), Year 7 Emma S (Long jump), Year 10 Noah W (Discus) and Year 7 Heather L (Discus).

The support and encouragement among teammates created a positive and motivating atmosphere, with PE teacher Miss Beesley adding: "Our pupils competed well. Hollie trains with Preston Harriers and she dominated her 200m event, she was well clear of the others.

"Emma also trains at a club and won the Long Jump confidently. Noah is a natural talent at Discus while Heather used her gymnastic talent to win the Discus.

"It was the first time four years have competed together and it was a well-organised, enjoyable day where we had a large number of talented individuals.



"Our Year 7s were amazing in coming second in their first time of competing."



Priory Welcomes Back Former Pupil Dr Ian Cookson for Career Inspiration Session



Class of 1989 pupil Dr Ian Cookson returned to Priory for the first time to talk to pupils about his two careers – and how it's never too late to follow a new path.



Priory put an appeal out for former pupils to get in touch to attend career-inspiration sessions with past pupils talking about their career paths, the good and the bad, to help our pupils make informed choices about their next steps.

As he was good at drawing, Dr Cookson went into print and marketing initially before redundancy led him to rethink his career in his late 30s.

He is now a psychology tutor at Manchester Metropolitan University and is also finishing his accreditation as a sport and exercise psychologist.

Dr Cookson said: "It's my first time back and it's been enjoyable. There's a lot that is familiar while there are a lot of new parts so it's mixed for me."



"I remember playing football on the tarmac, on an all-weather pitch which wasn't the best!"

"It's been good to talk to pupils about my career. We split the session into two parts about my first job which I fell into and then redundancy led me to a new career path. I emphasised how the door is never shut to retrain."

"The pupils were good, I broke up my talk with activities and they were engaged. I was surprised for an audience of that age, how much they understood, their knowledge and how self-aware they were."

"I hope a few will go into psychology, there were a few who were fascinated especially when I related it to ADHD, sport and research."



Learn to succeed

A Special Thank You to Our Catering Team

Unsung Heroes of the Heat

It's safe to say that last week has tested us all. With temperatures soaring above 30 degrees during the recent heatwave, classrooms, offices and corridors alike have felt the strain, and even the simplest of tasks has required extra effort and resilience.

Yet spare a thought for those who have been working at the very heart of the heat: our incredible catering team.

While many of us have sought shade, fans or a welcome breeze through an open window, our catering staff have been working in kitchens made even hotter by ovens, hobs and constant activity. Despite the challenging conditions, they have shown remarkable determination and teamwork, continuing to provide meals, snacks and refreshments for pupils, staff and visitors throughout the week.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. As a school community, we are enormously grateful for their commitment, positivity and perseverance during such an uncomfortable spell. They have quite simply kept the school going.



Catering Managers, Miss Morley and Mrs Billings, shared words that perfectly capture both the challenge and the spirit of the team: "We just want to take a minute to show some appreciation for the catering team at Penwortham Priory Academy for getting through this week. It's been hot outside but it's been even hotter in the kitchen; we have survived on ice pops and frozen water in front of fans! We've even kept the pupils refreshed with frozen oranges at break and lunch!"

It is this dedication and sense of community that make our catering team so special. They are more than just a team providing meals; they are a vital and valued part of school life, always going the extra mile to support everyone around them.

As we (hopefully!) look ahead to slightly cooler days, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to every member of the catering team. Your resilience, teamwork and good humour during this heatwave have been truly outstanding. We are proud to have such a fantastic team at the heart of our school.

Year 8 Tournament Triumphs and a Standout Star at Farington's New Cricket Ground



On Monday, 15 June, our Year 8 girls' cricket team took part in the South Ribble U13s tournament at Farington Cricket Ground, competing against All Hallows, Balshaws, Worden and Lostock Hall Academy.

It was a fantastic day of competitive cricket, with the team demonstrating excellent skill, teamwork and determination throughout.

Priory started strongly with a convincing win against Balshaws, finishing 80–51. This set the tone for the day, with the girls showing confidence in both their batting and fielding. They followed this up with another impressive performance against Lostock Hall, securing a well-earned victory by 21 runs.

One of the standout matches came against Worden, where Priory delivered an outstanding performance, winning by an astonishing 69 runs. A particular highlight of this game was Freya B's incredible batting display, scoring 28 runs from just 5 balls, an exceptional achievement that drew admiration from everyone watching.

The final match against All Hallows was a closely fought contest, with Priory narrowly missing out by just one run in a thrilling 75–74 finish. Despite the loss, the girls showed resilience and determination right to the last ball. This result meant that Priory came second overall in the tournament, a fantastic achievement against strong opposition.

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Learn to succeed

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Throughout the day, the girls were a real credit to both the school and their families, displaying fantastic sportsmanship, teamwork and positivity. Mrs Bullock was extremely impressed with the attitude, effort and ability shown by every player across the whole day.

Emily G's bowling was exceptional, consistently putting pressure on opposition batters. However, the standout performance of the day came from Freya B, whose all-round display was outstanding. Her natural cricketing ability was recognised by the organisers, and she has been invited to contact the Lancashire Cricket Foundation to further develop her talents.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Elisha Netherwood, the Lancashire Cricket Foundation staff, and the volunteers for organising and hosting such a well-run and enjoyable event.

Farington Cricket Ground proved to be an excellent venue, with impressive facilities including a central pavilion offering four changing rooms, fitness facilities, and both outdoor and covered net areas. These features make it an outstanding setting that caters for players of all levels and contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable day for everyone involved.

Overall, it was a highly successful and memorable experience, and finishing second overall is something the team should be extremely proud of.

A Successful Afternoon for Year 8 Rounders

On Monday, 15 June, our Year 8 rounders team took part in a tournament at Priory, competing against five other South Ribble high schools.

The team performed brilliantly throughout the afternoon, showing both skill and determination in every match. They played a total of four games and were very successful, winning three out of the four - resulting in a second place victory.

We were extremely impressed with the overall standard of play. In particular, the pupils' batting technique, accurate fielding, and quick decision-making were of a very high level. Just as importantly, their enthusiasm and encouragement towards one another was fantastic to see, creating a positive and supportive team environment throughout the event.



PE Teacher and Head of Year, Mrs Bullock, said, "Each game was closely contested, but our pupils demonstrated excellent batting and fielding, which made a real difference in key moments. Their communication on the pitch and ability to work together as a team stood out and contributed greatly to their success."

Overall, it was a very enjoyable and successful afternoon, and the team should be proud of both their performance and their attitude.

Team - Scarlett F, Imogen D, Ava G, Emeli P, Freya B, Isla D, Matilda M, Rosie T

Priory Welcomes Our 2026 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.



Monday 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 pupils, Alyx and Arthur spoke confidently about their 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 'getting to know you' 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 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!"

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...continued from front page

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 confidence and leadership made a big difference!

Parents have now received a 'First Day Arrangements' letter, which will also be 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 Wednesday, 2 September.



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Class of 2026: The Prom

Class Of
2026

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

Proms are occasions renowned for their glitz and glamour and this year was no exception, with sharp suits and stunning gowns - everyone looked incredible! 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 to motorbikes and a cavalcade of sports and luxury cars. Our photographer was ready to capture the moment with proud parents watching on.

Awards, put together by the pupils, ensued after the meal and it seemed the photo booth was a huge hit too. The evening tailed away with some moves on the dance floor and a united rendition of 'Don't look back in anger' before the many farewell hugs at the end of a very memorable night.

A huge thank you to Head of Year, Mrs Eastham, for organising such a memorable event and ensuring the evening was a tremendous success.

The Prom was a fabulously deserved celebration to round off Class of 2026's time at Priory. We look forward to seeing everyone again on GCSE results day Thursday, 20 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.



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Class Of 2026



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Roll Out the Red Carpet!

A touch of Hollywood arrived at school on Friday thanks to the good fortune of one of our Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Simpson, who won a red carpet in a local competition.

Mrs Simpson had recently purchased a carpet for her home from Gainsborough Carpets when she spotted an email inviting customers to enter a prize draw to win a red carpet for a school. She entered on behalf of our school and, after the competition closing date passed, assumed she had been unsuccessful.

To her surprise, she later received an email confirming that she had been selected as the winner!

Although the timing meant that the prize arrived just after our Prom had taken place the previous evening, the red carpet is sure to play a starring role at many future events. It will be rolled out for next year's Prom, as well as our Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening and other presentation and celebration events throughout the school year.

To mark its arrival, Mrs Simpson took part in a special red-carpet photoshoot in one of the school corridors, giving us a glimpse of how glamorous future events are set to be.

We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Simpson for taking the initiative to enter the competition and for securing such a fantastic prize for the school which will add a little extra sparkle to our celebrations!



Golden Success in Majorca For Year 7 Andra

Congratulations to Year 7 Andra, who has travelled to Majorca to take part in a prestigious gymnastics competition and returned home with an incredible collection of medals.

Competing against talented gymnasts from across the event, Andra delivered a series of outstanding performances, securing three gold medals, one silver medal and the Overall Gold title – a remarkable achievement.

Her success is a testament to the dedication, hard work and commitment she puts into her training, and we are incredibly proud of everything she has accomplished.

Well done, Andra, on representing yourself so brilliantly and bringing home such fantastic results. We look forward to hearing about your future successes!



Learn to Succeed

Summer Arts Festival 2026

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 were pleased to see our Year 7 pupils display 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.



More photos next page...



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London Performing Arts Trip: Sweat, Shows & Slightly Stubborn Coach

I ♥
Drama

REPORT BY MISS HOWELL, LEAD TEACHER OF DRAMA

What a whirlwind adventure our London trip turned out to be! Three days packed with dancing, drama (on and off stage), pancakes, culture... and a coach with character. Here's the full story for our newsletter and socials – buckle up!

Day 1: Rise & Shine... Very Early!

With a not-so-gentle 4:30am start, spirits were high (and eyes were... half open) as we set off for London. No time to waste – we went straight into action with an incredible Hamilton dance workshop led by Louie.

The heat? Absolutely ridiculous. The students? EVEN MORE AMAZING.

They smashed choreography from 'My Shot', learning actual moves from the show – and absolutely owned it. Sweat levels: extreme. Talent levels: off the charts.

After dancing our socks off, it was time to refuel at the Hard Rock Café, followed by a breathtaking evening watching Phantom of the Opera. The performance was nothing short of spectacular – goosebumps all round!

Then... finally... bed.

Day 2: Pancakes, Fossils & Theatre Drama

Morning arrived, and thankfully so did breakfast... and pancakes! Safe to say they were a huge hit, despite a few tired faces and the occasional grumpy morning mood (we'll let them off!).

First stop: the Natural History Museum. We saw fascinating fossils... Even Mr Taylor!



Next up, a quick bite and then on to the stunning V&A Museum, exploring incredible art and textiles. But the highlight? A spontaneous paddle in the sunshine, surrounded by beautiful architecture. Pure vibes.



The Great Dinner Dash.

Then came... traffic. Lots of it.

We arrived AN HOUR late for tea at Pizza Hut and had just 15 minutes to absolutely demolish our food before rushing to the theatre.

Continued over...



Learn to Succeed

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Back on the coach... and yes... MORE TRAFFIC. At one point, it genuinely felt like we were about to recreate Challenge Anneka just to make it in time.

But at 7:30pm...

Hamilton started... and we made it JUST in time to be in the 'room where it happened'!

As we sat down, the curtain rose – perfect timing! And WOW... what a show. Everyone was completely blown away. Worth every second of the chaos!

Back at the hotel, we were greeted with an unexpected late-night activity: Fan assembly squad – we watched on as people were assembling fans as the air con had decided it needed a rest.

Day 3: Shop 'Til You Drop

Another morning, another round of pancakes (no complaints here!) before heading out for some shopping. Let's just say... some people were VERY excited.

Armed with shopping bags (and probably less money), we hopped back on the coach ready for home.

The Journey Home... Featuring the Drama Queen Coach. Everything was going smoothly, we even had a surprise song from Faye - that was definitely a surprise!

As I said, everything was going smoothly - until we hit Preston. And then... the coach decided:



"You know what? I'm done."

We broke down:

Outside the fire station
(blocking the entrance... sorry!)

At a roundabout
Near Tesco



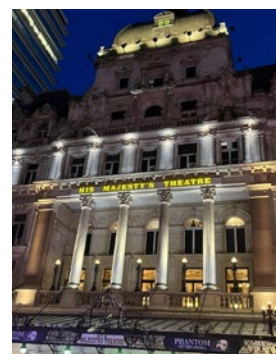
At the Spar

By Subway

And AGAIN near school

At this point, it felt less like a journey and more like a guided tour of Preston breakdown hotspots.

BUT... through teamwork, patience, and a LOT of laughing, we finally made it back to school. Slow and steady wins the race!



Final Thoughts

From world-class performances and dance workshops to museum exploring, paddle moments, and an unforgettable (for all the right and wrong reasons!) journey home...

This trip had it ALL: Talent - Culture - Chaos - Pancakes

And most importantly, an amazing group of students who made the whole experience unforgettable.

Miss Howell

Lead Teacher of Drama



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