

Penwortham Priory Post

A Message From The Headteacher

Dear All,

May I take this opportunity to welcome you back following our Christmas and New Year break and to wish you all the very best for what we hope might be a better 2021.

I hope you each had a relaxing time over the festive period and managed to spend some quality time with friends and family.

Despite the ongoing situation we find ourselves in, our primary focus will continue to be, throughout this new lockdown, our shared responsibility to uphold our school aim, our **'Priory Standard'** – *'to have the highest expectations of all, from all'* in all that we do.

Why? – *'so that all pupils leave Priory, equipped to contribute positively to society and go on to further education, employment or training'*.

I remind all of us that, regardless of remote learning, this can continue to be achieved, for all, through our value set of repeated habits:

- We are ready for excellence
- We are dressed for excellence
- We have the right attitude for excellence

'If we are what we repeatedly do, then excellence is not an act, but a habit'.

We will continue to impress this with our pupils over the course of this lockdown and in particular, in their live lessons, and we look forward to your continued backing as parents and guardians to achieve our shared, collective aim for each of your sons and daughters.

Despite not being in school, entering this new phase of live lessons means every pupil will continue to have the opportunity to regularly achieve reward points in recognition of their contribution, effort, achievement, behaviour and progress. This will not change. These positive reward points will continue to be consistently and fairly awarded to each pupil's individual total throughout the remainder of this academic year through their ongoing attendance in lessons.

Continued next page...

Communications Updates

Through these uncertain times, please ensure that you check the school's communication channels for updates on the dynamic situation we find ourselves in.

All updates are emailed / texted to parents so please ensure we have your most up to date email address and mobile number.

If you are not receiving messages, please check your spam in the first instance before getting in touch with the school office to verify your details. You may also update us by emailing enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk.

All whole-school broadcasts are also posted to the school website via the News and Letters pages and are also on our social media.

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/news

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters

Are you following our social media channels?

Twitter @PriorySTC

Facebook /priorystc



Continued from front page...

Equally, our behaviour sanctions will continue to be applied in the same way as they would be if we were in school, for every individual. This too, will not change.

Once again, I recognise this is an unprecedented situation for everyone but my sincere thanks to so many of you from whom we have already received many messages of support for the work we have done this week in our transition to live learning. I echo those messages of thanks to my staff team here in school in particular. With such little notice to change to remote learning I remain forever grateful for the staff for having the foresight to prepare us for this eventuality and for ensuring we are in a strong position as a school to continue to deliver our core purpose of educating our young people in the best possible way, given the circumstances.

We continue to be proud to be able to provide the best possible opportunities, facilities and care for those pupils who are fortunate enough to be with us.

All the very best to all for a safe, healthy and positive term.



Mr M Eastham
Headteacher



Charges for school bus services operated by Penwortham Priory Academy will be paused from 4 January 2021.

Any deductions / overpayments will be dealt with when we have a definite return to school date so that we can calculate accurate balances. Please note that this only applies to the Walton-le-dale/ Lostock Hall, Farington/Leyland and Cottam routes.



Parents using the 574 and 719 services will need to contact Lancashire County Council directly for any reimbursements.

Mrs Coolson
Finance Officer

reminder

Reminder for Pupils

Please be reminded that MS Teams is effectively your classroom and therefore pupils must ensure that the lesson chat facility is used appropriately when 'speaking' to teachers.

Pupils should only comment when necessary or told to do so by your teacher. The facility cannot be used as a general chat room for pupils to speak to each other. Any message should be appropriate to the lesson, using the correct language and only aimed towards the staff member. Text speak or slang should not be used.

All inappropriate messages are deleted and staff may sanction pupils which can be monitored by parents on Synergy.



Microsoft Teams

Learn to succeed

Are you interested in working with us to set the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school?

Penwortham Priory Academy's governing body currently has vacancies for three parent governors.

School governors are all volunteers and are drawn from different parts of the community. Governors challenge and support the school in a proportionate, fair manner on behalf of all children and families. They hold executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, the performance management of staff, and oversee the financial performance of the school, ensuring money is spent correctly and for the good of all pupils.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor and want to find out more please go to www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/governors and, if you would like to apply, the application form and eligibility criteria can be found at www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/governors/governor-vacancy

Governor Vacancies

The governing body of Penwortham Priory Academy currently has vacancies for three parent governors.

Deadline for applications 22 January 2021

Follow this link for further details:

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/governors/governor-vacancy



Uniform Supplier Update

Due to the latest government lockdown, Justs uniform supplies are now closed until further notice.

If you are a keyworker or urgently need uniform, please contact Justs via telephone: 01772 743807 or email at info@justsclothing.co.uk



Happy New Year From The Science Department!



Students have started the new term exceptionally well in science, we've had some good interactions with students and lots of work has been submitted of an excellent standard. All the science staff have been working hard to keep lessons as 'normal' as possible, and it is great to see students respond in the same manner - dedicated and hard working.

Year 11 Advent Calendars

In the run up to Christmas you may remember we launched our Science Advent Calendar, allowing Year 11 students to begin revision for their exams. While circumstances may have changed for us all, it is still important to recognise the hard work so many put in to completing that task. As such, here is the shortlisted entries which were put into the random draw:

Claudia S	Lillie E-H
Robyn W	Ken M
Maddie W	Jodi E
Ella W	Maisie B
Lucy W	Tom P
Dhilan C	Rebecca J
Louis R	Reece S
Nathan S	Jamie W
Louisa R	
Amy L	
Eleanor R	
Erin C	



But the winners of the gift vouchers, as selected at random, were:

Louis F
Theo R
Jasmine R

Mr Bedford
Head of Science

Sports Hall Refurbishment

Work continued this week on the refurbishment of Priory's sports hall.

The flooring is starting to take shape.

Fresh layers have been applied throughout the week with a final layer today and then line markings early next week.

(Photo taken on Thursday)



before

during



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EnglishDepartment

A few words from Mrs Gidden...



We're launching a **competition for Year 9 pupils** alongside the Of Mice and Men unit featuring the struggles of women and the suffragette movement - all will be revealed soon!

Also, coming soon, the **Year 7 Poetry Competition 2021**. After the success of Katie's

Mystery Man poem in 2019 and Harry's Kids' Football poem last year, this year's entries are greatly anticipated.



Did you know that reading material can be found for free by logging onto the Lancashire library website?

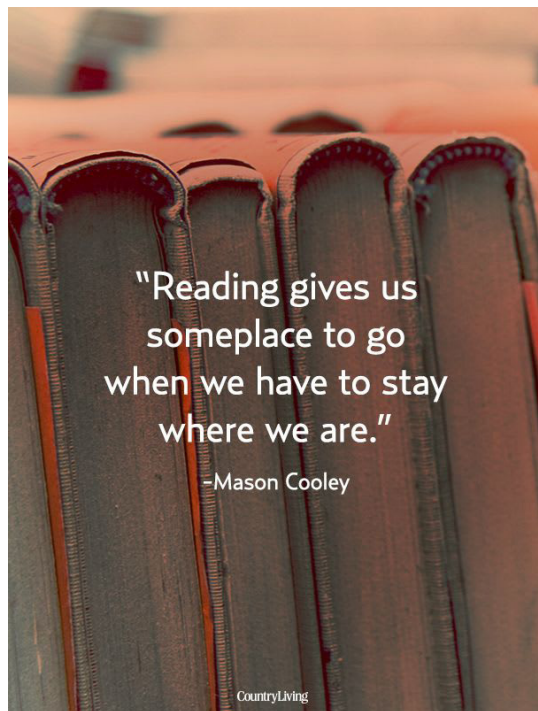
Visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries-and-archives/libraries/your-library-at-home/ for more information.



Accelerated Reader



And, in addition, the AR programme is operating as normal so pupils can quiz to their heart's content! Also check out the '**Did you know..**' article on the next page - quite an interesting read.



Word^{of}THE Week

Word of the Week and '**Literacy Tip**' will be rested during the closure but instead we're running a '**Pupil's Word of the Week**' where pupils email me weekly telling me a new word they have learned anywhere in the curriculum. The most interesting ones will have their name and word included in the newsletter the following week along with receiving achievement points.

Send an email to a.gidden@priors.lancs.sch.uk to nominate your Word of the Week. Tell me which subject you learnt it in and the definition.

Literacy tip of the week...

Thank you is a sentence, two separate words. "Thankyou" is not a word.	Can you think of a method of remembering this?
--	--

Word of the Week: **Approach**

word week

Verb
To come near or nearer to (someone or something) in distance or time E.g. I could see he was about to approach me.
Noun
A way of dealing with a situation or problem E.g. My approach to dealing with my worries is...
Etymology
Middle English: from Old French *aprocher*, *aprocher*, from ecclesiastical Latin *appropriare* 'draw near'

Mrs Gidden
Head of English

Learn to succeed

Did you know... *Reading for enjoyment every day is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background?*

Not only do children who read for pleasure perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but they also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Parents are the most important educators in a child's life – even more important than their teachers – you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading together.

Here at Priory, we use Accelerated Reader which aims to get children in Years 7-10 reading every day. Pupils can 'quiz' on fiction and non-fiction texts they read in school and when taking a quiz, they have the option to choose whether they have read alone or been read to.

For many pupils, poor engagement with AR is because they don't enjoy reading and a great step in encouraging reading for pleasure is by modelling it at home and sharing the experience with your child. Having books in the home is associated with both reading enjoyment and confidence.

We all get busy and caught up with life, and reading with your high school aged child might be the last thing you feel you can find time for, but it can be made simple. **Here are some ideas.**

- Ask your child to read a page of their AR book during the car journey home from school.
- Read a snippet of a news article together each day and engage in some discussion on the topic.
- Read together for 5-10 minutes before your child goes to bed.
- Listen to an audio book together in place of watching TV once a week

And remember, reading doesn't just mean novels. It can be:

- Non-fiction texts such as leaflets and brochures
- Magazines

- TV subtitles
- Web surfing
- Newspapers
- Audio books
- eBooks
- Articles
- Recipes and instructions

READ MORE

Not only is reading great for your child's academic progress, reading with your child and playing an active role in their reading engagement is linked to enhanced relaxation, calmness, concentration, quality of life, confidence and self-esteem - something that we could all benefit from, especially given the current climate.

Head of English, Mrs Gidden, says...

A lot of parents think their high school age children are 'too old' to read but the benefits of reading extend far beyond the primary school gates.

Every Priory pupil carries a reading book so they will always have access to reading material, even after school. Sitting and reading with your child improves their chances of success in all areas in and outside the curriculum.



The **more** that you read, the **more** things you will know. The **more** that you learn, the **more** places you'll go.

Dr. Seuss

So let's get reading!

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Careers Advice at Priory

Happy New year to you all!

Hope you have all had a lovely safe Christmas break?

As the government has announced another lock down, please rest assure that I will continue to provide remote careers advice and guidance during the days I am designated as the Independent Careers Adviser for the school.



I have listed below the days from January until the February half term break where I will be available and working remotely from 8.15am to 2.30pm, so please get in touch.

January 2021

- Thursday, 7 January 2021
- Friday, 15 January 2021
- Friday, 22 January 2021
- Friday, 29 January 2021

February 2021

- Friday, 5 February 2021
- Friday, 12 February 2021
- Friday, 26 February 2021

Pupils can email me requesting a Microsoft Teams appointment and I will arrange a suitable date and time with them or alternatively pupils and parents can email me with any queries, and I will respond on one of the designated days as noted above.

Why not get in touch! s.khan@priory.lancs.sch.uk

Stay safe and stay in touch!

Mrs Khan
Independent Careers Adviser

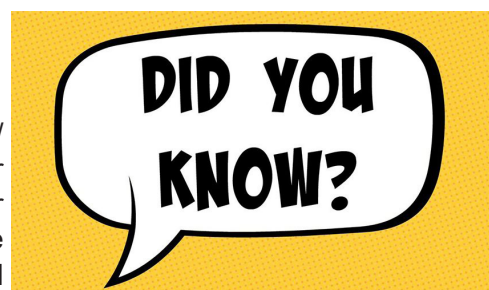


Did you know?

If you haven't got enough laptops/computers/phones to go around in your house you can also use an Xbox or Playstation if you have them. They have browsers and you can plug in a keyboard too.

<https://virtuallyvisual.wordpress.com/2020/06/05/low-cost-end-points-for-remote-education-lightweight-homeworking/>

www.howtogeek.com/259118/how-to-connect-a-physical-keyboard-to-your-xbox-one



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OFFERING
THE MOST
**FOR SCHOOL
LEAVERS**

PRESTON'S COLLEGE  

**PRESTON'S COLLEGE
SCHOOL LEAVER
VIRTUAL OPEN EVENT
THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY,
4-7.30PM**

Register now:
www.preston.ac.uk/jan21



Preston's College

The event on 28 January will also feature new content and information relating to T levels.

Register at >> www.preston.ac.uk/jan21

Myerscough College

Myerscough College is holding a Virtual Course Advice evening on Tues, 12 January from 7pm - 8pm and also an Advice Morning online on Sat, 6 February 10am to 12.30pm.

Instructions on how to book are through the 'What's On' section of Myerscough's website www.myerscough.ac.uk/whats-on/ or pupils can simply visit the website on either of these dates.



**Myerscough
College**

**Online
Course Advice
Evening**

7.00pm-8.00pm



**Tuesday
12th January**

The North West centre for land-based & sports education

www.myerscough.ac.uk  @myerscoughcoll  MyerscoughColl

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Priory Photo Competition

It's back!! The Priory Photo Competition. After monumental success over the first lockdown, the Priory Weekly Photo Competition starts again on Monday, 11 January 2021. A great excuse to get outside and get some fresh air during your time working from home – take a break!

Why not join our weekly photo challenge? Whether you use your smartphone or you are a budding photographer – send us your photo of the week.



Each week, Mr Metcalfe and Mr Eccles will choose their top 3 photos that will be published in the school newsletter and on our social media platforms.

Entries in by 12noon every Thursday and winners announced on Friday.

The theme next week is

snow

Email your photos to

p.metcalfe@priory.lancs.sch.uk



Leon's Fundraiser Total

Before the Christmas break, Year 8 Leon set out to raise funds for a charity which has helped his disabled brother.



Handicapped
Children's
Action Group

Key Stage 3 pupils jumped at the chance to get involved in answering interesting and fun facts about Priory's staff all in aid of Handicapped Children's Action Group (HCAG).

Leon wanted to give something back to the charity that donated a specially adapted bike to assist his younger sibling, Lewis.

This week, Leon's mum contacted Mr Eastham with the final figures, which included his neighbourhood Christmas lights campaign, and was thrilled to be able to tell us that the fundraising total was £500!

Mrs Ashton went on to say, "We couldn't have raised that amount without your support so thank you very much once again. The Handicapped Children's Action Group will be in touch with school to express thanks to staff and children, they were so pleased with the amount!"

Such wonderful news to hear in the current times - well done all!



THANK YOU

FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR THE POPPY APPEAL

THANK YOU

YOUR POPPY SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES
COMMUNITY PAST AND PRESENT

To: Priory High

Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised:

£ 180.46

To find *With sincere thanks* ion helps,
Michael & Nick
Joint Poppy Appeal
Organisers

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The School Day

Designed to develop our pupils' value set:

- We are **Ready for Excellence**
- We have the right **Character for Excellence**
- We have the right **Attitude to Learning for Excellence** (By upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

Which gives us our School Culture

House registration & 'Ready for Excellence' Lesson

8.40 - 8.50

Lesson 1

(Upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

8.50 - 9.50

Lesson 2

(Upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

9.50 - 10.50

Wellbeing Break

10.50 - 11.15

Lesson 3

(Upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

11.15 - 12.15

Lesson 4

(Upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

12.15 - 1.15

Wellbeing Lunch Break

1.15 - 1.50

Year Group 'Learning for Life' Lesson 5 or Assembly - 'The Right Character for Excellence'

1.50 - 2.10

Lesson 6

(Upholding our '*Attitude to Learning in Lessons Charter*'))

2.10 - 3.10

Please note that Learning for Life lessons (Period 5) have been suspended during lockdown however Heads of Year may call an assembly and will let pupils know via MS Teams.

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