

# Penwortham Priory Post



## Meet the Teacher - Mrs Kursitis, Humanities

**Mrs Kursitis has travelled the world to boost her geography knowledge – and is now sharing it with the pupils at Priory.**

Mrs Kursitis joined the Humanities team as Geography teacher in September and has soon settled into her new role.

"I am from Preston and went to Penwortham Girls' High School," said Mrs Kursitis. "I never knew what I wanted to do, except I wanted to travel and I travelled to South East Asia and lived in Australia, all over really. I came back and completed my PGCE at Manchester Met and then worked at a school in Bolton for a few years.

"I heard about the vacancy at Priory and, once I looked around the school, I knew I wanted to teach here. I really liked the feel of the school and the working environment.

"I have loved seeing places and Geography has always been my passion."

Mrs Kursitis lists her hobbies as scuba diving, badminton but mainly now looking after her children!

Head of Humanities Mr Metcalfe said: "I knew Mrs Kursitis from working at Bolton with her and I know she is a strong classroom practitioner.

"When I came here we had three GCSE classes across Humanities, in Geography, History and RE, but we have expanded greatly in the last three years.

*Continued on page 2.*

## Key Dates

### Diary Dates

Did you know that the term dates for this academic year, as well as the following two years, are available to view and download from our website?

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates)

**Weds, 13 October**  
Year 7 Settle Factor  
Evening

**Thurs, 14 October**  
LUSoM Maths assembly  
Year 11 high ability

**Tues, 19 October**  
Year 10 Settle Factor  
Evening

**Mid Term Closure**  
Mon 25 October - Fri, 29  
October

**Mon, 8 November**  
Learning for Life Day 2  
Early lunch followed by  
school closure at 1.10pm

**W/c 8 & 15 November**  
Year 11 Mock Exams

**Thurs, 11 November**  
Flu immunisations (all  
year groups)

**Fri, 17 December**  
Early lunch followed by  
school closure at 1.10pm

Continued from overleaf...

"We have larger GCSE numbers and we are changing the curriculum to make sure Key Stage 3 pupils are enthusiastic about humanities and want to take it further."

"With the expansion, we needed new teachers and I know how brilliant and enthusiastic Mrs Kursitis is in the classroom."

*"She fits this school perfectly, she builds up strong relationships with the pupils and her teaching is engaging and she loves teaching! She has a wealth of knowledge and experience and will be a big addition to our team. We have a vision in Humanities and are forever adapting our teaching to make the subject more appealing to the pupils and to make it all more digitally accessible."*

"We want pupils to love the subjects like we do and enthuse them to carry it on to college level and beyond."



## Travel & Transport Disruptions



Please be aware of the Stagecoach strike action - Disruption to services in South Lancashire

**Thursday 14th, Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October, Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd October** (please check website for updates)

**This will affect services 1, 1a, 2, 2a, 3, 8a, 9, 59, 61, 68, 109, 111, 125, 280, 315, X2, X8**

**If your child uses any of these services to travel to school then you will need to make alternative arrangements. Unfortunately, any absence due to the strike will not be authorised.**

Further information can be found at>>

[www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/merseyside-and-south-lancashire/potential-strike-action#](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/merseyside-and-south-lancashire/potential-strike-action#)



## Resurfacing

**Road resurfacing works will be carried out on Cop Lane Penwortham, from 19-22 October.**

Closures will be in place for the duration of the carriage works from 9am-3pm affecting the section between Manor Road to Liverpool Road.

Lancashire County Council have stated that whilst access will be maintained whenever and wherever possible, it would be realistic to anticipate some delays and inconvenience.

Notice boards along the route will provide updated information.

# Do you love cooking and being creative in the kitchen?

## Year 7

Come to our Creative Cookery workshop for Year 7 on Monday, 18 October from 3.05pm to 4.30pm where we'll be making some Halloween based treats and spooky food!!!

It's free and if you want to take part, there are places for the **first 15 pupils** who contact Mrs Cowell, Deputy Head and Food Technology Teacher.



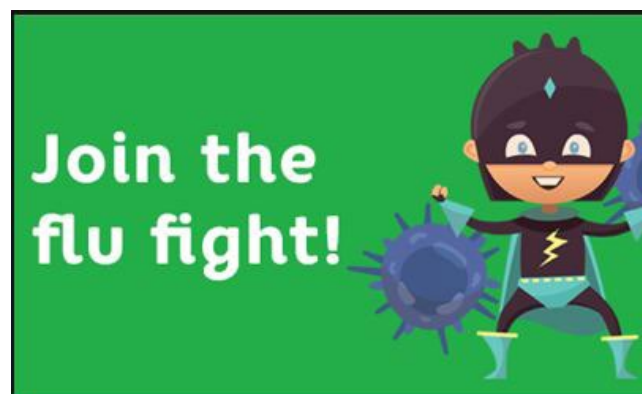
## Nasal Flu Vaccine

reminder

Over 60% of parents have completed the nasal flu vaccine consent form. If you have not yet completed it can you please click the link below.

Please note, if your child is not to receive the vaccine you must still complete the form indicating this.

<https://www.nhsimms.uk/FLU/information?Id=138948&Type=FLU>



## Food Tech Ingredients Fees - Now Due

**As you are aware, we've now changed to a system where school organises all the provisions for Food Preparation & Nutrition.** To enable this to happen, we ask parents/carers to make a contribution online via the SCOPay system to pay for ingredients for the practical lessons.

For those pupils currently on the Food Technology carousel, it is now time to make your payments. This is a one-off payment to cover all the dishes made over this term.

Year 7 - £6

Year 8 - £7.50

Year 9 - £8.50

Email reminders have been sent to those affected. Thank you to those families that have made the payment already. If you need a reminder of your SCOPay login please contact the Finance Officer, Mrs Cookson, by email [j.cookson@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:j.cookson@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

reminder

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# Andy Kolacz (Class of 1990)



**Former pupils have a habit of returning to Priory as staff – and Site Supervisor Andy Kolacz is the latest!**

Andy was at Priory from 1985-90 and admitted he left with a lot of happy memories if 'not a lot of qualifications'.

He worked in the motor trade, in the body shop and sales departments, but he saw the job as Site Supervisor advertised at Priory and decided he wanted to go back to school!

"I was at Priory in the 1980s, it was such a long time ago and I remember it being enjoyable with nice teachers," said Andy.



"No one is here anymore from my time, I think Mrs Lewis-Lavender was the last one to retire a couple of years ago who was here when I was. Mr Pearce was the head teacher when I came but he left during my last year at Priory.

"It's a bit surreal being back, it's so different. I remember the long G corridor, that's a lasting memory, it was a narrow avenue but it's been separated now!

"The swimming pool was just being built, I remember that was the big story in my last year at school, and obviously it has all changed a lot.

"It's a big site and I am glad to be part of the estates team. There is always a lot of work to do. I am busy and it's good to be back!"



Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

# Parents Evenings Year 7 & 10

In view of Covid-19, it isn't sensible to hold our consultation evenings in school as we usually do.

To facilitate the events we will therefore hold these face-to-face appointments virtually, using a web-based program - 'SchoolCloud Parents Evening'.

**Year 7**                      **Weds, 13 October 2021**

**Year 10**                     **Tues, 19 October 2021**

Copies of the letters to Year 7 and Year 10 parents, along with full instructions on how to book and attend appointments, can be downloaded from the school website [www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters). In addition, a tutorial video can be viewed by clicking on the link <https://vimeo.com/473882995>

The link for Year 7 parents to book their slot is now open and the link for Year 10 appointments will open from this Sunday.

**The link to access the event is the same link you use to book your appointments, as follows:**

**<https://penworthampriory.schoolcloud.co.uk/>**

To enable teachers to meet with as many parents/carers as possible, each appointment slot will be five minutes long. The appointments automatically stop after this time and teachers cannot extend the call.

If you wish to meet with your child's teacher for further discussion after this, please arrange this with them during the session or via email at a later point. If you would like to speak to another member of staff, please feel free to contact them direct. A full email list can be found via the link below.

[www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/staff-contact-list](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/staff-contact-list)

Mr Gee  
Assistant Headteacher



## MABAL is back!

(music at break and lunch)

### Bringing music to your ears at break and lunch

Before the first lockdown last year, we played music through the school's tannoy system during break and lunch. Chosen by Mr Taylor, Lead Teacher for Music, this was designed to offer exposure to the curriculum in different ways, and support pupils' appreciation of music across the school.

Starting from Monday, we will focus on one theme each week across a genre, a country or from history. The theme could also link to the season or an event in school, such as the upcoming production, Matilda.

Examples planned for the coming weeks include...

Russian Music, Songs from Shows, Christmas Songs, Music from the Decades, French Music, Western Classical Music, Jazz, Latin, Film, Soul, Motown and Legends - Elvis, the Beatles, the Bee Gees, Michael Jackson

Any further suggestions are welcomed - pupils should see Mr Taylor or email [a.taylor@priory.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:a.taylor@priory.lancs.sch.uk).

Mr Taylor  
Lead Teacher of Music

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## Year 7, 8 & 9

### Creative Arts Rotations

There will be the usual rotation of classes in Art, Drama and Music from Monday, 18 October 2021.

Pupils in Years 7-9 will therefore have lessons and receive homework from their new subject from that date.

The staffing / subjects will be...

Miss Howell  
E1 / W1 - Drama

Mr Taylor  
E2 / W2 - Music

Mrs Hopes  
E3 / W3 - Art

## B:M2021

DIG DEEPER, LOOK CLOSER, THINK BIGGER

October is Black History Month, a month to share, celebrate and understand Black heritage and culture, as well as celebrating the historical significance and achievements of Black British people. Check out Mr Eccles' competition below - you could earn yourself some goodies!

## Celebrating the lives of Black Britons.

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

## Black History Month October 2021

COMPETITION  
-TIME-

Across the UK during the month of October, people will be celebrating the contributions made by Black Britons over the years.

Here at Priory, we are running a competition for all students to enter where we would like you to select and celebrate the life of a great Black Briton.

Your entry can be in the form of a poster, a piece of art, a poem, a song or however you wish to celebrate this person and their important life.

**Entries should be submitted to Mr Eccles, Head of History, no later than Wednesday, 20 October 2021.**

A winner will be selected from both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 with vouchers and achievement points for your House up for grabs.

Good luck!

Mr Eccles  
Head of History



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# EnglishDepartment



It was **National Poetry Day** yesterday and so, to celebrate the occasion the English department had everyone involved!

Throughout each day in class, English teachers read some fantastic poetry written by children, for children, from Wondercrump - a superb anthology of poems sponsored by the Roald Dahl Foundation.

Staff also shared their favourite poetry to pupils via Microsoft Teams and, to parents, through our social

media channels. Two of them can be read on page 9 - one links with Black History Month and the other chosen by Mrs Webster.

In addition we asked everyone - pupils, staff and parents! - to nominate their favourite poem or rhyme. We will be sharing the most popular next week. So look out for them on our social media (pupils can visit their year group Teams).

And this isn't the end of our poetry celebrations as we have our annual Year 7 poetry competition after Christmas which always produces some really amazing work!

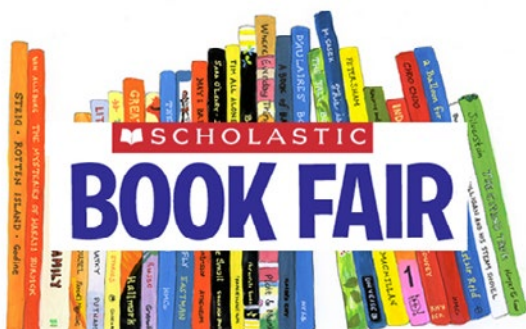
Mrs Gidden  
Head of English

## You've Been Amazing!

The book fair left Priory on Tuesday and during the five days it was with us we sold over £480 worth of books to pupils - the **BEST YEAR EVER!**

This has meant that the English Department has been able to take almost £200 worth of books from Scholastic's literary stock to put into our library.

We'd like to pass on a big thank you to everyone who got involved, and to all the pupils who were so excited about the fair and so generous with their purchasing. It's heart warming to know that our pupils are passionate about books and it's a real testament to the impact of our reading culture at Priory.



A special thanks to pupils George H (Year 10), Lewis T and Abi M (Year 9) and Deputy Head Girl, Emily B who have been superstars helping out with the fair during their breaks and lunches.

Mrs Elliott  
English Teacher & Chief Librarian

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This week Miss Smith discovered that some of her Year 7 English class had written a rap about Covid-19 whilst they were at their primary school and they were keen to share it with everyone. As we're celebrating all things poetry and rhyme this week we thought we ought to include it here!

We're loving your work Maisie C, Keira H, Noah W, William B (pictured here with their AR books) and Daisy M-W, Cameron B, Emily A, Skye S, Harvey S, Archie M, Beau M, Tommy P, Zack M, Hannah N, Anna H



Also this week for #NationalPoetryDay even our gardener, Mr Farron, has got involved with this 16th Century poem by John Donne...

***No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace  
As I have seen in one autumnal face.***

Read in full>> [www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44101/elegy-ix-the-autumnal](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44101/elegy-ix-the-autumnal)



## Covid Rap

I go to the shop, wearing a visor,  
Oh wait, put on the hand sanitiser,  
Trapped in a dungeon COVID-19,  
All because I have to quarantine,  
Three weeks off, two months here and there,  
Please somebody help me, I don't care,  
Here I am, I've got loads of stress,  
Look at the world, it's an absolute mess,  
Families hiding like a mouse,  
Trapped and terrified in their house,  
All I want is to be free, when it's all over I'll be glad  
YIPPEE!

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## LEADERBOARD



### This week's Bedrock leaders are:

#### Points (overall)

Abigail M	9E3	604
Layla H	8W3	491
Jake L	8W2	467

#### Points (this week)

Jake L	8W2	142
Layla H	8W3	141
Abigail M	9E3	140

### This week pupils were learning these words ...

**Awe** - a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder.

**Dwell** - live in or at a specified place.

**Gauge** - an instrument that measures and gives a visual display of the amount, level, or contents of something.

**Languish** - (of a person, animal, or plant) lose or lack vitality; grow weak.

**Impartial** - treating all rivals or disputants equally.



We have had several students scoring over 100 points with Bedrock this week which is lovely to see. But an extra well done to Jake, Layla and Abi, not only have they achieved the highest points this week but are also our top performers overall so far this academic year!

### Challenge: Can you score over 100 points next week?

10W4 deserve a special mention this week as all our top year 10 spots are from this class - keep up the excellent work. Daniel has been top of the Year 10 leaderboard for two weeks in a row now - well done Daniel!



## LEADERBOARD



## Accelerated Reader™

Accelerated Reader is a computer-based program that schools may use to monitor reading practice and progress. It helps teachers guide pupils to books that are on their individual reading levels. Pupils take short quizzes after reading a book to check if they've understood it. Further information at [www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/online-learning-platforms](http://www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/pupils/online-learning-platforms)

### Here are this week's leaders:

#### Year 7

Caleb H	7E3	589,379
Jessica D	7E3	222,401
Harriet H	7W2	214,105

#### Year 8

Alex P	8W2	172,896
Xander C	8E3	127,859
Emily P	8E2	117,199

#### Year 9

Emily C	9W2	169,115
Lily McM	9E2	127,418
Isaak H	9W1	59,350

#### Year 10

Daniel R	10W4	258,678
Yoshimi H	10W4	91,844
Surayya H	10W4	91,844

Mrs Webster

Acting Assistant Head of English

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# Please can all pupils complete our careers survey.



## Why?

It is important to know what our pupils' career interests currently are to ensure we supply you with the information to successfully achieve your desired career. As such Head of Learning for Life, Mrs Hopes, has asked pupils to complete an online survey so we can find out where your interests currently lie.

The link is <https://forms.office.com/r/huiEzyMmgG> and can also be found in the Year Group Teams or in emails Mrs Hopes has sent.

On completion of the survey, any information that comes into school regarding your particular career interests can be sent directly to you. It will also enable us to plan trips to workplaces, assist in arranging work experience, contact people in these sectors to arrange workshops. For example, this week we have sent information to pupils who are interested in careers in the NHS, the army and engineering.

**We also need to know what information pupils need to help you succeed. Information may include (see image right)...**

What careers information do you need regarding careers?

- ☐ Ideas for a career
- ☐ Shortage careers in this area (Therefore many jobs available)
- ☐ How to gain soft skills to make me more employable
- ☐ The GCSEs I need to take for a career or course I am interested in
- ☐ Different qualifications and routes after Priory
- ☐ The courses I need to take after Priory to get the career I want
- ☐ Apprenticeships - Earn while you learn
- ☐ Financing university
- ☐ How to apply for part time jobs
- ☐ How to create a CV and covering letter for a part time job
- ☐ How to complete an application form for a part time job
- ☐ Information on teenagers and part time working

**To celebrate National Poetry Day on Thursday, each day this week we shared a poem.**

Tuesday's, by John Agard, links to Black History Month as he asks its reader to 'explain' what is meant by the slurring term 'half-caste'.

Thursday's was one of Mrs Webster's favourites, 'A Blade of Grass'. It reminds us to appreciate the simple things in life.



### Half Caste John Agard

Excuse me  
Standing on one leg  
I'm half-caste

Explain yusef  
Wha yu mean  
When yu say half-caste  
Yu mean when picasso  
Mix red an green  
Is a half-caste canvas?  
Explain yusef  
Wha u mean  
When yu say half-caste  
Yu mean when light an shadow  
Mix in de sky  
Is a half-caste weather??

Well in dat case  
England weather  
Nearly always half-caste  
In fact some o dem cloud  
Half-caste till dem overcast  
So spiteful dem dont want de sun pass  
Ah rass  
Explain yusef  
Wha yu mean  
When yu say half-caste?  
Yu mean tchaikovsky  
Sit down at dah piano  
An mix a black key  
Wid a white key  
Is a half-caste symphony?

Explain yusef  
Wha yu mean  
Ah listening to yu wid de keen  
Half of mih ear  
Ah looking at u wid de keen  
Half of mih eye  
And when I'm introduced to yu  
I'm sure you'll understand  
Why I offer yu half-a-hand  
An when I sleep at night  
I close half-a-eye  
Consequently when I dream  
I dream half-a-dream  
An when moon begin to glow  
I half-caste human being  
Cast half-a-shadow  
But yu come back tomorrow

Wid de whole of yu eye  
An de whole of yu ear  
And de whole of yu mind

An I will tell yu  
De other half  
Of my story



### A Blade of Grass Brian Patten

You ask for a poem.  
I offer you a blade of grass.  
You say it is not good enough.  
You ask for a poem.  
I say this blade of grass will do.  
It has dressed itself in frost,  
It is more immediate  
Than any image of my making.  
You say it is not a poem,  
It is a blade of grass and grass  
Is not quite good enough.  
I offer you a blade of grass.  
You are indignant.  
You say it is too easy to offer grass.  
It is absurd.  
Anyone can offer a blade of grass.  
You ask for a poem.  
And so I write you a tragedy about  
How a blade of grass  
Becomes more and more difficult to offer,  
And about how as you grow older  
A blade of grass  
Becomes more difficult to accept.



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**Age 14-17? Want to help your council change South Ribble for the better?**

The new Youth Council is an amazing opportunity for young people to have their voices heard and make a real difference in their local area.

South Ribble Borough Council are offering training opportunities, pathways into employment and free food at every Youth Council meeting.

Contact Hanna Latif by email [hanna.latif@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:hanna.latif@southribble.gov.uk) to find out more.

The **PLE**Edge  
iX

And if you decide to get involved, let Head of Learning for

Life, Mrs Hopes, know as this will count towards your PiXL Edge award!

# SOUTH RIBBLE YOUTH COUNCIL

**Do you want to?**

- Make a difference
- Access training opportunities
- Enhance your CV and applications
- Meet new people
- Find opportunities for work
- Get free food

**SIGN UP!**

[hanna.latif@southribble.gov.uk](mailto:hanna.latif@southribble.gov.uk)  
dm on [hanna ribble](#)

South Ribble Borough Council



**There will be a regular ongoing collection for the Penwortham Food Bank taking place from now on.**

Pupils and staff can bring items to **SC1 on a Monday or Friday, before school, break or lunch**. What we collect will then be taken to the food bank at the end of each half term.

Form tutors will talk to pupils about suitable items to donate.

Thank you for your support!



Mrs Massey  
Science Teacher

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# Cabinet in the Community

Bringing our democracy to you

Your questions answered

**Wednesday 13 October, 6pm**  
Bamber Bridge Methodist Church,  
Station Road, PR5 6ED

We're taking some of our Cabinet meetings to local venues across the borough – have your voice heard at a special Q&A session. The Leader and Cabinet at South Ribble Borough Council will be on hand to answer any questions you have.

## What is a Cabinet meeting?

South Ribble's Cabinet comprises of the Leader of the Council and four Cabinet Members of the Council. Each has responsibility for a defined service area.

The Cabinet is responsible for carrying out almost all of the Council's functions in delivering services to the community. They meet once a month to make key decisions relating to the council and its services.

## Who are the Cabinet Members?

**Cllr Paul Foster** - Leader of the Council responsible for strategy and reform  
**Cllr Mick Titherington** - Deputy Leader responsible for health, wellbeing and leisure  
**Cllr Aniela Bylinski Gelder** - Responsible for communities, social justice and wealth building  
**Cllr Matthew Tomlinson** - Responsible for finance, property and assets  
**Cllr Bill Evans** - Responsible for planning, business support and regeneration



**We're bringing our democracy to you in a real boost to local democracy.**

Residents are invited to come along and make their voices heard at the first 'Cabinet in the Community' event at Bamber Bridge Methodist Church on Wednesday, 13 October.

Starting at 6pm, members of the public will have the chance to raise important issues in an hour-long Q&A session which will then be followed by the regular monthly cabinet meeting - in which key decisions are made about the council and its services.

From now on, at least two cabinet meetings every year will be made open to the public at a variety of venues across the borough.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3AcNtOK>



At Penwortham Priory Academy the Learning for Life curriculum is designed to support the promotion of excellence for pupils and do all it can to improve their life chances.

Pupils have two 15 minute Learning for Life lessons each week where they will participate in the curriculum shown opposite.

**Where you will learn things you will need and will use, now and in the future**

**On the curriculum w/c 4 October**

Year 7	Autumn Term - Theme: 'Starting as we mean to go on' Pushing yourself to the limits for others
Year 8	Autumn Term - Theme: 'Celebrating our difference' Recognising difference as a good thing
Year 9	Autumn Term - Theme: 'Finding my voice' How to handle receiving feedback
Year 10	Autumn Term - Theme: 'Owning my journey' Organising 'things' and organising myself
Year 11	Autumn Term - Theme: 'Breaking down the journey' Organisation and curricular studies

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# COME & SEE US

## OPEN EVENTS

Wednesday 6th October, 4-7pm

Saturday 6th November, 10am-2pm

Wednesday 9th March, 4-7pm

**FURTHER EDUCATION  
COLLEGE OF THE YEAR**



**2020 WINNER**

**PRESTON  
COLLEGE**

**100%  
PASS RATE  
ON LEVEL 3  
TECHNICAL  
COURSES**



**Myerscough  
College**

**INSPIRING EXCELLENCE**

### Course Advice Dates 2021

**Sat 2 Oct** 10am - 12:30pm

**Tues 12 Oct (Virtual)** 7pm - 8pm

**Sat 6 Nov** 10am - 12:30pm

**Tues 16 Nov (Virtual)** 7pm - 8pm

**Sat 4 Dec** 10am - 12:30pm

**The North-West centre for land-based,  
sport, engineering and science education**

*Learn to succeed*



For access to NHS careers advice, virtual work experience, employability sessions plus much more. Pupils will need to register for the platform in order to access content. There is a 3 day virtual work experience event taking place during October half term. All information can be found under 'Upcoming Events'.



Discover your career in the NHS and  
Care with our new website

# nhscareersnw.co.uk

**Your future at the NHS and Care starts here!**

Are you a student looking for Work Experience,  
Placement, Virtual events or Volunteering opportunities  
to support your career choice?



Whatever your skills, qualifications or interests, there is a career for you with us. You could work directly with patients, in hospitals, within an Ambulance Service, or in the Community.

**Log in to explore the many different opportunities available to you.**

