Penwortham Priory Post



Behind the Scenes: The Business & Finance Team

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

In a series of articles, we're shining a spotlight on each team as we explore their contributions and learn more about the people who keep our school running seamlessly. This third part highlights the Business & Finance Team.

Strategic Business Development Manager, Mrs Barker, is a member of the Senior Leadership Team and describes her department as 'the engine room behind the scenes supporting all departments in many ways.'

Mrs Barker has a team of four who oversee the business and non-academic side at Priory, ranging from budgets and finance, data and exams, to catering, HR and payroll, business contracts and more!

Mrs Barker said: "I have many areas of responsibility with the biggest being the financial management of the school, including budgeting and producing the three-year budget forecast, undertaking the statutory returns to Government, and managing HR and payroll, making sure everyone in school is paid and all staff have employment contracts.

"I also manage our energy contracts, GDPR and data protection, the Catering service and cleaning contract. I work closely with Strategic Estates Development Manager Mr Bolton in writing bids for additional grant funding, Health & Safety, estates management and facility hire outside of school hours."

Continued next page ...

Key Dates

Diary Dates

Did you know that the term dates for the academic year are available to view and download from our website?

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

HALF TERM 21-25 October

Mon, 28 October Year 11 Hutton Sixth Form Assembly

29-30 OctoberNational Grid Careers Fair

Thurs, 31 October
BBC Careers Roadshow
Online Assembly - Bonfire
Safety (all years)

4 & 7 NovemberYear 11 GCSE Geography
Wycoller Field Trip

Tues, 5 November
Nasal flu immunisations

12 & 13 NovemberYear 11 GCSE Geography
Liverpool Field Trip

12-14 NovemberYear 7 Lancaster Castle
Trip (one cohort each day)

Fri, 15 NovemberYear 11 BAE Systems trip (apprenticeship group)

Mon, 25 November
Learning for Life Day 2
Early lunch followed by
school closure at 1.10pm

Tues, 3 December Year 10 & 11 Faith Day

Continued from front page ...

Assistant Business Manager, Mrs Cookson said: "I am second to Mrs Barker, dealing with all aspects of finance and human resources and I am more involved in the day-to-day running of the school."

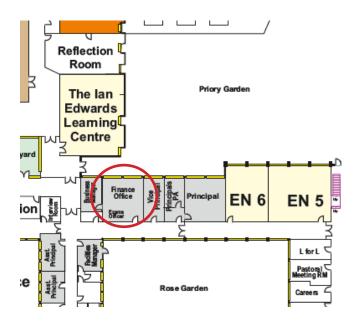
Mrs Diamond-Bugler has moved into a new role in Mrs Barker's Team as Assistant Business Manager for Business Services. She said "This is a new role connected with the running of the business side of the school, health and safety responsibilities, GDPR compliance, out of hours facility hire and more. I am still finding my feet but I am enjoying it."

Miss Conway is the Exams Officer and said: "There are exams all year round so I am kept busy. There are mock exams in November and February, then the GCSE exams and the Year 10 mocks in the summer term. I also deal with pupil admissions and pupil data."

Miss Haydock is the Business Support Officer. She said: "My job is a bit of everything, looking after catering, administrative support where needed, supporting Mrs Cookson with finance and organising school trips."

Mrs Barker believes the work undertaken by the team is fundamental in supporting all pupils and staff, stating "The Business and Finance Team's daily mission is to provide a professional and personable business service to all, and the team strives to deliver this every day so all Priory pupils can achieve their best outcomes."

The Business & Finance office can be accessed from the Senior Leaders Corridor. Pupils do not need to knock and wait to enter the first door.





Come join us for our UNITE youth groups

A social group for young people with special educational needs and disabilities. We have groups in Chorley and South Ribble on Mondays 6:30-8:30pm

A group where you can make new friends and learn

valuable social skills and just come to have FUN!

Providing a safe and welcoming environment for young people aged 12-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities. The group aims to work on life skills, improve communication skills, self-confidence & self-esteem in a group work setting.

(Parents/Carers are welcome to attend initial sessions)

Please contact before coming to the group

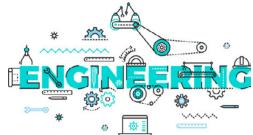
Contact us for more details on: chorleysouthribble.TYS@lancashire.gov.uk











Year 11 Engineering Intervention Session

We now can offer an intervention session for Year 11 Engineering students on Fridays after school from 3.10pm-4.10pm.

This extra session gives students the opportunity to build on class work and spend focused time with their class teacher, completing additional tasks or revisiting previously taught topics to aid learning and recall of information.

This intervention session is open for all current Year 11 Engineering students.

Mrs E Lochwood Teacher of Technology

Parking At School: A Polite Notice

Double Yellow Lines

Following complaints, we would like to politely remind parents/carers to park courteously, not on double yellow lines, and allow for clear passage of other vehicles when dropping pupils

off or collecting them at the end of the school day. In addition, please respect our neighbours by not blocking driveways. Speed around Crow Hills Road and Crookings Lane has also been raised by residents as an issue.





By parking in a legal and considerate manner, congestion will be reduced and safety enhanced thereby allowing for the least amount of disruption possible for parents and local residents. This may mean parking a little further away from the school.

We recognise that this may be one or two individuals and appreciate everyone's co-operation in respecting our community and keeping everyone safe.

Thank you for your support



School is now closed for the half term break:

21 - 25 October

We hope everyone enjoys their week off and we'll see you back in school on

Monday, 28 October.



Black History Month Food Sale

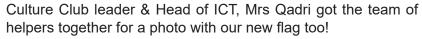




As part of Priory's Black History Month celebrations, Year 11 DaMari organised a food sale which was held at break on Tuesday.

Items made included Nigerian puff puff (like sugared doughnuts), Festivals (like fried cakes/dumplings), cupcakes with toppers of famous Black people, African Chin Chin (sweet pastry snack), Plantain Chips and Jamaican Ginger cake.

£60 was raised on the day which will be donated to Black Minds Matter charity.



DaMari has also delivered assemblies about Black history during Learning for Life lessons this week to Years 7, 8 and 9.













Well done Mr Owen!

Last Sunday (13th), Mr Owen ran his first ever half marathon and managed to raise a fantastic sum for charity in doing so.

Mr Owen managed to complete the West Coast Half Marathon in 1:48:49, a superb time for the English teacher who only took to pounding the pavements earlier this year.

Alongside Freckleton & Warton Running Club, Mr Owen was running to support a fundraising effort linked to



helping a local family raise the finances required to transform their home so that it is fit to house their ill son whose lives were sadly torn apart when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Dan has been in hospital for two years.

Read BBC article >>



www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj31x48vvryo

He calculates that between himself, friends, colleagues and family, the team raised over £500 for the Get Dan Home campaign.





Year 8 Science Trip Blackpool Zoo

The Science department would like to invite Year 8 pupils on a trip to Blackpool Zoo on Wednesday, 6 November.

As part of the Key Stage 3 Science curriculum in Year 8, pupils study food chains, bio-accumulation in food chains, ecosystems and extinction. Therefore we have planned the trip to fit in with this.

The cost of the trip is £16 including entry to the zoo and return transport. We will depart from school at 9am after morning registration. Pupils will also need a packed lunch or money to buy food at the venue (bear in mind this can be expensive). We will return at approximately 3pm, in time for the school buses.

Please note that there are a limited number of places available which are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The closing date is Monday, 28 October, however this will close earlier if places are filled. If you would like your child to attend the trip, please make the payment via SCOPay, where you will also be required to provide parental consent. This replaces the need to complete a reply slip.

Pupils should see their Science teacher for a copy of the letter or it can be downloaded from the school website at>>

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

Any queries can be directed to Mrs Massey via email at c.massey@priory.lancs.sch.uk





Priory's Gardens Welcome a Special Creature



Priory's award-winning gardens have a new addition – an expertly carved heron!

The heron has been placed in our Mediterranean garden, overlooking the pond, and has been sculptured by John Winders.

John made Corporal Tommy, in our Memorial Garden, after taking up wood carving as a hobby after retiring.

The heron won an award at the New Longton Flower Show and John decided to donate it to the school after speaking to gardener Chris Farron.

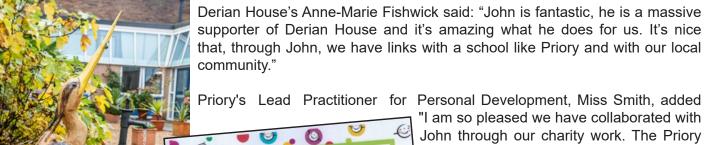
Priory, in return, is donating £75 to Derian House, a cause close to John's heart and where many of his other sculptures are featured.

Mr Farron said: "It's absolutely marvellous. The colour of the heron is autumnal and it looks brilliant in our gardens. We can't thank John enough. It has got pride of place and we are delighted we could help Derian House too."

John said: "It took me around three weeks to make. Chris asked me about it and I was delighted it has got a home at Priory. I made it look like it is wading through water and the fish is glazed to make it seem wet.



"I am glad Derian House is getting something out of it as it's a charity where I have always felt appreciated."



Personal Development, Miss Smith, added "I am so pleased we have collaborated with John through our charity work. The Priory family continues to raise money for Derian House every year through our Christmas Jumper Day and House Colours Day. We already have plans in place for this year's awareness assemblies, promotional displays and fundraising activities to ensure we maximise our fundraising potential for such an important facility in our area."



It's early but we need to get the (snow)ball rolling!



This is one competition that all pupils can get involved with and each year we always look forward to seeing their amazing creative designs.

Last year we chose Tilly's entry. Her mum won the competition in 2003 with a bauble design and, 20 years later, Tilly used aspects of her mum's card to see her intricate illustration printed and sent out in Priory's name at Christmas. Year 11 Emma's entry which incorporated the school's 70th anniversary was too good to be left out so we included that on the back of the card too! Art teacher, Mrs Shaw, will be leading the judging this year alongside Mr Eastham and Mrs Yates.



So, when you're wondering what to do over the half term break, why not get your creative juices flowing and design the school's Christmas card for 2024.





COMPETITION

Design Priory's Christmas Card for 2024

Deadline: Monday, 4 November

Merry Christmas



What you need to do.

Get creative and design the school's Christmas card for 2024

Would you like the chance to have your design put in print and circulated to key people around the county?

For the chance to get your creative work recognised, win an Amazon voucher and House acclamation:

- Submit an original design by Monday, 4 November 2024.
- Designs must be an original winter or Christmas-themed painting or drawing and incorporate a connection to Priory. Alternatively, you may like to submit a photograph of a model or a Christmas bake that you have made yourself that can be used for the design.
- Artwork must be in A4 or A3 and can be portrait or landscape.

Entries can be dropped off at the school office or left with Mrs Shaw. Make sure you've written your name and class on the back! Photographs or digital artwork can be emailed to Mrs Shaw at L.Shaw@priory.lancs.sch.uk or sent via Teams.

The overall winner will receive a £15 Amazon voucher and we'll turn your design into the school's Christmas card.

Two runners up will receive a £10 and £5 Amazon voucher respectively. All entrants who have demonstrated effort will receive achievement points and House points as this is also a House competition. We may also throw in some selection boxes too.





Autumn Update

Priory's gardens are our pride and joy and award-winning gardener Mr Farron wants to let parents and pupils know what to expect each month as the landscape changes.

Well, what an amazing year so far with extreme heat and floods of downpours!

It is a time now to plant and prep for the new season. This will include pruning and planting of various bulbs and re-siting of established trees and shrubs. I hope to soon finish the Priory Boulevard which now stretches along the west of the Priory Garden and will give colour and added fragrance overall to the area. The trees in particular are a variety of Salix which herald from Japan and are commonly known as Integra Hakuro-Nishiki which change colour throughout the seasons. I hope to shape them into parasols giving them a pleasant line and shape overall.

Plant Names

I will try to explain the origin of naming plants in detail:

Greek and Roman scholars lay the foundation of our method for naming plants. Their practice for naming and observing plants in detail was continued in the monasteries and universities of Europe, where Latin remained the common language.

They classified the naming of plants in two words in Latin form instead of adopting the descriptive phrases that had been in common usage among the botanists and herbalists of the day.

The first word was the name of the genus (e.g. Ilex) and the second was a specific epithet (e.g. Aquifolium). Together they provide a name by which a particular plant (species) could be universally known (Ilex Aquifolium, English or Common Holly). Other species in the same genus were then given different epithets (Ilex Crenata, Ilex Pernyi, Ilex Serata and so on).

The Meaning of Plant Names

A greater appreciation of botanical names may be gained by knowing something of their meaning. A name may be commemorative: The Fuchsia is an attribute to Leonhart

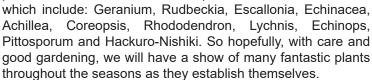


Fuchs, a German physician and herbalist. Or the name may tell us something about physical character. Pelargonium derives

from the Greek Pelargos (stalk) - an appropriate description of Stalks bills, and the Latin Parthenocissus Quique foliage made up of five leaves i.e. folium.

However, many plants today are given commercial names so as to improve the marketing and therefore sales i.e. anniversaries, birthdays, occasions, remembrance and colour i.e. the rosa golden showers = golden anniversary.

The boulevard which I briefly mentioned now has a collection of various perennials and herbaceous plants





To conclude, the school has been shortlisted for a prestigious annual award ceremony with The Royal Horticultural Society North West in Bloom which was judged in August, so fingers and roots crossed.

So thanks for reading and have a lovely Autumn!

PS Has anyone observed that we have a new addition to our Mediterranean Garden – his name is Henry!

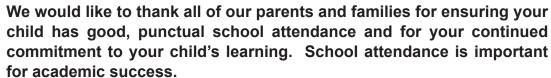
Many regards

Mr C Farron Head Gardener

Priory in Bloom Academy



Why Attendance Matters





When children attend school regularly they have more opportunities to learn and achieve. Being in school supports children to learn vital social skills, build confidence and develop independence; all skills which are important for adult life.

Children learn how to navigate through challenges, problem solving and create a vast amount of their childhood memories in school. Good attendance also acts as a way to keep children safe. Knowing who is absent from school and the reason for it is fundamental to effective safeguarding.

We have recently updated our Attendance and Punctuality Policy in line with the Department for Education (DfE) and Lancashire County Council (LCC), and there have been changes to a number of aspects including unauthorised absences, fines etc. The new policy and LCC parent leaflet are available online via our school website at >>

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

Punctuality and pupils getting to Penwortham Priory Academy on time is really important. Pupils will be reminded to make their way to form from 8.30am to ensure they are there on time. This means your child gets the opportunity to settle into class and be ready for learning and the day ahead. GREAT

Most of the school gates close promptly at 8.35am and the only way into school from this point is via the main school gate and then through the pupil access

door where Mrs Crank (Assistant Principal) and Mr Shipton (Pastoral Manager) are on duty each and every day to welcome pupils.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back after half term and please remind them they are to be in their form rooms for 8.40am.

Mrs Crank Assistant Principal & Attendance Champion



Attendance Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

If in a school year, your child is late every day by...

5 minutes

15 Minutes

30 Minutes

Your child would have lost approximately...

3.5 Days from School

10 Days from School

22 Days from School

or they would have missed approximately...

20 Lessons

55 Lessons

123 Lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time. It is also important to be on time for school.

Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity





Priory's Year 7 football team maintained its 100% start to the season with a third successive win on Tuesday with a 2-1 victory over Leyland St Mary's.

Team coach, Mr Gee, said, "Priory dominated the game and took the lead through Simms in the first half. A

rare defensive slip allowed St Mary's to equalise before Mitchell hit a 20 yard thunderbolt to win the game for Priory.

The team now looks forward to a last South Ribble league match, a Lancashire Cup match and the start of the South Ribble Cup after half term.

Mir Gee Assistant Principal and year 7 Coach



HOUSE	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Ribble	5	5	1
Douglas	4	3	4
Hodder	3	2	6
Calder	0	1	10



A Win at Leyland St Mary's for Year 9's Footballers

Priory's Year 9 boys finished the half term in style with a stunning win away at Leyland St Mary's on Wednesday afternoon.

After two recent defeats where the team had showed some promising signs, they produced a fantastic performance to run out 7-2 winners.

After two early goals from Josh M, St Mary's pulled one back, before Finn T made it 3-1 just before the half-time

break.

Discussion at half-time centred around the next goal being key, and so it proved. With St Mary's attacking from a corner, Priory's defence stood firm, with Will B winning the ball back and finding Theo H. Theo quickly passed to Josh M who sent Isaac S away down the left wing. An excellent ball across found the advancing Theo now on the edge of the box and he smashed a fantastic shot into the top corner - A wonderful team goal!



Further goals were added by

Excellence (2) and Josh M completing his hat-trick. St Mary's late consolation goal could not spoil the overall feeling of success.

Year 9 team Coach, Mr Raynor, said, "The lads all gave a great account of themselves throughout the entire game. It would be very difficult to pick a player of the match as they each produced their best performance of the year so far," said the Maths teacher. "Hopefully they will be able to play like this again in the next fixtures."

Photo:

Back row L to R - Adam B, Isaac S, Thomas T, Excellence I, Will D, Dan M, Will B, Theo H Front row L to R - Harry M, Connor S, Finn T, Josh M, Ossian H, Alex H

Mir Raynor Maths Teacher and year 9 Coach



Proposed Trip To Iceland

October 2025 | Years 8-10 only

We are excited to explore the possibility of organising a school trip to Iceland for students currently in Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10.

This incredible educational opportunity would allow students to experience Iceland's stunning landscapes and unique geography, including volcanoes, glaciers, geysers, and more.

Proposed Itinerary Overview:

Dates: 23 October 2025 – 27 October 2025

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights

Tour Basis: Half Board (breakfast/dinner included)

Estimated Cost: £1,100 per student (plus an

additional £50 flight contingency)

At this stage, we are looking to gauge the level of interest before proceeding further with the planning process. Once we confirm sufficient interest, further details will be provided, including a full itinerary, insurance information, and payment plans.

Letters have been distributed and are available to download from the school website at www.priory. lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters. If you are interested in the Iceland trip, reply slips should be returned to the Humanities department by Mon, 28 October. Reply slips do not guarantee a place at this stage should the trip go ahead, nor do they mean you must commit to the trip when follow up letters are released.

Enquiries to Mr Metcalfe, Head of Humanities at p.metcalfe@priory.lancs.sch.uk





Year 11 GCSE Geography Field Trips - November

These trips are compulsory parts of the GSCE and all students must attend to complete their course.

Wycoller Field Trip Mon, 4 Nov & Thurs, 7 Nov

Year 11 had their river fieldwork postponed last year due to poor weather. They now need to apply their River Landscapes unit to the practical element of the course and carry out a river study to test set hypotheses. This will take place along the Wycoller Beck, Wycoller.

The cost of the trip has already been paid for last year, and so no further payment is required. The trips will take place within the school day, leaving at 8.45am and returning by 3.10pm, in time for the school buses.

Liverpool Field Trip Tues, 12 Nov & Weds, 13 Nov

The aim of the fieldwork trip is to study several urban sites to test set hypotheses about the urban area of Liverpool. The trip involves testing whether the environmental quality of Liverpool improves as you move along an urban transect into the centre of Liverpool, and if the land use function increases. This ties into the Changing Cities module studied in Year 10 and prepares students for the Paper 3 fieldwork GCSE paper.

We will leave school at 8:40am and return to school by 4pm. The cost of the trip is £5 which can be paid through our cashless online system, SCOPay.

Letters have been emailed to parents and paper copies distributed to pupils. The letters can also be downloaded from the school website at www.priory. lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters.

The Assistant Head of Maths Mr Sneddon, along with the Maths Department, is running a competition asking pupils to say what they particularly enjoy about the subject.



Pupils are tasked with completing the following sentence, "I love Maths because..." and qualifying responses are rewarded with an I love Maths badge.

I Love Maths Because - Competition Time!

Here's why Year 7 Isaac, Logan and Angel love Maths:

Issac... because Maths answers are right or wrong, there are not any maybes. You need maths nearly every day and it is fun.

Logan... because it is useful in life and I love doing it.

Angel... because I have a good passion for it and it intrigues me. I love using numbers and solving different equations. I love maths and I am good at it and I like learning different things. Maths will help you in everyday life like preparing food, buying things, most sports, travelling time and lots of others. Maths helps me to realise patterns and understand different equations. Maths is amazing and it can help you predict your future.







NOW, It's YOUR Turn ...



How To Enter...

Pupils that want to claim an 'I love Maths' badge should simply click the link below (or check your year group Teams) to access the online form and write Mr Sneddon a few sentences or paragraphs explaining why they love maths. The best responses from each year group will be selected and also featured here in our article.

https://forms.office.com/e/cAKzEBpP1H

Halloween Baking Competition and Bake Sale!

Organised by Year 7 Council.

Why not get your aprons on over half term and enter our competition to bake your own Halloween treats! The spookier the better!

Entries must be in by TUESDAY 29th OCTOBER to be judged by Mrs Cowell and Mrs Lockwood.

The entries will then go into a bake sale on WEDNESDAY 30th OCTOBER, so bring some cash!

WIN a 'boo basket' and amazon voucher!
All entries will receive achievement points.

Please include a list of ingredients with your baking entry

Learning Newsletters

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

This next issue looks at the **'curriculum, homework and online safety'** - what is it, how Synergy links with homework and how parents can support their children to keep safe online.

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

Mrs Corvell Vice Principal





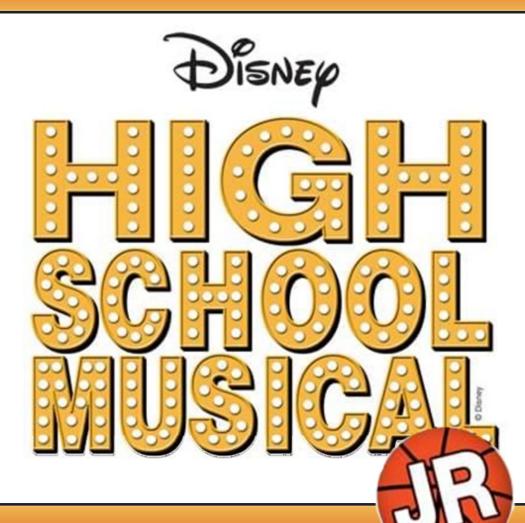
No newsletter on Friday, 1 November.

The next issue will be out Friday, 8 November.

Thank you for your support! Mrs yates, Editor.

Penwortham Priory Academy

Presents



10th & 11th December

Starts 7pm

Adults £8 | Concessions £6

Tickets available via SCOPay or Reception (cash only)

Book by David Simpatico | Songs by Matthew Gerrard & Robbie Nevil; Ray Cham, Greg Cham & Andrew Seeley; Randy Petersen & Kevin Quinn; Andy Dodd & Adam Watts; Bryan Louiselle; David N Lawrence & Faye Greenberg; Jamie Houston

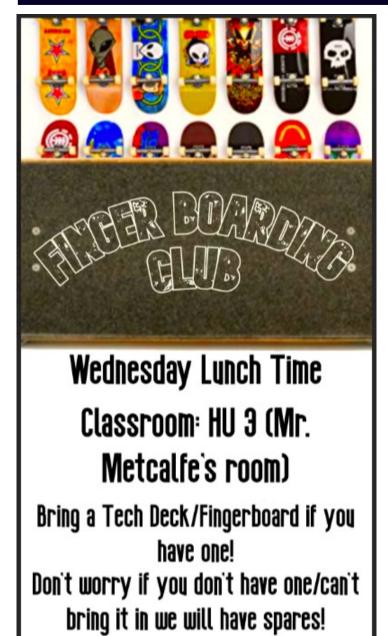
Music Adapted, Arranged & Produced by Bryan Louiselle | Based on a Disney Channel Movie Written by Peter Barsocchini

Director Miss Howell | Music Director Mr Taylor

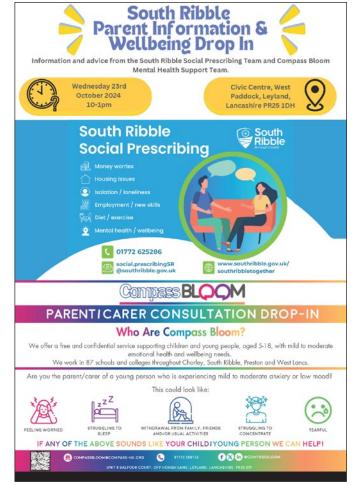
Disney's High School Musical JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by

Music Theatre International, New York, NY

212-541-4684 | mtishows.com







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- Meet new friends: Join a diverse group of young people who are also improving their English and building their futures.



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- Experienced Tutors: Support from qualified ESOL teachers.
- Practical Skills: Improve everyday English for life in the UK, including help with job applications, interviews, and social conversations.





