

Penwortham Priory Post



High School Musical - It's Show Time!

Basketball and drama will clash as Priory pupils take to the stage in this school year's production, 'High School Musical.'

Lead Teacher of Drama Miss Howell admitted she hadn't originally been keen on doing this popular Disney Channel movie but now they have started auditioning, she loves it!

Miss Howell said: "We have done a lot of the junior productions so this was one of the few left to do. I always said I wouldn't do it because it felt a bit cheesy but now I have chosen it, I realised how much fun it is and how popular it is!

"We have the biggest cast we have ever had and there were more than 50 pupils at the auditions, some Year 11s auditioning for the first time because they could see themselves as characters in the show!

"Rehearsals are tough, three or four times a week after school up until 6.30pm some days, but it seems to be a massive stress reliever and a bit of escapism, especially for our Year 11s.

"We always make sure our shows are of the highest standard and I think this could be the best yet!"

Year 11 Emily plays Troy Bolton, the role made famous by Zac Efron.

She said: "He is basically a basketball jock and I played basketball so it kind of fits well for me. I grew up with the film so I know it well. I like being on stage."

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

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

Fri, 29 November
Year 9 Make Languages Work Day

Thurs, 5 December
National Grid assembly- CV writing, applications & interviews

Tues, 10 & Weds, 11 December 7pm
School Production - High School Musical

Fri, 13 December 2024
Priory Pod Official Opening

Mon, 16 December
Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

END OF TERM
Fri, 20 December
Early lunch followed by school closure at 1.10pm

START OF SPRING TERM
Mon, 6 January 2025

Continued from front page ...

Kayleigh plays Troy's love interest, Gabriella. She said: "I enjoy singing and being on stage and Emily is my best friend so it works. It's good fun."

Bradley plays Ryan and said: "I haven't been in a show previously and I am a bit sad I didn't try before as I am really enjoying it."

"I think Ryan is made for me as he is a bit camp. It's perfect for my character."

Ella is Sharpay. "I like her as she wants to be a star so it's good to get into a character like that. I have taken part in the shows before, such as Matilda, Legally Blonde and Mary Poppins. I just really enjoy it all."

Year 9 Lottie is Taylor. "I am one of the brainiacs. It's a fun role. I have just moved to Priory so it's good to get involved with this."

Year 7 James is Jack. "I am the announcer so I have to say a lot and there are a lot of lines. I am still learning them all! I was a bit nervous before the auditions but I did shows at my primary school and wanted to carry them on. I am looking forward to being on stage."



Penwortham Priory Academy
Presents

Disney
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
JR

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 212-542-4884 | mtishows.com



Performances start at 7pm

Tuesday, 10 December and
Wednesday, 11 December

Adults £8 | Concessions £6 (school age children / adults age 65 and over)

Tickets can be purchased via SCOPay or with cash from Reception/School Office.

Members of the public, friends and extended family are also extremely welcome. Tickets will also be available on the door, subject to availability. Cash only, thank you.

Find our more at >>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/news/2024-11-18-it-s-show-time-at-priory-high-school-musical

Learn to succeed

**WE'RE
HIRING!**

We're Recruiting!

Part-Time

Catering Assistant

Catering Assistant

PART TIME

22.5 hours per week

9.30am-2.30pm with 30 minute break

We are seeking a Catering Assistant to provide support in the preparation, cooking and serving of food and beverages plus related catering duties. Little or no experience is required.

For full details and to download an application pack, please visit our website at >>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/vacancies

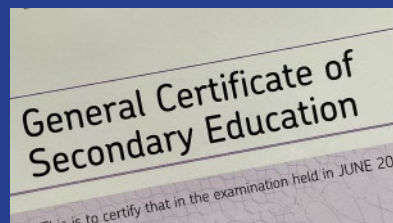
Closing date Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at 9am



Class of 2024 GCSE Certificate Collection

Class of 2024 can now collect their GCSE certificates from the school office.

Certificates will be available to collect during school hours by our former pupils and must be signed for. If any other person - including parent/carer - is collecting the certificates on their behalf they must have a note, signed by the pupil, giving their consent for school to release them.



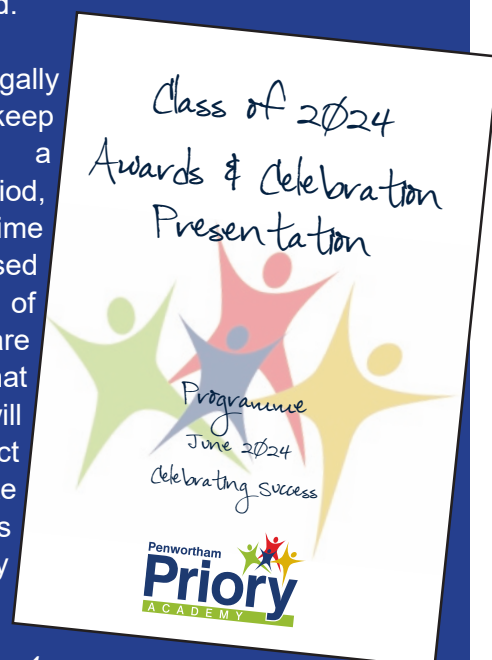
Any medals, certificates and other prizes not collected during the leaver's celebration event on their last day, as well as the event programme, will be available to take at the same time.

We would like to take this opportunity to emphasise how important it is that the exam certificates are collected, as they are very important documents that are likely to be needed throughout their career and particularly if a path to university or a professional career is planned.

School is only legally obliged to keep certificates for a 12 month period, after which time they are disposed of. If copies of certificates are needed after that time, pupils will need to contact the appropriate awarding bodies directly and pay to obtain copies.

School hours - 8am-4pm

Monday to Thursday (Friday 3.30pm)



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Remembrance at Priory



We were tremendously proud of our Head Prefects on Sunday, 10 November when Oliver, Chittara and Navah represented Priory at Penwortham's Remembrance service.

Accompanied by Head of Year 11, Mrs Bullock, the prefects paid their respects at Liverpool Road's war memorial where Oliver and Navah read out the names of Penwortham's WW1 fallen and Chittara laid a wreath.

Year 11 Emily J and Year 10 Phoebe W were also flag bearers for their Scout groups.

We are very proud of them all.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today."

#WeWillRememberThem #Remembrance

What is Armistice?

Armistice was an agreement to end the fighting of the First World War as a prelude to peace negotiations. It began at 11am on 11 November 1918.

Armistice is Latin for to stand (still) arms.

To this day we mark Armistice Day around the United Kingdom with a two minute silence at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month.

"At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month – we will remember them."

**“WHAT’S
IT ALL
ABOUT?”**



Learning for Life



Day 2

Monday, 25 November 2024

Don't forget, next Monday is a Learning for Life Day so school will close at 1.10pm.

Pupils should report to their Session 1 teacher in their usual Learning for Life classroom for 8.40am unless their normal room is in the Hex or Technology block. These groups have been relocated into the main building and information is on Teams*.

Lunch is brought forward and school buses have been rearranged for this earlier time.

If pupils are absent on this day, the work they miss will need to be completed on their return as an extra-curricular activity.

The topics we cover on these days include areas which will genuinely make a difference to the life choices our children make. We hope that this will mean that they will make positive, well-informed choices which will lead to them becoming happy and well-rounded young people with high aspirations for themselves and others. We take our responsibility to educate our young people in a much broader sense (more than simply passing exams) very seriously.

Sessions covered on Monday include:

Year 7 **Self Concept**

Getting to know me | A question of character | Under my control | Preparing for life after Priory

Year 8 **Media Literacy and Digital Resilience**

Cyberbullying | Digital Footprint | Internet Safety | Social Networking

Year 9 **Diversity and Equality - Gender**

What is gender and gender identity? | Binaries | What is 'coming out'? | Gender roles and legalities

Year 10 **Addiction - Impact**

Risks (to others, self, socially and professionally) | Strategies for dealing with addiction

Year 11 **Financing Life**

Risk | Borrowing | Saving | Interest | Fraud prevention | Security

All year groups will receive sources of help and support for themselves and others.

*7EW3 - EN6 | 10EW2 HU2 | 11EW1 EN5 | 11EW2 MA1



Ms Smith
Lead Practitioner for
Personal Development

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Eco Club Tabletop Sale Success For Derian House



The Eco Club's Christmas tabletop sale raised an amazing £378.60 for Derian House.

Miss Massey, along with the environmentally-conscious extra curricular club, came up with the idea of having a festive sale, selling pre-loved treasures and new items from local crafters and sellers.

"It was a combination of pupils, staff and the Penwortham community who rented a table in our school sports hall on a Saturday morning and sold their goods," said Mrs Massey.

"It was amazing as there was a queue when we opened! There was honey, chutney, candles and wax melts alongside pre-loved books, toys, children's clothes and more on sale, and it was a success.

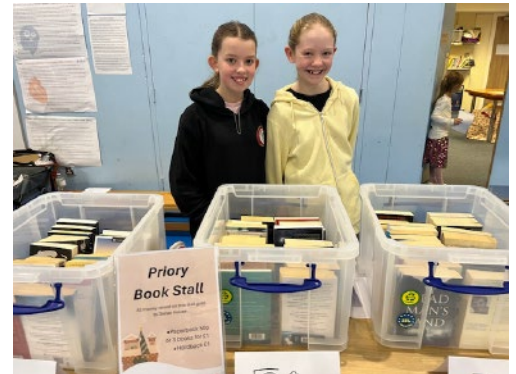
"I would like to thank the members of our local community for renting a stall and also all the people who came!

"I would also like to thank Priory's estates team for opening up and last, but certainly not least, our amazing helpers from the Eco Club.

"Year 11 Emma helped set up, ran the raffle and cleared away. Head Prefect Chittara helped to set up while Year 7 Autumn ran a toy stall as well as helping set up and clear away.

"Year 7 Danniella helped run a refreshment stall while Year 7 Lucy ran a book stall as well as helping with everything else!

"It was a brilliant amount to raise and Derian House will let us know how the money will be spent."



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Year 8 Blackpool Zoo Trip

Last week the science department took 58 Year 8 pupils to Blackpool Zoo.

In Science, pupils are currently learning about the relationships between different organisms - this includes food chains, what happens when toxic materials enter a food chain, ecosystems and extinction.

As part of the visit we attended an educational talk about food chains, in which the guide described the impact humans are having on ecosystems. We got to see some interesting illegal items that had been discovered by customs, hold an elephant's tooth and a cockroach if we wanted to!

Lead Teacher of Biology, Mrs Massey, said, "The pupils were a credit to the school and we had such an enjoyable day discovering more about the animals. Well done Year 8."



CyberFirst Trip Looks To The Future



On Thursday, 14 November a group of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils attended the CyberFirst Day at HOST, MediaCity, Salford.

This event was designed to transform the way students think about careers in computing and included immersive and inspiring activities led by some of the leading tech organisations from around the world.

Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri, said, "The goal of these events is to reach students at a pivotal moment in their education to change their perspectives on computing and to inspire the next generation of cyber-professionals".



Students heard from inspirational leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) with the intention to spark their interest in technology careers

whilst also exploring the latest innovations in AI, cyber security, data science and robotics.

Pupils toured HOST encompassing their eSports, Internet of Things Avenue and Immersive Lab. This was followed by a 'The Future of Technology' talk where they discussed AI jobs of the future, took part in a quiz and debated the ethics of AI.



The first interactive workshop involved a Digital Detective Challenge with Data Analytics, Open Source Intelligence and a GeoGuessr activity before moving on to the second

workshop where pupils were challenged to 'Crack the Code', competing in teams to unlock devices against the clock with cryptography challenges that explored the foundations of cyber security. To top the visit off, pupils took part in a virtual reality gaming experience.

The pupils had a fantastic day and even managed to have a look around Media City to see the BBC and ITV studios. Here's what they said about it:

Year 9 Excellence I said, "The trip was fun, exciting, welcoming, enjoyable and lots more. I think we should do more tech based trips like this one so we can get a better feel of how tech will be like for us in the near future. I enjoyed the various quizzes but I loved the gaming areas the most. Overall it was an amazing trip."



Year 9 Esa B thoroughly enjoyed the trip, adding, "It was highly informative, educational and entertaining. I most liked the casual gaming area and eSports arena. It has definitely opened my mind towards a tech-related career in the future."

Year 8 Sophia L also had a fantastic day, "I loved the tour and thought it was amazing! I enjoyed the bots and programming them. I'm thinking of doing it for GCSEs".

Naeem K, Year 9, said the event had a wide variety of fun and educational activities. "I enjoyed the patient zero activity. This trip has made me think about doing Computer Science. This trip has made me think of jobs."



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Year 8 Zane P had a 'cool' time, saying, "Today's trip to HOST MediaCity was really cool. We got to try out loads of different activities, from cybersecurity workshops to professional eSports computers. My favourite part was definitely the eSports area. The whole day got me thinking about possible careers in cybersecurity and eSports, and it really showed me how important tech and media are in today's world. I was already thinking about a GCSE in Computer Science and this trip has reinforced my idea".

Year 9 Millie ended with "Today's trip was very good, we had lots of opportunities to learn and try new things."



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Year 10 & Community Use Toilet Facilities Project

Since Priory took over the running of its out of school hours hire in 2021 there has been a need to provide better toilet facilities for Year 10 pupils and community users of the school's football and cricket facilities.

As the school's commitment to the South Ribble local leisure plan, we applied to South Ribble Borough Council for financial assistance towards creating improved toilet, changing and accessible toilet facilities close to the school's 3G and grass pitches which are used in the evenings and weekends by local teams and clubs.

Priory was successful in being awarded a grant by the council which PPA Facilities, the school's lettings management arm, boosted. Together these funds have enabled the building of the fresh facilities seen today.



This toilet area had not had any major work done to it for at least 25 years and it is now fit for modern purposes. They were originally two toilet blocks which were old-fashioned and badly in need of renovation, there was also a lot of wasted space. Over the summer holidays, it was transformed into toilets for Year 10s to use during school hours and they will also be used by the community, via facility hire, in the evenings and weekends. In addition, two brand new changing rooms have been added to the plan, alongside a refurbished accessible toilet that can also be accessed outside of school hours.

"As well as the toilets, we added two new changing rooms which are a superb use of the space and they will make our facilities more attractive to clubs wanting to use them. We didn't have anywhere for teams to change previously so this is something else which the community can use when they have booked our facilities such as the 3G pitches or the cricket wicket."

Priory's Strategic Estates Development Manager Mr Bolton said: "There was a male and female toilet block originally and such a lot of wasted space."

Continued next page ...

"They needed updating and we needed to use the space better both for our pupils and for the community using our facilities outside of school hours."

"They have been completely transformed. The toilets are more inviting and I am really pleased with how they have turned out. They now look modern and fresh."



Continued from previous page ...



Austin Watson Ltd were the main building contractors and Director Luke Watson said: "We were the main contractor so we were working on the job all over the

summer, liaising with the architects Eric Wright and Mr Bolton.

"It took about ten weeks to complete and there was pressure as we needed to finish before school re-started but I think we thrive under pressure and I am really pleased with how it's all turned out."

Senior Building Surveyor from Eric Wright Partnership Ltd Ian Duffy said: "We did the initial designs and there was such a lot of wasted space originally. It's been brilliant working with Mr Bolton and Austin Watson Ltd which made the job easy for us."

Principal Mr Eastham said: "They are absolutely fantastic. We let parents and pupils look around the new Year 10 toilets and the changing rooms on Open Evening and they were calling it 'posh' and were blown away by the facilities. They make such a difference."

The project's main contractor, local company Austin Watson Ltd used local sub-contractors for all elements of the build. These sub-contractors are also companies that Priory commissions regularly for work on the estate.

We would like to express thanks to all the sub-contractors for their work on this project. Listed below are the companies:

Alliance Door Engineering Ltd, Banks Flooring Solutions Ltd, Bradley Environmental Ltd, Carrigan Plumbing & Heating Ltd, Kool Planet Ltd, MJ Ceilings Ltd, Walker Gabbott Electrical Ltd, Window Fix, Wolf Security NW Ltd. All the toilet cubicle ancillaries were supplied by Bushboard Washrooms Ltd who have also supplied products elsewhere in the school.





Year 11 Geography River Field Visit - Wycoller

REPORT BY MR METCALFE, HEAD OF HUMANITIES

Once again, the GCSE Geography students donned their outdoor gear and prepared themselves for the great outdoors. This time, a visit to Wycoller to complete their fieldwork study to complement Papers 1 & 3 of their GCSE exams this summer.

A couple of great days were had, with the weather holding out on both occasions for two dry and fine days.

Students were able to test the Bradshaw Model of river change and test their own hypotheses to prove what had been learnt in class. Students tested river width, depth, velocity, pebble size and pebble roundness and compared this against the Bradshaw Model.



Students were also given the opportunity to discuss the fieldwork methods and test the accuracy and reliability of their techniques. This involved group discussions and practical method adaptation live in the field to improve the techniques being used. It was fantastic to see.

We are always really proud of our students when representing Priory and this was no exception. All students showed respect to each other, the environment and the general public on the visit - complimented by several people over the course of the two days.



No fieldwork is complete without a treat for our students and the retired Mr Watters would be unhappy to this day if our students weren't rewarded at the end of a trip for their impeccable behaviour and outstanding work ethic. Therefore, in true Mr Watters style - a stop off at Greggs was in order on the way home to warm up and sample the delights of their infamous sausage rolls. I think Priory cleaned out the shop!

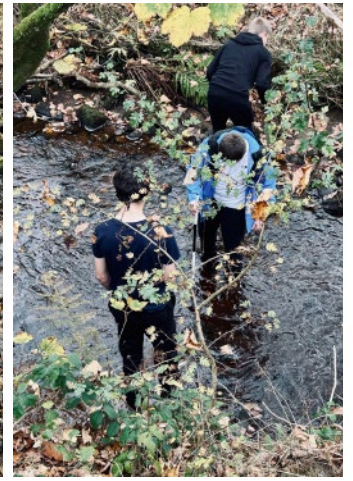


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Well done to all the Geographers and I would personally like to thank Mrs Kursitis, Mrs Holland and Mr Eccles for their support over the two days. Without such kind volunteering of their time, trips like this couldn't happen.

Priory would also like to thank PGHS and Tarleton Academy for their generous loan of an additional minibus on the Monday and Thursday respectively, to support our large numbers of GCSE Geographers.

Mr Metcalfe
Head of Humanities



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The National Grid Sparks Careers Ideas

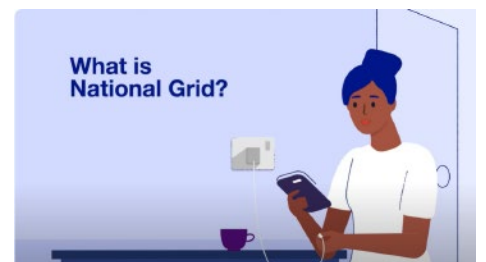


On Monday, 11 November, the whole school attended an online presentation with the National Grid's Steve Ward, Operations Manager for Electricity Transmission (Lancashire Team).

The aim of the session was to introduce pupils to what the company does, explain the importance of renewable power, and provide information regarding career paths, apprenticeships, salaries and job roles. The assembly included a question and answer session where pupils discovered that engineering and STEM-related careers are becoming lucrative.



Ms Smith, Lead Practitioner for Personal Development said, "This session is important for pupils as the National Grid supports the school with a number of 'Pathways and Futures' education sessions which will include site visits to the substation on the outskirts of Penwortham, a Year 10 seminar on 'Job Applications and Interviews', Year 10 Mock Interviews, Year 10 Work Experience placements and Year 8 Careers Day in the spring."

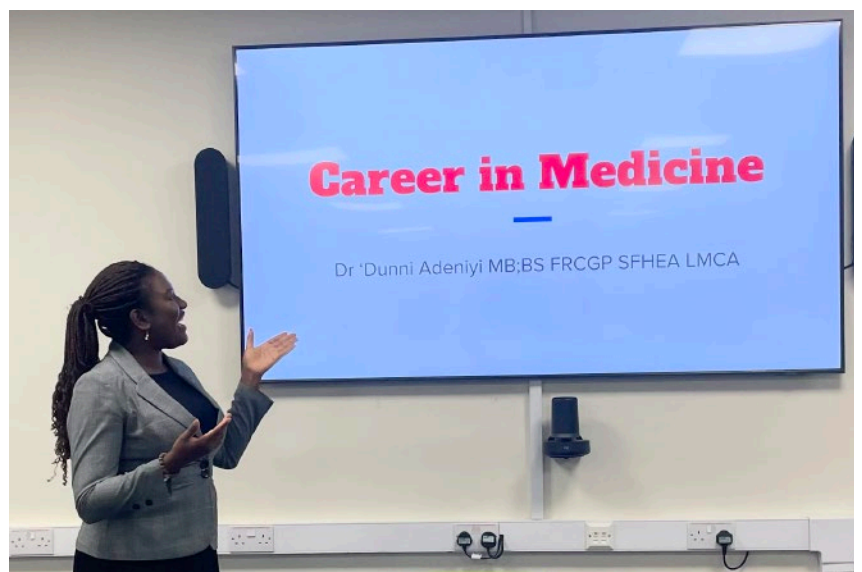


Doctor, Doctor Tell Me About Careers in Medicine

On Monday, 11 November we welcomed Dr Dumni Adeniyi into school to talk to pupils about careers in medicine.

The session included training lengths, training options, salary and skills required. Questions posed by pupils also led to more in-depth discussions regarding viruses and medical conditions. Pupils found the session useful in terms of the insight they gained, with a number now reaffirming their desire to follow this pathway.

Dr Adeniyi said, "It was a pleasure speaking to the students of Penwortham Priory about a career in medicine. The students were so well-behaved and asked really good questions".



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South Ribble Cross Country Championships



Friday afternoon and Saturday morning saw the South Ribble Cross Country Championships held at Hutton Grammar School.

Pupils qualified for the event based on their performance in lessons and the inter-house competition held at school.

It was wonderful to have many parents/carers in attendance spectating throughout the morning who showed their appreciation and support for all of the runners. This creates an amazing atmosphere and experience for the pupils.

Head of PE & Sport, Mr Bullock, said, "There were some fantastic individual and team performances on a challenging course. Our podium finish came from Eleanor M who won the Year 7 race in style and now qualifies to compete in the Lancashire competition in the New Year."

Well done to all the runners who represented Priory so well.



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Pupils Return To Neverland For Community Production of Peter Pan



Three of Priory's pupils will be flying high and helping to raise money for charity.

Year 8 Lilly alongside Year 7s Alex and Matilda are taking part in the Youth on Stage Charity Group's performance of Peter Pan at the Penwortham Bridge Methodist Church Hall.

The production, on Thursday 28- Saturday 30 November, will raise funds for Alder Hey Children's Hospital, North West Ambulance and GOSH (Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity).

Lilly said: "I took part in Alice in Wonderland last year as a Card Guard and wanted to take part again as I enjoyed it.

"We have been rehearsing a lot and I have learnt my lines. It's fun and it also raises money for charity."

Alex said: "I am one of the Lost Boys. I was in it last year and it was fun. I like being on stage."

Matilda is Tiger Lily, the daughter of Neverland's indigenous Indian Chief. She said: "I have been involved with these pantomimes for seven years. I enjoy it and a lot of my friends take part."

Tickets are Adult £10; Child (Up to 16) £5 available from Cath on 07779 022986. See poster opposite for further details.



Youth on Stage Charity Group
Proudly Presents
PETER PAN

North West Air Ambulance Charity
Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Penwortham Bridge Methodist Church Hall
PR1 9XR

Thursday 28th Nov - 7pm, Friday 29th Nov - 7pm,
Saturday 30th Nov - 2pm and 7pm
Tickets: Adult £10 - Child (up to age 16) £5
Box Office - Cath - 07779022986

Learn to succeed

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

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

Meet The Teacher - Miss Atkinson (English)

What made you want to become a teacher?

My parents are both nurses so I wanted to work in a profession where I help and look after people. I don't really have the stomach for blood so teaching was better for me.

I completed my English Degree at the University of Derby and then I did an English Masters, specialising in Victorian Studies, at the University of Liverpool.

I actually then went to train as a detective with Merseyside Police but I found that wasn't for me so I started my PGCE at Edge Hill University and I love it.

I want to shape young minds and, having been in school for over a month now, I know teaching is for me.



What do you like about your placement at Priory?

Everyone is so supportive, especially the English staff. I would say it is better than I expected, the children are receptive and they have shown a willingness to engage.

It's my first time in a school since I was a pupil, and it's interesting to see how a school functions and how, as a teacher, you have to wear a number of different hats. You are not just an English teacher but you also have to be up-to-date on safeguarding, well-being and more!

What's the hardest thing about your job?

I would say it's the timing as it's so hard to fit everything into one hour. You have to teach your subject but you also want to build relationships with the pupils and help them so an hour doesn't seem enough.

What do you like to do in your free time?

It will come as no surprise that the answer is 'read'. I especially like to read the poems from French poet, Charles Baudelaire. His most famous collection is: 'Flowers of Evil.'

Year 8 Pupil Rides Into Success at Horse Event



Last Friday evening, Year 8 Lexi W attended her riding club presentation and won not only the two trophies she was hoping for but also the Junior Dressage Champion shield.

Lexi had worked very hard leading up to the event with lots of early mornings, lessons, learning the dressage tests, and washing and grooming her horse before each test.

Her ability to control her nerves before her classes had paid off and she has achieved so much in her first year of competing which led to her being presented with the Junior Dressage Champion shield, in addition to the two trophies.

Her family said, "Lexi came away with the large dressage shield and a sash with her name and horses name on it. She is thrilled and we are very proud of her."



The High Sheriff of Lancashire's

Young Citizen Award 2025

Do you know a young person

aged 19 or under, who has helped either their local neighbourhood, an individual, family member or a local organisation in the last 12 months?

The High Sheriff of Lancashire would like to hear from you!

To nominate your candidate fill in the online form at www.lanpac.co.uk

The winner will receive £300 with two runner-up prizes of £100 each.

Closing date for nominations Friday 24th January 2025

For more information email: lanpac@lancashire.police.uk



Lancashire
Constabulary



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan



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Clara Moves Up to The Fast Lane After Her Recent Sporting Success



Year 9 pupil Clara admits her friends think she is 'pretty cool' as she makes her way in the karting world.

Clara races at Team Sport Trafford on the indoor track and hopes to gain a karting scholarship and join a national karting team.

Clara said: "I used to do radio control car racing, I did that for around five years, and then in February this year I switched to karting and I found I liked racing.

"I like the competitiveness of it.

"There are three categories – Cadets, Juniors and Adults - and I compete in the Juniors, for boys and girls aged 12-15-years-old.

"This year the nationals were at Warrington and I got through the locals and regionals but unfortunately didn't make it to the final. I was the only girl at the regionals but I don't mind that. I was quite proud.

"It's a really good sport. Sometimes there are ramps and, indoors, I tend to go at speeds of 40mph and outdoors it's 60mph.

"It is an expensive hobby so I would like to get some sponsorship to take me through to the next stage, competing outdoors, and get on a national team.

"I want to do something with racing in the future, whether it's as an engineer or driver.

"I go to the track in Trafford twice a week and then train on my own at home. My friends think it's a pretty cool hobby!"



Behind The Scenes: The ICT 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 the fourth part of this series, we're shining a spotlight on the ICT team as we explore their contributions and learn more about the people who ensure we stay connected and have the most up to date technology to carry out our work efficiently, every day.

Technology and computer usage is an ever evolving and increasing demand in modern society and the work place. Priory has around 750 pupils and 100 staff and, behind the scenes, there is a small ICT Team who make sure everything runs smoothly every day whilst also looking to the future for new technologies that can help school life.

The ICT team is part of the Facilities Management team at Priory which is headed up by Strategic Estates Development Manager, Mr Bolton.

In his ICT Team is Senior ICT Technician Mr Eccles who has been at the school for over 20 years, and ICT Technicians Mr O'Connor and Mr Oakes.

Each team at the school has a strategic mission with the ICT team's being: "Empowering all staff and pupils to engage in the very best teaching and learning through the use of cutting edge technologies."

"Every day is different," said Mr Bolton, who has been at Priory for 22+ years. "We deal with the ICT issues all around school which, day-to-day, usually means password changes, login issues or printer problems. The team deals with everything that uses technology in the school.

"The role has changed a lot as originally it was about computers physically based in school whereas now everything is in the cloud so it's about making sure the connectivity is everywhere for the pupils and staff. We also have to make sure everything is safe and



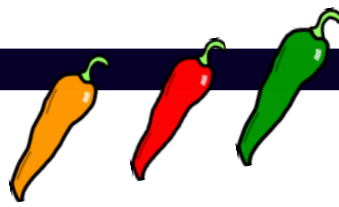
secure to reduce any attempts at hacking accounts and systems.

"We are always trying to improve what we do and we have a lot of pride in our work at Priory, which is why we have an in-house team. Our staff also help other schools and we work closely with Lostock Hall Academy so it's about supporting our community and sharing our skills.

"ICT in a school has obviously grown a lot over the years. Technology is a major part of our lives nowadays much more than it was 22 years ago when I started here at Priory.

"We are always looking for more ways to adapt and improve what the ICT can do for the school. We have recently introduced digital signage, and now have two big TV display screens where we advertise, for

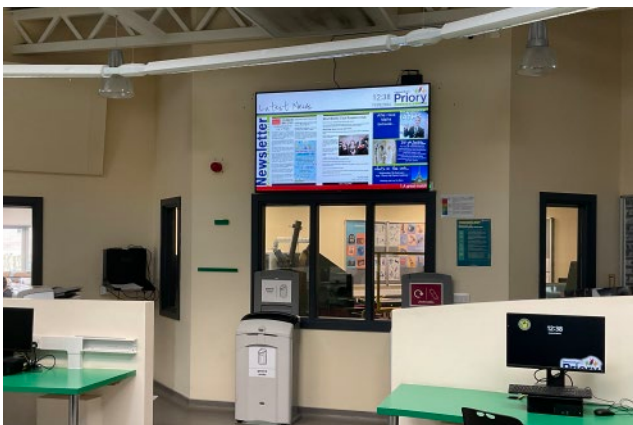
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example, clubs, house events, diary dates, menus and the school newsletter. It's important to keep everyone informed and these act as a reminder and are an outlet for information, broadcasting in real time.

"The team attends strategic meetings each month with Principal Mr Eastham to continue looking ahead at what the team needs to focus on to keep Priory advancing its technical systems. We recently reviewed the school's requirements for firewalls and broadband connectivity as the contract expired in the summer. We are looking to the future to improve the technology we currently use to make sure it is fit for purpose for the incoming years. We have seen an increase in use of systems and technologies that use the internet more. Subsequently, the school has moved its services into the cloud, embracing the Microsoft Office 365 environment. As technology advances, we are making sure we are moving with it by assessing what we are using now and what we may need in the future. We know AI will feature heavily so we are currently reviewing how this can be of use to the education sector for teachers, support staff and students alike."



Chili Challenge Winners

Our winners w/e 22 November were:

- Year 7 Isla S (Mrs Kursitis) **Calder**
- Year 8 Keigan G (Miss Howell) **Ribble**
- Year 9 Issy T (Mrs Roberts) **Hodder**
- Year 10 Junaid Q (Mr Sneddon) **Ribble**
- Year 11 Sophia T (Mr Evans) **Ribble**

Our winners w/e 15 November were:

- Year 7 Sravani M (Mrs Lockwood) **Calder**
- Year 8 Imogen K (Mrs Potter) **Hodder**
- Year 9 Connor S (Mr Momoniat) **Douglas**
- Year 10 Seth L (Mrs Lawe) **Ribble**
- Year 11 Kira S (Mr Metcalfe) **Calder**

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

Pupils:

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

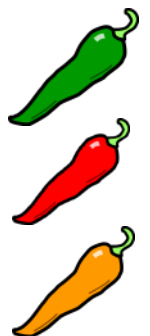
GET INVOLVED!

Reminders - Only one entry per person per week (no group effort!), make sure you have put your full name and House on your entry - if not it won't be counted. Ten pupils missed out this week as they hadn't written their name/form clearly.

The leaderboard has stayed the same over the past two weeks but the gaps have closed!

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

Mrs Cowell
Vice Principal




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 Charlotte and Sravani love Maths:

 **Sravani M ...** because it helps my mind relax, because when I am at home I do puzzles which help me calm and when I do math problems, especially tricky ones it relieves my mind. Also, it gives me a better understanding of the world around me and sharpens my brain and memory. For me, maths is like a second language because in English it all about words but in maths you have numbers, letters and words which is incredible. Another reason why I love maths, is because it makes you a more intelligent person with solving different puzzles and riddles. Furthermore, without maths I would not be able to count anything or understand what numbers even mean. Another thing I love about maths is that it really also helps in your future career because if you wanted to be an Accountant or Mathematician you need maths to count the amount of money and you need the numbers to solve the equations. Also Maths really educates you because if you had a slice of cake and needed to cut it evenly Maths helps you count how many pieces there should be and what angle you should cut the cake. So that is why I think Maths is important and why I love it.



Charlotte C... because it can be easy or challenging.



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>

Learn to succeed



HESKETH BANK U12 GIRLS

ARE RECRUITING THE FOLLOWING PLAYERS:

- GOALKEEPER
- DEFENDER
- FORWARD

TRAINING
18:00-19:00 FRIDAYS

MATCHES
SUNDAYS



RECRUITING NOW FOR OUR GIRLS TEAM

Contact Phil on 07951718822 to enquire

Begin your journey today

SEASONAL SONGS CLUB!!!

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

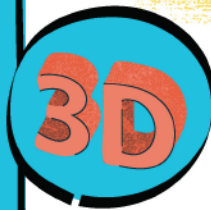
WE SING SONGS BASED ON THE SEASON, WE HAVE FUN AND EMBRACE THE SONG, PLEASE COME ALONG!!!

MR. TAYLOR'S ROOM, TUESDAY LUNCH!!!

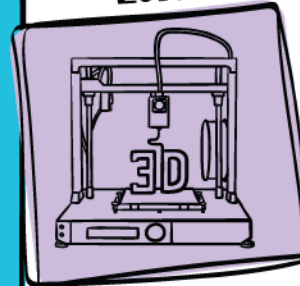
EVERYBODY WELCOME!!!

3D PRINTING CLUB

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How does a 3D print work?

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