# Penwortham Priory Post



### An Unforgettable Adventure in Iceland

Over October half term, a group of Priory pupils embarked on an extraordinary five-day journey to the land of fire and ice, where dramatic landscapes meet fascinating culture.

Led by Mr Metcalfe and the Humanities team, the trip to Iceland offered students the chance to experience geography and science in action, from thundering waterfalls and volcanic craters to geothermal wonders and glacial lagoons.

This article takes you through the journal of their adventure, in the words of Mrs Cauchi, showcasing the incredible sights, hands-on learning, and unforgettable memories that made this trip so special.

#### DAY 1

After setting off from school yesterday, our group of 43 students and staff arrived safely in Iceland last night following a short delay. The pupils were exemplary throughout the journey — a real credit to the school.

After checking into the hotel and enjoying a quick meatball pasta tea, we headed straight out on an Aurora Hunt... and what a start to the trip! A truly spectacular display of the Northern Lights - a bucket list moment for everyone.

### DAY 2

Another incredible day of exploring! After breakfast, we set off for the famous Golden Circle tour with a local guide. First stop — Hellisheidi Power Station,

Continued over...



### **Key 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, 24 November
Learning for Life Day 2
Early lunch followed by
school closure at 1.10pm

Weds, 26 November Flu immunisations (all year groups)

26 & 27 November GCSE History Thackray Medical Museum Trip (Year 10)

Fri, 28 November Make Languages Work Day (Year 9)

Fri, 5 December Year 7 Mega Day Runshaw College (selected pupils only)

Tues 9 & Weds 10
December
Annie The Musical - 7pm

**Fri, 12 December** Rewards Trips

Mon, 15 December Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

Weds, 17 December Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day

Thurs, 18 December
End of Autumn term
Early lunch followed by
school closure at 1.10pm

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where students learned how lceland harnesses geothermal energy to power the nation.

Next, we headed to the Secret Lagoon for a magical dip in

the outdoor natural hot springs — a truly unforgettable experience! The day continued with visits to the breathtaking Gullfoss Waterfall and the spectacular Geyser, which didn't disappoint with its dramatic blow eruptions.

To end the tour, we visited Thingvellir National Park where students had the chance to stand directly between the two tectonic plates of North America and Eurasia. Walking between these colossal plates as the sun set over the frozen Icelandic landscape was a super way to end the tour. We may have even had a little snowball fight!

After dinner, we took a peaceful evening walk along Reykjavik's harbour, finishing at the stunning





Hallgrímskirkja Church — the perfect end to a busy yet aweinspiring day.

### DAY 3

Our South Shore Adventure was nothing short of spectacular! First stop — the mighty Skógafoss Waterfall. where everyone completely drenched but loved every minute of it. From there, we explored the dramatic black sands of Reynisfjara, marvelling at the towering basalt columns and incredible coastal scenery.

We then took an unforgettable glacier walk at Sólheimajökull — its sheer size and icy









formations left everyone amazed. We rounded off the tour with a visit to the stunning Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, taking in the breathtaking views behind the curtain of water.

After evening meal there was still energy to spare for a late-night swim in the local outdoor geothermal baths in the heavy snowfall — the perfect way to unwind after another action-packed day! A night to truly remember

for all.



### DAY 4

Our final day in Iceland was the perfect way to round off an unforgettable trip. The morning began with some free time in Reykjavík, where

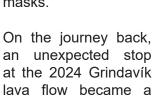




students explored the city, sampled local delicacies and pastries, and soaked up the vibrant Icelandic culture.



Next, we made our way to the world-famous Blue Lagoon — a real highlight of the trip. Students were fantastic, relaxing in the milky-blue geothermal waters and enjoying the iconic silica mud masks.





real favourite — witnessing the raw power of nature and the lasting impact of volcanic activity was both fascinating and humbling. Touching recent volcanic lava flows was something else!

A few more bucket-list moments ticked off, and a truly memorable way to end our Iceland adventure — seeing first-hand the beauty and power of our planet.







#### DAY 5 HOME

Home safe from Iceland!

We've safely returned from an absolutely breathtaking few days in



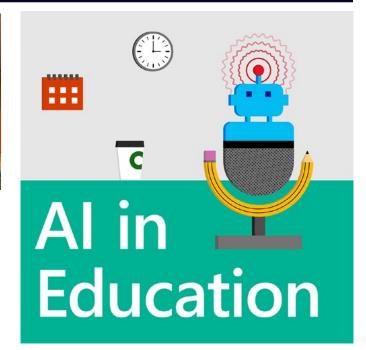
Iceland, and what an adventure it's been! The students were truly exemplary throughout, embracing every part of the trip — and creating lifelong memories along the way.

The weather was kind to us throughout, with crisp, clear evenings that rewarded us with glimpses of the Northern Lights, rounding off what was a truly once-in-a-lifetime trip.

A huge well done to all the students for representing Priory so brilliantly.

Mr Hetcalfe, Mrs Cauchi, Mr Easthann, Mr Eccles, Mrs Ham, Mrs Kurstus

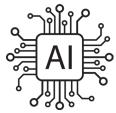




# Parent Information Evening Artificial Intelligence in Education Survey

We are planning a Parent Information Evening focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education - how it's shaping teaching, learning, and the future skills our pupils will need.

To help us make the evening as relevant and useful as possible, we'd appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete a short survey. Your responses will help us understand parents' current



knowledge of AI, your thoughts on its benefits and challenges, and the topics you'd most like to explore during the session.

Complete Survey Here>> https://forms.office.com/e/JLFB32t68g

Thank you for your time and for supporting our school's work in helping pupils use technology safely and effectively.

Mr Metcalfe - Head of Humanities Lead Practitioner for Digital Learning





# **Year 11 GCSE History Intervention Sessions**

History Skill Builder sessions have started again this week running on Monday and Thursday evenings until Christmas.

History students are also coming home with revision homework, so please can we ask you to encourage parents to complete tasks thoroughly.

Mr Eccles and Mrs Cauchi



### Don't Forget! Learning for Life Day 2

### Monday, 24 November

Early lunch followed by school closure at 1.10pm. More information about the content of the day will be published in next week's newsletter.









	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Hodder	5	2	2
Douglas	3	3	3
Calder	1	3	5
Ribble	1	1	7

# A Baby Girl for Miss Whaite

Congratulations to Learning Support Assistant, Miss Whaite, who gave birth to a gorgeous baby girl on Tuesday, 4 November.

Baby Harriet is little sister to Holly, and both mum and baby are doing well.









CRICKET CLUB

Everyone Welcome!



## **Remembrance at Priory**

In remembrance of those who served and lost their lives in conflict, last Sunday our head prefects represented Priory at Penwortham's Remembrance service.

Accompanied by Head of Year 11, Mrs Eastham, the four prefects paid their respects at Liverpool Road's war

memorial. Kacper and Tarela were asked to read out the names of Penwortham's WWII fallen, and Yasmine and Hiylie laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

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

#WeWillRememberThem
#Remembrance #LestWeForget





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."











## **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.

Season's greetings fellow composters! Well, what an amazing and challenging year it has been with an extremely hot summer and a very wet autumn. However the weather does bring advantages for the new year, with extended root growth and the rain falling at the right

time for seeds to germinate for the growing season of spring and autumn.

So what's new; we welcomed the arrival of Eddie the Eagle who displays his seniority through the gardens and also the completion of the courtyard featuring olive trees, rock features and a lily which will flower through spring, summer and autumn.



Tips to do now - collect as many fallen leaves as possible and put into a bin liner adding a drop of water and tie the top to leave to decompose to mid spring. This creates a truly wonderful composted mixture of nutrients which is ideal for all plants containing nitrogen, calcium and potassium. From this you will be thrilled with the results that the plants show. It is time also to prune shrubs, plants and roses and also remember to cover them up before winter comes.

Consider planting for the new year for early colour and show. Plant bulbs of daffodils, crocus, allium, cyclamen, anemone and chionodoxa - all of which you will notice in the Priory gardens come early spring.

As Christmas is not too far off may I suggest alternatives as presents that will last for many Christmases to come. Why not try a gift that will last a lifetime. May I suggest perennial roses, my favourite Rosa Sunny Sky (Rose of the earth 2016). The strong stemmed flower produces a long succession of lightly scented summer flowers; without a doubt a stunner. Rosa-Simply Gorgeous has deep lavender buds that reveal unusual toned flowers with a heavy fragrance. An alternative is Echinacea Rainbow Marcella which has an astonishing variety of



colours that open with tangerine, orange and red creating a visual feast.

### **Design and Development This Year**

The Boulevard that stretches from the entrance of the Priory Gardens to the corridors of Science and English has been well received by giving a pleasant walk through for all to see, showing the various colours and structure of the many plants from early spring to winter.

The Courtyard now allows all who pass a picture of serenity and grace and come spring the emergence of a very special water lily will emerge to the top of the still pond giving the final touch to this construction. I hope you

like and enjoy the experience of Priory's growth.

In other news, last year I arranged a special off-site visit to a local garden nursery to show our interested pupils the making of Christmas wreaths. The owner of Newgate Nurseries and staff welcomed Mrs Massey's class and showed them the materials used to construct the wreaths. The owner asked the pupils to choose a Christmas tree for display in the main hall. This was a wonderful gesture and I have agreed with Mr Cookson that this agreement will continue for years to come. The pupils, with the guidance of myself and Mrs Massey, will help with this very happy chore of decorating the tree.

To conclude, I would like to thank the pupils especially for their kind remarks and showing respect to our gardens here at Priory. I look forward to the season ahead.

ADESTE FIDELES LAETI TRIUMPHANT

Mr C Farron Head Gardener

PS Keep blooming, everyone!



## Chilli Challenge Winners

The Chilli Challenge was introduced for pupils to have some fun whilst practicing their literacy and numeracy - key life skills - and reward them for doing so. It is also an opportunity for pupils to gain points for their House by entering.

## THIS WEEK'S WINNING HOUSE IS >>

Our winners w/e 7 November

Year 7 Isla T (Miss Burbidge)
Year 8 Emelie H (Mrs Elliott)
Year 9 Max R (Mr Eccles)
Year 10 Ben K (Mr Owen)

Year 11 ----

This week's winners w/e 14 November

Year 7 Evelyn M (Mrs Shaw)
Year 8 Adam H (Mrs Lockwood)
Year 9 Archie S (Mr Eccles)
Year 10 Will D (Mrs Scully)
Year 11 Alan K (Miss Beesley)

These pupils have now received their chilli tokens. A reminder that winners are to take their chilli disk to Mrs Cookson in the Business & Finance Office for their catering accounts to be credited to claim their free snack of choice from the dining room.

### LEADING THE BOARD >>

This is also an interhouse competition and the leaders will be those with the most individual entries each week.



There'll be an interhouse prize at the end of the year!

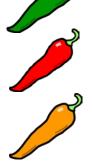




We have new house leaders! Douglas has taken Hodder's number one spot.

with Ribble and Calder following behind.

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







# Childcare Provider Talks Apprenticeship Opportunities To Year 11

Year 11 Childcare pupils were treated to an inspiring visit from Ashbridge Nursery last week, a well-established early years provider with sites in Hutton, Walton-le-Dale, Bilsborough, and Cottam.

Our visitor, Jennifer Mitchell shared valuable into the fantastic apprenticeship opportunities available at Ashbridge, sparking enthusiasm and curiosity among our pupils. The nursery provider offers a comprehensive training programme designed for school leavers, providing full-time placements that combine hands-on experience with structured learning. Pupils work towards Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in Early Years Practice, gaining the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a childcare setting. Most impressively, successful apprentices are guaranteed a permanent offer of employment upon completion of their training.



Childcare teacher and SENCo, Mrs Holland,

commented, "Ashbridge offers fantastic opportunities for our school leavers. We have had previous students who have moved onto their Apprenticeships following completion of the Childcare and Development qualifications with us and now have established careers within the childcare setting."

To further support pupils in making informed decisions, Jennifer has kindly invited the group to visit Ashbridge's Hutton site in early December. This visit will allow pupils to see the nursery in action and gain a deeper understanding of the day-to-day responsibilities and rewards of working in early years education.

One of our Childcare pupils, Pheobe, shared her thoughts following the session: "I found the session really informative and I was previously looking at continuing my childcare studies at college, but I am considering applying for one of the apprenticeship places now I know more about it."

We're proud to see our pupils exploring exciting career pathways and grateful to Ashbridge for their continued support and partnership.







# **Jumper Competition**

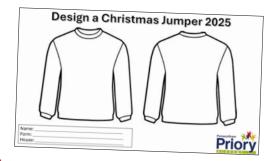


Are you feeling Festive yet? Why not "Design a Christmas Jumper" in our House Competition!

You can enter with an original hand / computer drawing or submit a photo of a creation you've crafted yourself. Extra points to those using their sewing skills!

A blank template jumper is attached and you can ask your form tutor or Mrs Lockwood to print a copy for you.

Deadline for entries - Pass your artwork to Mrs Lockwood by Friday, 12 December.



<<See poster oppositefor more details<<



### **Open Event 15 November**

For further information and to register>> https://runshaw.ac.uk/openevent/





# **Year 10 Celebrate Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Success**



On Thursday, 6 November, we proudly celebrated the achievements of 47 Year 10 pupils who have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Parents were invited to join an evening event which marked the culmination of months of dedication, resilience, personal growth and development. Supporting the event were three Year 11 pupils currently working towards their Silver Award, who helped as part of their own volunteering requirement.

The audience was treated to a video montage showcasing the pupils' expedition, which took place in June. This provided parents with a glimpse into the various activities and challenges the pupils faced and overcame during their two-day expedition at Rivington.

The prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award requires students to complete three sections: volunteering, physical fitness, and learning a new skill. Our pupils excelled in all

Controlled sensory
Broads Delet of Emburgh 2025

areas, as well as demonstrating their commitment and willingness to embrace outdoor adventure.

After receiving their pin badges and bronze embossed certificates from Principal Mr Eastham, pupils enjoyed a glass of celebratory juice and posed for souvenir photographs - a fitting way to recognise their hard work.

Humanities Teacher and Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator, Mrs Cauchi said: "We are incredibly proud of our pupils for completing their Bronze Award. It's a fantastic achievement that demonstrates determination, teamwork, and a drive to step outside their comfort zone. These qualities will serve them well in the future, and we hope many will go on to pursue their Silver, or even Gold, award."

As part of the evening, Mrs Cauchi introduced the Silver Award to pupils outlining what it entails: longer volunteering and physical activity commitments, a more challenging expedition, and opportunities to further develop independence and leadership skills.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme is designed to build confidence, resilience, and practical life skills; qualities that prepare young people for future education, employment, and beyond.























# Year 7 Science Club Lights Up With Colourful Flame Tests

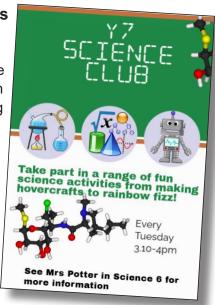


Science Club is back this half term, and what better way to kick things off during Bonfire week than with a dazzling display of flame tests?

Open to all Year 7 pupils, the club explored how different metal ions produce distinctive flame colours - a classic experiment that combines chemistry with creativity. Pupils applied the skills they've been developing in lessons, including the safe use of Bunsen burners, to carry out the tests confidently.

Assistant Head of Science, Mrs Potter, said, "The activity was a great way to embed the skills they need in lessons as well an enjoyable practical to participate in. Most of the pupils thought the green flame was the most impressive but as you can see, they produced a range of colours."

Science Club runs every Tuesday after school in the Science department with Mrs Potter. All Year 7 pupils are welcome. Come along and ignite your curiosity!

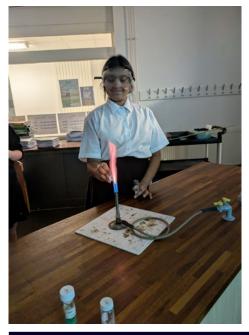


















# Year 7 Pupil Strikes Gold To Become British Champion

Gymnast Courtney is a British champion on the bars.

The Year 7 pupil celebrated gold on the bars in the British Gymnastics Disability Artistic Championships in the Junior Under 12s Physical category.

She competes for Wire Gymnastics Club and took home an array of medals including silver for her overall performance, silver in the vault and bronze in the floor and beam in the national championships.

Courtney has hypermobility which means she suffers from pain daily and is prone to injury.

"This was the first time I had taken part in a disability event as I usually compete in the competitions for everyone, even though I am at a disadvantage," said Courtney.



"I enjoyed the competition as it was fun and friendly but also competitive.

"Hypermobility affects my ankles, they are a weak spot, so it is difficult to do sport and I am more prone to injury which could stop me doing something I really enjoy.

"I have been a gymnast for around eight years, my mum used to do gymnastics and I went for a trial at a friend's club and loved it from the start.

"I train around 10-12 hours a week. I would like to do more but can't because of my hypermobility.

"Bars is one of my favourite disciplines although I am confident on the beam."



## Medals, Moves and Big Dreams: A Year 7 Pupil's Journey from Spain to Texas

Gymnast Andra is hoping to show off her skills in front of the most decorated gymnast in history, Simone Biles.

Year 7 Andra is a member of the City of Preston Gymnastics Club and has won a host of medals representing them.

She recently took part in an international competition in Spain.

"I have been training as a gymnast for around seven years, since I was four or five," said Andra.

"I went along and I enjoyed it. My favourite discipline is the vault.

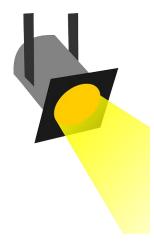
"I took part in the vault and floor in Spain and finished sixth overall – it was competitive.



"We are currently organising to go to a competition in Texas where Simone Biles is one of the judges so that will be amazing!

"My favourite gymnast is Romanian, Nadia Comaneci.

"As well as gymnastics, I take part in cheerleading and tumbling."



# Pupils In The Spotlight

Would you like to tell us about your child's achievements whether it's in sport, charity events, public speaking, drama, environmental issues, maths challenges or anything else? Maybe even someone who has overcome adversity and doesn't mind talking about it?

If this is you, please get in touch with your child's form tutor / head of year or contact the Communications Manager, Mrs Yates, via email at:

j.yates@priory.lancs.sch.uk

## **Cross Country: The Results**

Pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 took on this year's Inter-House Cross Country competition, battling it out for valuable house points and the chance to qualify for the South Ribble Cross Country Championships.

In the two weeks leading up to half term, pupils trained hard on our demanding course, tackling mud, uneven terrain, and unpredictable weather. Their determination paid off when competition day arrived – and the atmosphere was electric!

"With just two laps to complete, we saw everything from sprint finishes and personal bests to friends crossing the line hand in hand. The sportsmanship and encouragement from peers was fantastic – everyone pushed to the very end," said PE Teacher, Miss Beesley.

The top performers have now been invited to represent Priory at the South Ribble Championships:

Years 7, 8 and 9: Saturday, 15 November from 9.30am Years 10 and 11: Friday, 14 November (afternoon)

Both events will take place at Hutton Grammar School. Further details will follow once time slots are confirmed.

A huge well done to all pupils who took part – you did yourselves proud!

### **Year 7 Results** (in order of position 1-8)

Girls - Belle L, Reeva C, Kaede McE, Brooke P, Jess B, Lacey J, Aimee M, Layla B.

Boys - Parker B, Jamie B, Albert E, Eren S, Eric B, Eddie L, Sam S, Finley S.

### **Year 8 Results** (in order of position 1-8)

Girls - Ellie M, Emeli P, Ellie H, Reya S, Isla S, Amelie T, Sophie L, Lilly C-L

Boys - Fynn L, Charlie H, Reuben P, Max M, Harley D, Alegria A-M, Niall M, Harrison B

### **Year 9 Results** (in order of position 1-8)

Girls - Hollie L, Willow P, Lola B, Eva F, Emma N, Imogen C, Freya C, Lucy P

Boys - Joe W, Ethan B, Oliver C, Henry B, Cameron D, Freddie Y, Cainon M, Artin B















	ntry Result	s 2025		
Year 7	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	4th	2nd	1st	3rd
Girls	3rd	1st	1st	4th
	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	393	295	291	317
Girls	145	115	115	146
Overall	538	410	406	463
	4th	2nd	1st	3rd
Year 8	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	4th	2nd	1st	3rd
Girls	3rd	4th	2nd	1st
	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	393	295	291	317
Girls	14	17	21	12
Overall	407	312	312	329
	3rd	1st	1st	2nd
Year 9	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	1st	3rd	4th	2nd
Girls	3rd	2nd	1st	4th
	Calder	Douglas	Hodder	Ribble
Boys	170	235	247	220
Girls	88	86	57	115
Overall	258	321	304	335

## **London Residential Trip**

June 2026 (3 Days)

We are pleased to be able to offer 30 places on a Performing Arts residential trip exclusively available to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils. If spaces remain, we will extend the invitation to Key Stage 3 pupils.



We will travel by train, leaving from Preston station early morning on Thursday, 25 June 2026 and head to London. On arrival, we will have some shopping time before enjoying an evening meal and a West End show. The following day, Friday 26 June, we will tour the Tate Modern and the Science Museum



(these destinations might change due to availability). We will then head for an evening meal and to another West End show. Day 3 – Saturday, 27 June we will take part in a West End theatre workshop with people who have worked in the West End themselves.

Pupils will have their breakfast provided for Friday and Saturday as well as their evening meal on the Thursday and Friday, meaning they would only need to bring a packed lunch for the Thursday as we travel down, and money for their lunches on the Friday and Saturday.

The cost will be approximately £510 per person. Accommodation, transport, theatre tickets, entrance fees and breakfast is included for this three-day trip.

This trip is an added bonus to such a diverse curriculum already offered at Key Stage 4. The experience will provide a valuable insight into the professional workings of world class theatre and orchestras, and pupils will gain significant cultural experiences that will enhance their life skills.

If you are interested in this trip, a non-refundable deposit payment of £40 should be made via SCOPay by Friday, 28 November. The payment schedule for the remaining £470 would be split into six payments through to 31 May 2026.

A copy of the letter can be collected from Miss Howell, Lead Teacher of Drama, or downloaded from the school website at >>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters Enquiries to f.howell@priory.lancs.sch.uk

# Penwortham Priory Academy Presents



# Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December Starts 7pm

Tickets available via SCOPay or on the door Adults £8 | Concessions £6

Book by **Thomas Meehan** 

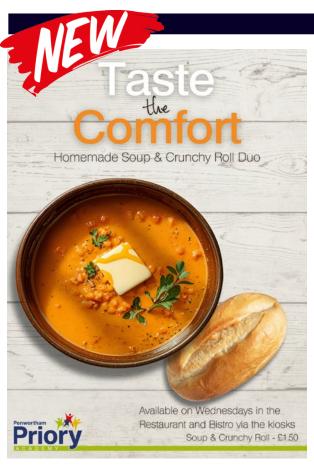
Music by Charles Strause

Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by **Martin Charnin**Based on "Little Orphan Annie" By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Director Miss Howell Music Director Mr Taylor

Annie 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



## Soup-er Wednesdays!

# Soup Now On The Menu (Restaurant and Bistro Only)

As we head into winter, we've added freshly made soup to the menu every Wednesday.

Available only from the Restaurant and Bistro (not The Pod), pupils can enjoy a warming bowl of soup with a crusty roll for £1.50.

Flavours will rotate weekly:

Week 1: Vegetable

Week 2: Leek & Potato

Week 3: Tomato

Don't miss out – perfect for a cosy midweek lunch!

### **New Menu For Autumn Term 2**

this week's specials **Penwortham Priory Academy** MONDAY Autuun Weeli **EVERY DAY** From £1.35\* Jacket Potato Build your perfect sould! Start with **TUESDAY** evelvate your experience even further with the many toppings available £1.90 Cheese Panini Soft panini roll stuffed with cheese, pressed to melted perfection. Pepperoni Panini WEDNESDAY Soft panini roll stuffed with cheese and pepperoni, pressed to melted Sandwiches A selection of handmade sandwiches, baguettes and wraps, packed with fresh THURSDAY Pasta Pots
A selection of pasta pots
that are bursting with flavour £2.00



Week 3