# Penwortham Priory Post



## Priory Leads the Way with Self-Service Dining Innovation

Priory has transformed the dining experience for its pupils and staff with its groundbreaking self-service system.

The school is the first in the country to install the innovative touchscreen kiosks through CRB Cunninghams, which makes the whole process of ordering food faster and more efficient.

### Why the Change?

Strategic Business Development Manager Mrs Barker explained: "Myself and Estates Manager Mr Bolton were reviewing our catering system. At Priory, we are always looking at improvements and unique solutions.

"We manage our own in-house catering service and we wanted to cut down the queues at tills and upgrade the whole dining experience for our pupils.

"We spoke to CRB Cunninghams who had already developed a self-scan type kiosk, and together we developed the self-service advance pay system, bringing in new technology ideas, and it's had a massive impact.

#### **How It Works**

"The pupils go to a self-service kiosk and order their food, the cost is charged to their account, they get a receipt and then they go to pick their food up.

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

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

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

Weds, 10 December Year 11 RE & Geography Liverpool Trip

**Fri, 12 December** Rewards Trips

Mon, 15 December Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

Weds, 17 December Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day Matilda Theatre Trip

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

START OF SPRING TERM

Mon, 5 January 2026

Weds, 14 January Year 9 Parents Evening (Options) - in school ...continued from front page



"It's a lot smoother, it stops long queues, crowded tills and it improves satisfaction. The faster flow means our pupils also get to make better use of their breaks and lunchtimes.

#### **Benefits for Everyone**

"Our menu changes on a three-weekly rota so we become familiar with what is being ordered, it's great for planning and this avoids food waste. The pupils also have to have money on their account to pay for it so it's eradicated any debt.

"It has made a real difference and has transformed our catering service. It has exceeded our expectations.

"We are the first school to install this type of advance pay system and we have also had other schools coming into see it, as well as councils and other catering providers."

Mr Bolton said: "It's made a massive difference. From ordering to receiving food it is around 30 seconds. It's technology the pupils use all the time in fast food restaurants so they are already familiar with how it works.

"If we see a way to make it even more streamlined, we feed it back to CRB Cunninghams and they make the necessary adjustments to make the system even better."

#### Staff and Pupils Alike Praise The Change

Catering Managers Mrs Billings and Miss Morley both agree it's a huge success. They said: "It makes everything a lot easier, we can keep control of quantities so there is less waste and it also increases



uptake as the pupils can come back for anything extra as there are no big queues to tackle. There's a great sense of calm and order in the dining room."

Assistant Principal Mr Gee said: "It's like going from dialup internet to broadband, the speed is that increased. The new system allows children to order really quickly, get their food, and then have time afterwards to do all the activities that we have in school."

Year 8 Lewis said: "The queues go down really quickly now which means we can do other things in our lunchtime. It's like ordering in McDonald's."

Year 8 Matilda said: "I like it. It's faster and you know how much money you have to spend. There is a good selection of hot food and snacks."

Year 9 Sophia said: "Before, the queue took a long time and now it's much easier."

### **Setting a Benchmark**

Managing Director at CRB Cunninghams, Adrian Burt, concluded with: "Penwortham Priory Academy has been an absolute joy to work with. Their forward-thinking leadership and commitment to enhancing school life through innovative technology are clear in everything they do. What has been truly inspiring is how naturally pupils have taken to the kiosks, familiar technology they already use in everyday life, now





improving their school mealtimes from the very start.

Priory is a perfect example of what's possible when a school's commitment to giving students the very best experience is paired with the right technology. They've transformed lunchtimes into something students genuinely enjoy and have set a new benchmark for what cashless catering can look like across UK secondary education."

#### **Showcasing Success**

As **CRB** part Cunninghams' national campaign to introduce the concept, several Priory pupils and senior leaders recently featured in a professional promotional video. The filming captured reallife use of the system



and highlighted how quickly and confidently students adapted to the technology.

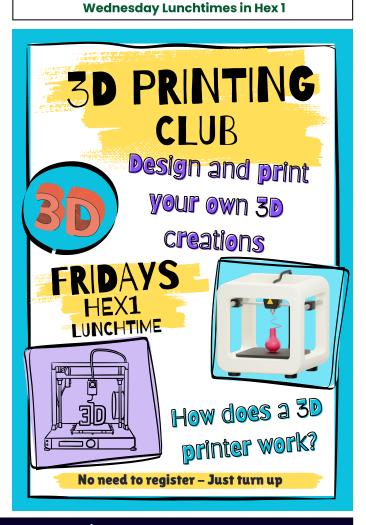
The campaign also includes a detailed case study, positioning the school as a leading example of innovation in cashless catering. Both the video and case study will help demonstrate to other schools, councils and outsourced catering companies how this system can transform the dining experience.

You can take a look at the finished case study and video here, along with an article published this week in Public Sector Catering >>

www.crbcunninghams.co.uk/case-studies/penwortham-priory-academy-kiosk-success-story/

www.publicsectorcatering.co.uk/in-depth/penworthampriory-academy-sees-major-rise-school-meal-uptakelunchtime-transformation







### **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! Mrs Lockwood has already received some excellent entries and she is impressed with your festive creativity!

A blank template jumper can be found on Year Group Teams and pupils can ask their form tutor or Mrs Lockwood for a printed copy.

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





### Consultation on Updated Geographical **Priority Area (GPA)**

Penwortham Priory Academy is launching consultation period to update the description of our Geographical Priority Area (GPA). This affects the admissions policy for the 2027-28 intake onwards, and a six week consultation period from 27 November 2025 to 8 January 2026 has commenced.

CONSULTATIO

As our local area continues to grow and change, particularly with the development of new housing and roads on land that was previously open fields, we are reviewing our GPA to ensure it remains clear and reflective of the current community landscape.

The proposed changes are modest and aim to:

- Align the GPA with more natural and recognisable boundaries, such as roads, rivers, canals.
- Include newly built residential areas that now form part of our local community.
- Improve clarity for families seeking to understand how their home address relates to our GPA.

This consultation is in line with the requirements of the codes and relevant admissions legislation, which at the date of this Agreement is section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended, and Regulations under that section, Academy Trust Determination of Admission Arrangements.

If you would like to submit a comment, please email enquiries@priory.lancs.sch.uk and include the subject line of 'Admissions Consultation'. All responses received will be considered by the Trustee Body once the consultation has closed on 8 January.

The proposed policy is available to view and download from the school website at>>

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/about-priory/admissions/ admissions-consultation

## Priory's Food Bank Appeal Meets House Competition



Earlier this month, Priory launched its Food Bank Donations appeal to support families in our local community - and the response so far has been phenomenal.



Donation baskets can be found in the Science department Nucleus, with each representing a House. Pupils have been encouraged to bring in items such as tinned food, cereals, pasta, rice and toiletries.



With the final collection day set for Thursday, 18 December, Mrs Massey will be delivering the donations to Penwortham Food Bank - and with the amount already gathered, she may need to make two trips!

Year 7 have led the way, with Miss Burbidge's 7EW4 collecting over 200 items so far. Pupils have arrived with bags full of thoughtful donations, and parents have shared how their children are learning about value for money by choosing own-brand items to maximise their contributions.



Special commendation goes to Emily E, who generously saved her own money to donate three times! Further recognition goes to Josh P, Oliver L, Imogen R, Eric B, Annabelle W and Archie H for their outstanding generosity.

Mrs Qadri's 7EW1 has also done exceptionally well and posed for photos with their labelled up boxes - very organised guys!

House Leader & Science Teacher, Mrs Massey said, "The generosity shown by our Year 7 pupils has been incredible. They alone have donated more than we've seen in previous years combined, and it's inspiring to see such kindness and community spirit in action."

Let's keep the momentum going - there's still time to donate before 18 December. Which House will top the leaderboard? Every item makes a difference!





# **Guess the Teacher? Year 8's Fun Quiz for Charity!**

Continuing their fantastic fundraising efforts, Mrs Elliott's Year 8 form (8EW4) added a playful twist to the Barnardo's charity drive this week with their 'Guess the Teacher from Their Baby Photo' challenge.





Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

For a small entry fee, pupils were handed a sheet filled with adorable (and some amusing!) childhood photos of Priory staff. From cheeky toddler grins to school-day snapshots, the challenge was simple: match the baby face to the teacher.

The competition sparked plenty of laughter and debate across classrooms as pupils tried to work out who was who. Some guesses were spot-on, while others...well! The Year 8 class will be marking the entries and the winner being awarded a box of Quality Street next week.





A big thank you to all staff who shared their photos and to everyone who took part. Your contributions helped raise funds for Barnardo's, supporting vulnerable children across the UK.

Think you can do better than our pupils? Check out the baby photos opposite and see if you can identify the teachers. The answers are revealed later in the newsletter - no peeking!

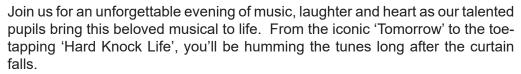


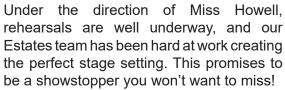


8EW4 will be rounding off their charity campaign for this term with their second Bake Sale on Friday, 12 December at break in the Nucleus.

### 'Tomorrow' is Just Around the Corner! Don't Miss Annie at Priory!

The stage is almost set, the lights are in position, and the cast is in full voice - Priory's Christmas production of Annie is almost here!





Performances Tuesday, 9 & Wednesday, 10 December at 7pm. Tickets are now available to buy via SCOPay. £8 Adults | £6 Concessions.







### Priory's Digital Learning Lead Presents at Lancashire School Headteachers' Conference

A huge well done to Mr Metcalfe, Head of Humanities & Lead Practitioner for Digital Learning, who represented Priory at the Lancashire Secondary School Headteachers Conference at Barton Manor Hotel today (28th).

Mr Metcalfe delivered an engaging presentation on Artificial Intelligence in education, sharing insights on how AI can enhance teaching and learning. His session was extremely well received, with attendees praising both the content and delivery.

Well done Mr Metcalfe for flying the flag for Priory!





# Year 10 Work Experience

Priory has traditionally run a full week work experience placement for all pupils in Year 10. For the current cohort, the programme will run from Monday, 2 February to Friday, 6 February 2026.

Pupils will be expected to complete a selfplacement, attend an interview and complete five full days of work experience.



Pupils have now been given a pack with essential forms to complete and they must also obtain a copy of the Employer's Liability Insurance document.

Once a placement has been sought, all five documents must be returned to the school office by Monday, 1 December so that the relevant visits for risk assessments and the collation of paperwork needed prior to placement can be completed.

For primary school placements, pupils must not make direct contact with the school but instead provide a letter of application to Mrs Eastham providing the name of the primary school and explaining why they wish to carry out work experience there.

This is a wonderful opportunity that Penwortham Priory Academy is continuing to offer for all pupils in Year 10 and we would like to thank parents in advance for working with us to make it yet another successful programme.

If there are any questions, you can contact Mrs Eastham via email at v.eastham@priory.lancs.sch.uk.

Copies of the pack can also be downloaded from the school website at >>

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



### Festive Creativity with 3D Printing Club!



As we move into the Christmas season, our 3D Printing Club has been busy bringing festive cheer to life with a special holiday project!

Students were challenged to design their very own personalised Christmas decorations using Tinkercad, a beginner-friendly 3D design tool. Each decoration featured the student's name, making it a unique keepsake for their family Christmas tree.

Many students went above and beyond, creating multiple designs for different family members - and even their pets! These thoughtful touches made each ornament truly special and showcased the creativity and enthusiasm of our budding designers.

Once their designs were complete, they were brought to life using our brand-new 3D printers, recently added to the school's technology resources. Watching their digital designs transform into real, tangible ornaments was an exciting moment for everyone involved.

But the creativity doesn't stop there! The club has big plans to design and 3D print decorations for the school Christmas tree, including ornaments that represent each of our four houses: Calder, Hodder, Ribble and Douglas. These house-themed decorations will add a wonderful sense of community and school spirit to our festive celebrations.

The excitement for 3D printing has grown so much that a few Year 7 students have even asked for their own 3D printers for Christmas! It's inspiring to see how this project has sparked a passion for 3D printing among our students.

Head of ICT & Computing, Mrs Qadri, added, "This project not only celebrated the festive season but also gave students hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and design skills. The results so far have been stunning: beautiful, personalised decorations that will brighten homes and our school for years to come!"

We are incredibly proud of the students' hard work and creativity. A big thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this project a success.

Here's to many more innovative projects in the future!

3D PRINTING CLUB is every Friday lunchtime in Hex1. All year groups welcome! Bring your lunch with you.







# Priory Runners Excel at South Ribble Cross Country Championships

On Friday, 14 and Saturday, 15 November, Priory pupils represented the school at the South Ribble Schools Cross Country Championships, held at Hutton Grammar School.

Year 10 and 11 runners braved the challenging conditions on Friday afternoon, battling strong winds and rain brought by Hurricane Claudia, while Year 7–9 pupils competed on Saturday morning in much calmer weather.

The event brought together schools from across South Ribble, with pupils selected based on their performance in our inter-house competition. Distances ranged from 2,000m for Year 7 to 3140m for Year 10/11 boys, testing stamina and determination on a muddy, slippery course.

Those finishing in the top ten will now go forward to represent South Ribble at the Lancashire Championships early next year. Well done to Year 7



Belle L who claimed a podium position for second place, alongside top ten places for Year 7 Parker B, Year 8 Eleanor M and Year 9 Hollie L. A special mention also goes to Year 11 Taylor T, who finished 5th in the Year 10/11 boys' race - a fantastic achievement and a testament to his commitment, having represented Priory every year.

Head of PE & Sport, Mr Bullock, said, "Our pupils showed incredible resilience and determination on a tough course, especially those who ran in Friday's stormy conditions. There were some outstanding individual performances,

and we're proud of every runner who represented Priory so well. We look forward to seeing our qualifiers compete at the Lancashire stages in the New Year."

Well done to all our runners, you were fantastic ambassadors for Priory!









Learn to succeed

# Year 8 Young Leaders Shine at Primary Dodgeball Event

On Tuesday, Penwortham Priory Academy welcomed Year 3 and Year 4 pupils from local primary schools for an exciting dodgeball competition, hosted as part of the South Ribble School Games programme.



A group of our Year 8 pupils stepped up as Young Leaders, supporting the event after completing a short

leadership course delivered by the PE department. Their role included organising teams, explaining rules, and encouraging younger pupils throughout the day.

The Young Leaders did a fantastic job and were outstanding ambassadors for Priory, demonstrating confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm.

Mr Hankin, South Ribble School Games Lead, said: "The Young Leaders were brilliant – they showed great maturity and leadership skills, helping the event run smoothly and making sure every child had a positive experience. They should be very proud of themselves."

Congratulations to the winning schools: Ashbridge Independent School, Penwortham Primary School, and St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School.



### Get Ready for Festive Fundraising!

As we approach the Christmas break, Priory is preparing for two exciting fundraising days to support two incredible charities: Barnardo's and Derian House.

In the coming weeks, pupils will learn more about the vital work these charities do: Barnardo's in supporting children and families across the UK, and Derian House in caring for seriously ill babies, children, and young people in the North West. This awareness helps pupils understand the impact of their donations and the importance of kindness, which is our theme this term. Taking part will also count towards pupils' Priory+ Award under the 'Future Citizen' strand.

#### Here's what's coming up:

### Christmas Jumper Day – Wednesday, 17 December

Pupils can swap their Priory jumper for a festive one and enjoy Christmas lunch while raising funds for Barnardo's.



#### House Colours Day - Thursday, 18 December

On the last day of term, pupils can wear their own clothes featuring their House colours to support Derian House. (A

small accessory won't be enough - the colour must be tops or bottoms in House colours)









For each day, we ask for a £1 donation, ideally via SCOPay, though cash donations to form tutors or the school office on the day are also acceptable.

Thank you in advance for your support. Together, we can make a real difference this Christmas!



## **Exploring Future Careers at BAE Systems**



Students gain hands-on insight into apprenticeships and workplace skills.

Last Friday Ms Smith and Mr Gee took a group of students to BAE Systems' ASK Centre (Academy for Skills & Knowledge) for their Early Careers event, focusing on the apprenticeships available for 2026.

**BAE SYSTEMS** 

The sessions included a presentation on BAE Systems and their apprenticeships, talks from current apprentices, tours of their training facility and hangar, VR Cave demonstrations, market stalls for each scheme and an invaluable workshop on the application process and interview skills.

Careers Adviser and Lead Practitioner for Personal Development, Ms Smith said, 'It is always great to have the opportunity to take pupils around a potential future workplace and to meet their potential future employers, especially when it is a secure business.

"Students were able to wander at their leisure around different activities and we tailored the day to suit both Engineering and Business students. The Employability Skills Workshop was fantastic and gave an interesting insight into the interview process and expectations. Students have now been



sent information on their Year 11 Teams page to assist them with interview techniques".

One Year 11 pupil said, "Going to BAE gave me a good insight into the workplace. We had a tour of the manufacturing facility and they showed us the current model of the plane they are working on. They also showed us how the planes are manufactured with each person specialised to their job."

Another added, "The visit showed me how they organise the logistics and cost of manufacturing on a large scale. We got to see a real life working environment and how everybody works together on larger projects. It gave me some really good ideas about my future career and showed me how many different roles could be within a workplace."



Guess The Baby Photo Answers: Right'> Mr Eccles, Top> Mr Taylor, Bottom> Mrs Potter

# From Primary To Priory: A Day to Rhyme-mber

On Friday, 21st November, we were delighted to welcome pupils from the WRIST Primary Schools for a lively and inspiring poetry competition that truly was a day to rhyme-mber.

The morning began with a workshop on voice projection and expression, where students explored how to bring their words to life. Together, we created a class poem that showcased imagination, teamwork and growing confidence.

In the afternoon, the children performed their poems to an audience of more than 70 family members, friends and teachers, along with three VIP judges: Councillor Will Adams (a former Priory pupil), MP Paul Foster and Priory's Assistant Principal Kate Thornton. The pupils were a credit to their schools. They performed with clarity, expression and enthusiasm, and many even added actions to enhance their recitals.

After an afternoon filled with exceptional talent, the winners were announced. The runner up received a £10 Amazon voucher, while the overall champion proudly took home a £15 voucher and a trophy. Every participant also received a certificate and a book token to recognise their hard work and creativity.

The event's organiser, English Teacher Mrs Robinson-Ali concluded, "It was wonderful to see the children thrive, showing determination, resilience and joy in their craft. We look forward to welcoming them back for future transition events and perhaps even teaching some of these budding poets one





### Helping Priory Shine: Meet the Faces of Our PD Squad

Meet our PD squad - a valuable team in school who assist Ms Smith with all things Personal Development at Priory.

Year 8 Charlie P was Lead Practitioner for Personal Development Ms Smith's assistant and started the Personal Development Squad in the last school year.

Year 7s Kaede, Jess and Emma have signed up alongside Year 8s Charlie M, Matilda, Lewis and Joshua.

Personal Development aspect of school life is extensive and overseen by Ms Smith. At Priory, this incorporates the Learning for Life (L4L) Period 6 curriculum, assemblies, L4L Days, visiting groups and speakers, Peer Mentoring, Citizenship - fundraising, Year and School Councils, clubs and activities, House Events, Pedro the Puffin appearances and careers activities.



A couple of years ago Ms Smith decided she needed some pupil help with different aspects of Personal Development organisation, which could be given to a pupil assistant. 2025 leaver Umar H did this role effectively for a few years, but as Umar started to prepare for exams, continuity planning was required. Charlie P started to work alongside Umar ready to continue on from him. Over the months other pupils joined in including a group of Year 7s in September.

Ms Smith said, "The group assist me in ensuring Personal Development runs smoothly, efficiently and timely. Through activities, they develop a variety of soft skills ready for employment, such as teamwork, leadership, communication, organisation, initiative, creativity, time management, adaptability and problem-solving.

"They are also invited to assist in other Personal Development related activities as they have demonstrated maturity and confidence, knowing how valuable assisting and representing our school is. Our team is like a family within the Priory family housed in my office most breaks and lunchtimes.

"Their keenness to help has enabled them to successfully achieve Priory Plus Awards and provides them with great work related experiences which they can reference for future Prefect, Senior Prefect, college, apprenticeship and job applications and interviews. They seem to relish the challenges, but also enjoy some of the highlights such as assisting Pedro!"

Charlie said: "We all help Ms Smith during breaks, lunch and after school. It can be little jobs, like finding a pupil or taking a message to another teacher. It can also be organising Priory Plus certificates into alphabetical order.

Matilda said: "Charlie is the main organiser. A Year 11 did it but when he left Charlie stepped in and asked me to help too and now we have a PD Squad. It's good fun and it will also look good on our CVs."

Lewis said: "I enjoy it. It's learning new skills, such as organisation, and also it gives you some responsibility."





# **Christmas Lunch Weds, 17 December**

On Wednesday, 17 December Christmas dinner will be served in the dining room for all year groups. This will be the only hot meal option available that day, with the exception of a vegetarian alternative. In addition, 'lite bites' will be available for all year groups to purchase at the Bistro.

The Free School Meal allowance will cover the cost of the twocourse lunch, and free juice will be available to everyone dining in the Restaurant.

Pupils do not need to pre-order their Christmas lunch however please do ensure lunch accounts are credited accordingly.

Break will be served as normal. The Pod will be open at Break but closed at Lunch.



# 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