Penwortham Priory Post









From Primary to Priory at Open Evening

Our doors opened last Tuesday evening to over 450 families as they began their search for a secondary school for their children.

Our Principal Mr Eastham, was the first to greet our visitors at the door, and Prefects stood by ready to guide them around the school with a personal tour. Pupils from all year groups were posed in departments ready to share their experiences of Priory. Year 7 pupils chatted with former primary school peers who were keen to hear all about their first month at their new school - showing such confidence that many parents were fathomed they had only been with us a few weeks!

Interactive activities were set up across the school for children to enjoy whilst parents questioned teachers and pupils. Showcase explosions and a cow's heart and lung dissection in Science, puzzles in Maths (whilst trying not to gobble too many mini gems!), French statues coming to life in Languages, trampolining, darts and badminton in PE, fantasy fiction in English and so much more. The ICT & Computer Science department took the opportunity to show off their gadgets - robots and 3D printers amongst them whilst, in Drama, hair and make up, costumes and lighting demonstrations took centre stage.

Meanwhile, the Humanities department was a hub of activity where Mr Momoniat's OS map folding and dress for the weather challenges were matched in History where visitors were challenged to pair the date with the historic photo in the fastest time, before picking up a bag of freshly popped popcorn from the Duke of Edinburgh pupils.

Continued overleaf



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, 6 October

Year 7 Settle Factor Parents Evening (form tutors in school) Year 8-11 Settle Factor Parents Evening (form tutors online)

6-10 OctoberBlack History Week

Tues, 7 OctoberYear 7 Natural High
Assembly

Weds, 8 October Runshaw College Ai Mega Day (Year 11 ICT pupils)

Weds, 15 October Year 10 GCSE Settle Factor Parents Evening (online)

Fri, 17 OctoberBlack History Month Food Sale

Half Term 27-31 October

Thurs, 6 November DofE Bronze Award Celebration Evening

Mon, 10 November Year 8 Blackpool Zoo Trip

11,12, 13 NovemberYear 7 Lancaster Castle
Trip

Continued overleaf

Visitors were 'drawn' to the Technology department with pupils' artwork and the smell of cookery from the Food room, before our young guests made keyrings which they coloured and then assembled laser-cut Perspex letters spelling out their name - the perfect keepsake of the evening.

All this activity was bound to work up a thirst so a hot cuppa was on offer, with a friendly smile, at the Priory Pod - our outdoor hub serving drinks and food for those on the go. Meanwhile, in the Bistro, our Catering team offered scrumptious samples and demonstrated our new kiosk ordering system.

This was the second year we invited our Leavers back to help out - and Class of 2025 did an amazing job!

Our Year 11 Leavers are perfectly placed to offer a personal testimonial about their time at Priory and their enthusiasm and positivity made them some of our best ambassadors.

The event was a great success but we couldn't do it without the support of our pupil volunteers. We've received many compliments from prospective families who named and thanked individuals for their maturity, manners and guidance during their visit. You were an absolute credit, pleasant, engaging and confident. Parents - you should be proud!

Mr Eastham thanked everyone for their efforts on the night, but also recognised the hard work beforehand that goes into

making these events such a success. We hope the event inspired our visitors and we look forward to meeting them again should they choose Priory as their first choice school.













We asked our visiting families what three words they would use to sum up their experience of Priory...

Friendly Enjoyable Engaging

Professional, fun, organised

Welcoming, caring, informative

Enlightening, entertaining, reassuring.

Accommodating, approachable and open.

Welcoming, immersive, inclusive

Welcoming, supportive and nurturing

And others said:

Excellent all round. All staff and pupils helping were fantastic. For a large school it is clearly looked after well and continually improved.

The student helpers where a credit to the school!

Really enjoyed coming to Priory open evening. By far the most enjoyable open evening we've been to. Informative and exciting for the children. A real showcase of what good looks like!

The school certainly has a lot to offer and has made us re-think our placements.

Hope to be making Priory as first choice. Very impressive school with excellent staff and facilities.

The head's speech was excellent. It was honest and clearly defined the priory mission. The staff and students couldn't have been more kind and helpful. Definitely our first choice.

I was blown away by the school, we are a bit further out but will be keeping our fingers crossed to get in!

























Bright Books and Quiet Moments at the Book Fair



The Scholastic Book Fair returned to Priory last Thursday, bringing with it a vibrant display of books and stationery for all interests.

When we visited earlier this week, it was pleasing to see many pupils quietly chatting, browsing titles, reading, and even playing chess - a calm and engaging atmosphere that reflects the heart of what our library is all about.

A few pupils were spotted buying books, and it was great to see them exploring new reads and taking an interest

in the selection. From gripping fiction to colourful non-fiction and plenty of stationery to tempt, the fair offered something for everyone alongside the opportunity for pupils to loan books from the library itself.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the families who have donated books to the school in the past. Your generosity helps us keep our library well-stocked and welcoming, and contributes to our ongoing mission to engage pupils in the love of reading.

The fair will return next September, when we will once again be shining a spotlight.











Lights, Camera, Kiosks! Pupils Star in Catering System Promotion Video

On Thursday, Penwortham Priory Academy welcomed a professional filming crew into school, commissioned by our catering technology providers, CRB Cunninghams.

Following the successful installation of our brand new food ordering kiosks at the end of the summer term - a first of its kind concept in UK schools - we were proud to host the team as they began creating promotional material to showcase the system in action.

Eight pupils volunteered to take part in the filming, demonstrating how easy and efficient the new kiosks are to use, and sharing their experiences in short interviews.

Their confidence, enthusiasm, and professionalism made them fantastic ambassadors for Priory, and we are incredibly proud of how they represented the school.

The filming took place in our dining areas and included interviews with our atering managers and senior leaders, as well as footage of pupils using the kiosks during a mock lunch period.

The final promotional video will be used by

CRB Cunninghams to introduce the concept to other schools and catering organisations, some of whom will be visiting Priory in the coming weeks to see the system in action.

We'll be sharing more about the day, and the finished video, very soon. In the meantime, a huge thank you to our brilliant pupils who took part. You were amazing!















Register your interest: * All Welcome * bursar@penwortham-pri.lancs.sch.uk or call 01772 743321

Please visit our website and facebook page to

Come and experience the magic of Penwortham

Wednesday 7th January





Year 10 parents are invited to meet online with their child's subject teachers.

Online - Wednesday, 15 October

This evening will be a four minute online meeting with each of your child's teachers to check on their progress at the start of Year 10, outline the structure of Year 10 and allow you to ask any questions about the next two years at Priory.

A letter has been emailed to parents which includes instructions on how to book appointments. A copy can also be downloaded from the school website at

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

The appointments should be booked through our webbased program, 'SchoolCloud Parents Evening'. This

is also the same link you should use to access your appointment on the night.

Please note specific instructions regarding booking for Science and PE



& Sport.

https://penworthampriory.schoolcloud.co.uk/

The link for parents to book their slot is now

To enable teachers to meet with as many parents/ carers as possible, each appointment slot will be four minutes long. The appointments automatically stop after this time and teachers cannot extend the call. There is then a one minute gap before you are automatically transferred to the next teacher.

If you would like to speak to any other member of staff following this meeting, please feel free to contact them direct. A full email list can be found by visiting the link at

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/staff-contact-list

Mrs Ham, Head of year 10



mww.facebook.com/firstkickfoundation

Lunchtime Fun with Inter-House Water Relay Challenge





HOUSE

There was fun on the yard at lunchtime last Wednesday as pupils gathered to watch the annual Inter-House game of water antics.









This was the first event in the House Leaders' Lunchtime Challenge calendar, with each House providing four representatives to take part in a game where pupils were challenged to complete a water relay in the fastest time.



Teamwork was an essential skill as players had to pour water into cups with holes in the bottom. Different strategies were employed by different teams; some running while others stepped more carefully and slowly, some tried covering the holes to prevent the water escaping.

"All the pupils had fun taking on the challenge. Douglas Dragons worked really quickly and managed to come out on top this time. It was a really impressive team effort," said Mr Raynor, Ribble House Leader. "The pupils also managed to avoid getting too wet themselves which was a bonus!"

Well done to our reigning champions, Mrs Cauchi's Douglas Dragons! (Matt B, Alex I, Mikayl R, Ayana R)



Winners:

1st = DOUGLAS Dragons 2nd = HODDER Hornets 3rd = CALDER Cats 3rd = RIBBLE Rhinos





Penwortham Priory Academy is seeking

Parent Trustees

We are looking for two Parent Trustees to join Penwortham Priory Academy

Joining the Trustee Body as a parent trustee offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of Priory, and can be a very positive experience.

Trustees play a key role in the strategic leadership of the academy and raising of standards, including the appointment of key staff, overseeing the budget and monitoring progress in the curriculum.

If you would like to use your skills and enthusiasm to support the ongoing success of our school, we would love to hear from you. Training and support available.





If you wish to put yourself forward or would like further information, please contact Mrs Sue Spencer, Clerk to Trustees, via email s.spencer@priory.lancs. sch.uk or call 01772 320250. An email has also been sent to all parents.

Alternatively, you can visit our website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/trustees/trustee-vacancy



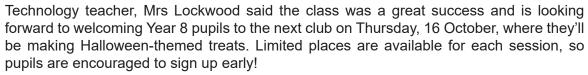
Year 7s Get a Taste of Autumn

On Tuesday, 30 September, the delicious scent of cinnamon and baked apples filled the Food Technology room as Year 7 pupils took part in the first session of Mrs Lockwood's After School Creative Cookery Club.



Using a generous donation of locally grown apples, pupils rolled up their sleeves to create a seasonal batch of Apple and Cinnamon Muffins. The session gave them the chance to learn basic baking skills while celebrating the flavours of autumn.

The muffins, made with self-raising flour, fresh apples, and warming cinnamon, were a hit; soft, fluffy, and full of comforting spice.





Food Technology













Priory's New Rewards System Let's Celebrate Success!



At Priory, we believe in recognising and celebrating the fantastic attitudes, efforts and achievements of our pupils, not just in the classroom, but in everything they do. That's why our House Leaders are excited to launch a refreshed rewards system designed to highlight those who go the extra mile.

Golden Ticket Principal's Award Date Pupil Name Nominated by To claim your beat take this vouchers the Nucleus of Thursday brook lose Mis Mossey The toket allows you and it complete queue at break and allows of the principal of the Missey of the Mi

What's New?

There are two exciting weekly rewards now on offer:

Treat Thursday

Each week, staff nominate pupils who have shown outstanding learning, effort, attendance or kindness. Up to 15 pupils will be invited to collect a sweet treat such as a doughput, cake or sweets from the Nucleus at breakt

sweet treat such as a doughnut, cake or sweets from the Nucleus at breaktime on Thursday (see Mrs Massey).

Golden Ticket

Mr Eastham will be handing out special Golden Tickets to lucky pupils. These vouchers allow the recipient and a friend to jump the queue at break or lunch - a simple but much-regarded privilege!

Pupil Survey - What Do You Want?

Half Term Activities & End of Term Rewards

We want to offer more opportunities for pupils to be rewarded and need feedback on what type of rewards they would like. Pupils should check the link to a survey on their Year Group Teams to indicate their preferences for half term 'in school' activities and end of term trips. This will also be discussed at School Council meetings.

Every half term there will be an in-school reward during Period 5 & 6 which could be a craft workshop, gaming, dance, sports or maybe to watch a film. The first half term reward will be 23 October with a choice of film & popcorn, dance/drama workshops or darts/table tennis. And at the end of each term, many pupils will already be familiar with the popular trips to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, The Trafford Centre and Blackpool Zoo.

Places are awarded based on attendance (95%+), consistently making the right choices and demonstrating the Priory Standard.

How You Can Help

We think the pupils at Priory are wonderful and we want to reward them in meaningful ways. To help us expand our prize offering, we're inviting businesses, parents and other members of our school community to donate items that can be given out to pupils throughout the year. These could include:



Vouchers | Tickets to events or attractions | Sweets or snacks | Sports equipment | Electronic gadgets or accessories | Books | Stationery | Study Resources

If you or your business would like to support us, please contact Mrs Massey, Science Teacher & House Leader (Calder) c.massey@priory.lancs.sch.uk. Your generosity will help us continue to celebrate our fantastic young people.

Year 9 Reach New Heights As They Explore Local Iconic Landmark

Year 9 pupils this week had an opportunity to visit the magnificent St Walburge's Church in Preston as part of a cross-curricular trip to see how History and RE have impacted our local

area.

We were fortunate to have Maria, a parishioner at St Walburge's, taking us on a tour of the church and many of its beautiful and historic features.

Pupils and staff, including Principal Mr Eastham, were also fortunate enough to be able to climb the steeple, the tallest on any parish church in England.

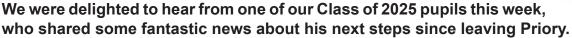
It's safe to say that many pupils found the 150+ steps a challenge, but the spectacular views over Preston were well worth it.

Mr Eccles and Mrs Ham Humanttes



Class of 2025: Umar Hansrot

Leaver Secures Apprenticeship and National Award



Following a careers seminar hosted in school by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) earlier this year, Umar successfully applied for and secured an apprenticeship with the government department. The visit back in March organised by Careers Adviser, Ms Smith, gave pupils a valuable insight into civil service careers and opened doors to real opportunities, including this one.

Umar wrote to thank the school for its encouragement and guidance, saying: "I'd like to thank Priory for supporting me and motivating me to achieve this post, as well as my community for supporting me."

In addition to the achievement, Umar has also been recognised

after winning a national Volunteer Recognition Award. He recently attended a conference and will be heading to an event in London later this month to celebrate.

Principal, Mr Eastham added, "This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to Umar's hard work, determination, and the positive attitude he always showed during his time at school. I'm so pleased that both Ms Smith and the school could play a part in supporting him on his journey".

We're incredibly proud of his success and grateful for his kind words. We wish Umar all the best in his apprenticeship and hope to welcome him back for a visit in the future!







Kicking for a Cause on Priory's 3G Pitch

A long-standing user of our facilities, Old Knackers Football Club, has been making a real difference, both on and off the pitch.

The men's team, made up mostly of over-35s, meets twice a month on Sunday evenings to play on Priory's 3G pitch. But their mission goes far beyond football.

Old Knackers FC uses football to raise money for charity and promote mental health awareness, encouraging men to talk, connect and support one another through sport. With around 12.5% of men in England experiencing a common mental health disorder, and men being three times more likely than women to die by suicide, their work is both timely and vital.

In September, the team was honoured with the BBC Lancashire Make A Difference Award 2025 – Active Award, recognising their impact in the community. They were joined by BBC's Graham Liver at the awards event to celebrate their achievement.

Club Lead Neil Proctor shared his thanks with Priory:

"Just wanted to say a massive thank you for your support over the years. We couldn't function as a team without your help. From your initial involvement with us all the way up to us winning a BBC Lancashire Make A Difference award and beyond — we thank you all."

We're delighted to support such a meaningful initiative and congratulate Old Knackers FC on their well-deserved recognition. If you're interested in hiring our facilities for your own club or event, you can find out more here:

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/facility-hire-at-priory









Mrs Lockwood's After School Creative Cookery

Year 8 Pupils | Thurs, 16 October

Halloween Treats

With Halloween coming up, Food Technology teacher Mrs Lockwood, is inviting Year 8 pupils to make some spooky treats with her.





Halloween biscuits are fun, festive, and full of spooky charm. Made with simple ingredients like butter, sugar, and flour, these treats are easy to shape and decorate, making them perfect for creative bakers. Whether it's ghosts, pumpkins, or bats, pupils will be able to personalise their biscuits with icing and sprinkles to bring their Halloween creations to life. They're crisp, sweet, and ideal for sharing — a delicious way to celebrate the season!

If you want to take part...



The workshops are free but there are only 12 places up for grabs which will be given to the first pupils to contact Mrs Lockwood via Teams Chat or in person.

If you get one of the places (she'll let you know), just turn up to the food classroom in the Technology block at 3.10pm on Thursday, 16 October.

All ingredients are provided. Please let Mrs Lockwood know in advance if you have any allergies or dietary requirements.

Make sure you have organised your safe travel home for 4.15pm and bring a lidded tin, tub or lunchbox to take your cookery home in.



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.

Our winners w/e 26 September

Year 7 Kaede McE (Mr Hunter)
Year 8 Avalyn H-V (Mr Bullock)
Year 9 Theo L (Mr Eccles)

Year 10 Ria S (Mr Owen)

Year 11 ----

This week's winners w/e 3 October

Year 7 Mollie D (Miss Burbidge)

Year 8 Katie H (Mrs Elliott)

Year 9 Amna M (Mr Eccles)

Year 10 ----Year 11 ----

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.

Pupils: Pick up your challenge sheet from the top of the post boxes in your dining areas. There are three challenges to complete on the

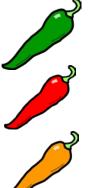


sheet, each one with an increasing difficulty. When you've had a go at them, pop your answers in your year group post box. Winners are randomly drawn from those with the correct answers each Thursday, one per year group.

This is also an inter-house competition and the leaders will be those with the most individual entries. There'll be an inter-house prize at the end of the year.

The leaderboard is the same as last week although Ribble are catching Douglas!

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





Year 7 History Trip Lancaster Castle

The Humanities department would like to invite Year 7 pupils on a trip to Lancaster Castle and Lancaster Priory on one of the following dates - Tues 11, Weds 12, Thurs 13 November.

We are running the trip across three separate dates due to limited availability to tour the castle and priory. Pupils will be told which day they are attending, and they will be there with other students from their teaching group.

We will depart from school at 9.15am and spend the day exploring the castle and priory. The aim of the trip is to learn about the history of the castle and the importance of religion in the Middle Ages.

The cost of the trip is £14 which includes return transport.

Places are offered on a first come, first served basis. If you would like your child to attend the trip, please make the payment via SCOPay, where you will also be required to provide parental consent. This replaces the need to complete a reply slip. The closing date for payment is Friday, 24 October however, this will close earlier if places are filled.

Pupils should see their History Teacher for a copy of the letter or parents can download a copy from the school website at >> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/ letters

Any queries can be directed to Mr Eccles via email at a.eccles@priory.lancs.sch.uk



CHECK OUT OUR





MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Compass Bloom are the Mental Health Support Team in your school. We provide free support for mild/moderate mental health concerns:



MILD TO MODERATE ANXIETY



LOW MOOD: SADNESS, LOW MOTIVATION



DIFFICULTY MANAGING EMOTIONS



DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO CHANGE AND TRANSITION

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missed - aimed at parents and school staff.