13 November 2026

Penwortham Priory Post







Priory Performs 'Into the Woods'

We're incredibly excited about our upcoming production of *Into the Woods*.

There is a real buzz of excitement around the Performing Arts department, with rehearsals well underway and our talented pupils working incredibly hard to bring this magical production to life. The energy, enthusiasm and commitment from everyone involved has been fantastic.

One of the reasons we chose *Into the Woods* is that it brings together acting, singing, movement and storytelling, giving our pupils the opportunity to showcase their talents and challenge themselves as performers.

"Beyond the familiar fairy-tale characters and wonderful music, the story explores meaningful themes such as wishes, ambitions, choices and consequences, all of which are particularly relevant to our young people," said Lead Teacher of Drama, Miss Howell.

What makes this production even more special is the collaboration across our creative departments. Our talented Art pupils are currently busy creating the set, designed by Mrs Shaw and Miss Woodend. It is wonderful to see their creativity coming to life, and we cannot wait to see the magical world of *Into the Woods* take shape on stage.

For us, Performing Arts is about so much more than being in the spotlight. It is about teamwork, confidence, creativity and giving pupils the opportunity to be

Continued over ...

Diary Dates

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

MENU
W/c 16 November
Week 3 (See Year Group Teams for details)

Mon, 16 & Tues, 24 November
Year 10 GCSE History Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds

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

Fri, 27 November
Year 9 'Make Languages Work' Day

Thurs, 3 December
Year 11 Parents Evening (online)

Tues, 8 & Weds, 9 December
Into The Woods 7pm

Tues, 15 December
Rewards Trip - Trafford Centre

Weds, 16 December
Christmas Lunch

End of Autumn Term
Thurs, 17 December
Early lunch followed by school closure at 1.10pm

...continued from front page

part of something special. We are incredibly proud of the dedication everyone is showing, both onstage and behind the scenes.

We would absolutely love you to join us on 8th and 9th December and take a journey *Into the Woods* with us. Tickets are now available through SCOPay and on the door for both evenings.



It promises to be two magical evenings filled with music, laughter and wonderful performances. Come along and support our incredibly talented students - we can't wait to welcome you *Into the Woods*!





Parking:

A Polite Notice



Following several complaints, we would like to politely remind parents/carers to park courteously, not on double yellow lines, and allow for clear passage of other vehicles when dropping pupils off or collecting them at the end of the school day.

In addition, please respect our neighbours by not blocking driveways. Speed around Crow Hills Road and Crookings Lane has also been raised by residents as an issue, alongside access on pavements for pedestrians, particularly for those with mobility aids and pushchairs.

Parking in a legal and considerate manner will reduce congestion and enhance safety thereby allowing for the least amount of disruption possible for parents and local residents. This may mean parking a little further away from the school.



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

Thank you for your support

Remembrance at Priory



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

Accompanied by Head of Year 11, Mrs Ham, the two prefects paid their respects at Liverpool Road's war memorial. Oliver and Reese were asked to read out the names of Penwortham's WWII fallen before laying 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



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."













Food Bank Collection and House Competition



Mrs Massey is ramping up the House competition with a good cause in mind.

Not only are staff and pupils asked to bring in items to be donated to the Penwortham Food Bank but we can watch which House is fairing the best.

Each House has a set of baskets to fill. Who can fill the baskets and donate the most? The baskets can be found in the Nucleus and there will be points for the House with the most items.

As well as tins, jars and other long-life food - toiletries and laundry items are also welcomed.

Donations will be dropped off at the food bank after school on Friday, 11 December so any items will be gratefully received before then.



Spook-tacular Success as Halloween Disco Raises £320

The tremendous success of our first-ever Halloween Disco has helped raise an impressive £320 for the Humanities Department.



Held just before the half term break, the event brought together Year 7 pupils and staff for a spook-tacular evening of fun, with fantastic costumes, games, music and plenty of dancing. The disco proved hugely popular and with everyone embracing the Halloween spirit.

The £320 raised will be used to support learning across the Humanities curriculum, helping to fund educational visits, enrichment opportunities and additional resources for pupils.



A huge thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered and contributed to making the evening such a memorable success. We look forward to making next year's Halloween Disco even bigger and better!

NEXT ISSUE

NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK

The next issue of the Priory Post is out Friday, 27 November

Year 8 Visit Blackpool Zoo

Year 8 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to Blackpool Zoo as part of their current Ecology unit in Science.

Throughout the day, pupils had the opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life by exploring a wide range of habitats and observing animals from around the world. The visit helped pupils develop their understanding of food chains and food webs, allowing them to see real-life examples of how organisms depend on one another within ecosystems.



A particular highlight of the visit was an interactive education session, where pupils learned about the impact that human activity is having on ecosystems. Pupils were fascinated to see a range of illegal wildlife items that had been confiscated by customs officials. The session also provided some memorable hands-on experiences. Pupils had the opportunity to hold an elephant's tooth and, for those feeling adventurous, a cockroach!



As well as learning about ecology, pupils were also introduced to a variety of careers available at the zoo. This provided valuable insight into the many different pathways available in animal care, education and conservation.

Science teacher, Mrs Massey, concluded, “It was wonderful to see pupils engaging so positively with the activities and making meaningful links between their classroom studies and the natural world around them”.








PENWORTHAM PRIORY ACADEMY
PRESENTS
INTO THE WOODS JR.
8TH & 9TH DECEMBER 2026
ADULTS £8
CONCESSIONS £6
DIRECTOR
Miss Howell
MUSIC DIRECTOR
Mr Taylor

College Drop-In Gives Pupils Valuable Careers Insight

We regularly welcome representatives from local colleges into school to support our careers programme, giving Year 10 and Year 11 pupils the opportunity to explore their post-16 options and learn more about courses ranging from A Levels, T Levels and BTECs to apprenticeships and vocational pathways.

Last week, Mr Mirza from Myerscough College visited the Bistro for a lunchtime drop-in session, where Key Stage 4 pupils could ask questions in an informal and relaxed setting. A range of prospectuses and course information was also available for pupils to take away and discuss at home.



These regular drop-in sessions help make college representatives more approachable and provide valuable guidance as pupils begin to consider their next steps beyond school.



Myerscough
College & University Centre
EMPOWERING FUTURES

COURSE ADVICE
OPEN MORNINGS

Saturday 21st November
Saturday 6th February
From 10.00am

■ PRESTON ■ WARRINGTON
■ LIVERPOOL ■ MANCHESTER

School Leavers | University Degrees | Apprenticeships



THE NORTH WEST CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED & SPORTS EDUCATION

Learn to succeed

Join Braille Club And See Differently!

Year 8 Imogen has started a Braille Club with her two friends, Humayraa and Sophie, who are trained in sight-guiding.

Imogen is partially sighted, she was registered blind when born but can see a little.

When she started at Priory, she met up with Humayraa and Sophie and they both started training in sighted guiding so they can better support Imogen.



They wanted to go one step further and, along with Learning Support Assistant, Miss Dixon who supports Imogen in school, they decided to start a Braille Club which is every Tuesday lunch-time.

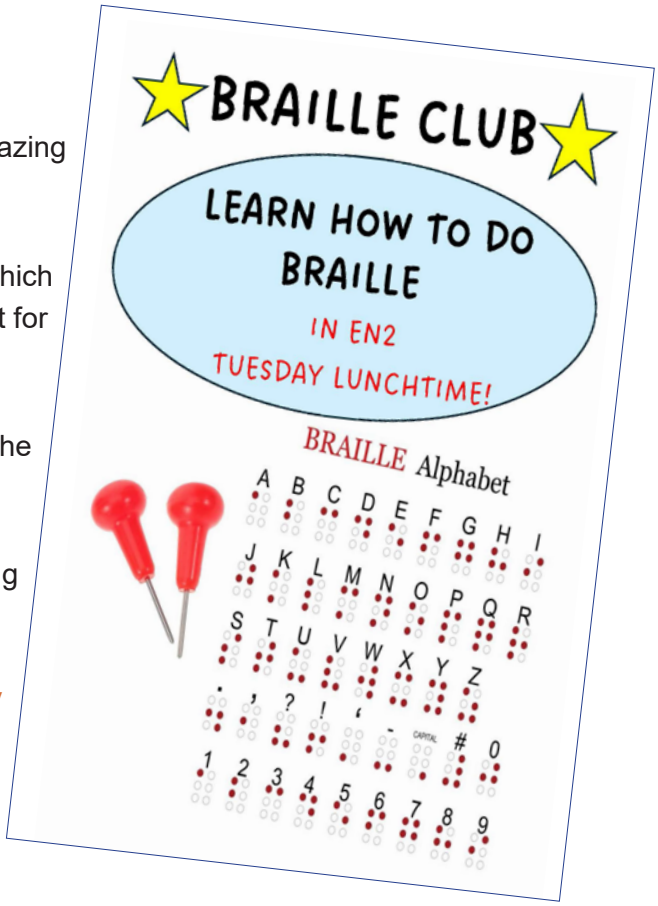
Imogen said: “I think it’s important as people learn sign language so they can communicate with deaf people so it would be nice for people to learn Braille so blind people can be supported as well.

“I only started learning Braille three years ago and it’s been amazing as I can now read books.

“My fingers are extra sensitive because of reading this way which does make it easier for me to read Braille but it would be great for people to have a go.

“There is also Braille Lego which basically helps with learning the alphabet in a more fun way. Who doesn’t love Lego?!”

Sophie said: “We have made posters so far and I am looking forward to learning Braille.”



Braille Club is based in EN2 every Tuesday lunchtime and is open to all year groups. Come along and see what it’s all about - everyone is welcome!

Year 9 Pupils Enjoy Exclusive Behind-the-Scenes Visit to St Walburge's Church

Year 9 pupils recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to the magnificent St Walburge's Church in Preston as part of a cross-curricular trip exploring the impact of History and Religious Education on our local area.

During the visit, pupils were given a guided tour of the mid-19th Century Gothic church, learning more about its rich history, striking architecture and significance within the local Catholic community. This year's visit also included a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes and gain exclusive access to the sacristy, where pupils were able to view some of the priceless chalices used during Mass.

The group also met seminarians currently training for the priesthood, giving pupils the chance to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of their vocation and daily life.

Pupils and staff were once again able to climb the church's famous steeple, the tallest on any parish church in England. While the 150-plus steps proved challenging for some, the spectacular views across Preston made the effort worthwhile.

The visit was made possible thanks to the generosity of Canon Cristofoli, Rector of St Walburge's, who helped to provide pupils with these special opportunities.

Mr Eccles, Lead Teacher of History, said: "Visits like this bring classroom learning to life. Our pupils were able to explore the historical significance of an important local landmark, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the role faith continues to play within the community today. The exclusive access to areas not normally open to visitors made the experience particularly memorable."











Science House Competition Showcases Creativity and Scientific Knowledge

The Science Department recently ran an exciting house competition challenging pupils to create a model of a cell using any materials or resources of their choice. The competition attracted a fantastic range of entries, with pupils demonstrating both their scientific understanding and impressive creativity.



The judges were pleased by the variety and quality of work submitted. Several entries received highly commended awards, including a detailed interactive cell poster and a beautifully presented labelled poster that clearly explained the different parts of a cell.

Third and second place by Lauren M and Sophie VZ, were awarded to pupils who created outstanding three-dimensional cell models. Using materials such as air-dry clay and polystyrene spheres, they carefully constructed and accurately labelled the various organelles, producing models that were both informative and visually impressive.



The winning entry by Georgia. R stood out for its originality and thoughtful design. Rather than creating a traditional model, Georgia designed an entire board game based on a cell. The aim of the game was to travel through the cell and reach the nucleus. Players rolled specially made dice and answered a series of cell-themed questions to earn opportunities to move forward around the board.

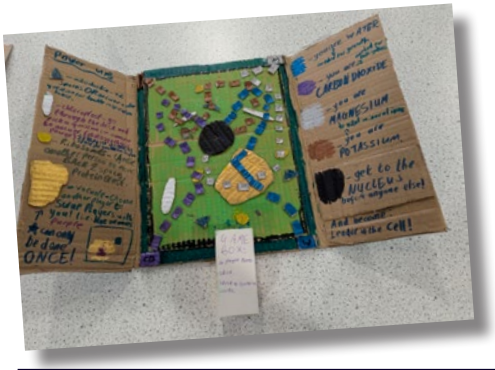
The judging panel unanimously agreed that this was an exceptionally well-thought-out, inventive, and creative entry. The game successfully combined scientific knowledge with fun and engaging gameplay, making it an excellent example of learning through creativity.

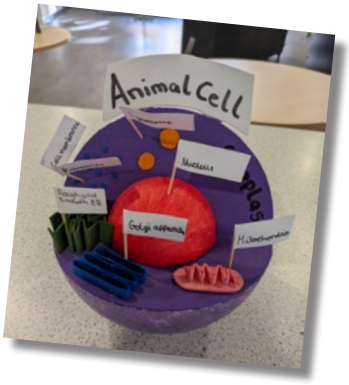
Congratulations to all pupils who took part, and especially to the winning house, Hodder. The Science Department was incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm, effort, and scientific understanding shown throughout the competition, and we look forward to seeing more fantastic entries in future house events.



1st - Year 8 Georgia R - Hodder
2nd - Year 7 Lauren M - Ribble
3rd - Year 7 Sophie VZ - Douglas

Highly Commended
Year 8 Alba P - Calder
Year 7 Tilly G - Hodder







Can You Help?

Have You Had A Career in Languages or Culture?

Could you help inspire the next generation of Priory linguists?

On Friday, 27 November, Priory will be hosting a Make Languages Work event for our Year 9 pupils as they begin to consider their GCSE option choices.

We are looking for people whose career has a link to languages and/or culture, however big or small. Whether you use languages directly in your role, work internationally, collaborate with people from different cultures, or have found that language skills have enhanced your career opportunities, we would love to hear from you.

The event will be informal and friendly, giving pupils the chance to explore the many ways that language learning can support future careers and open doors around the world.

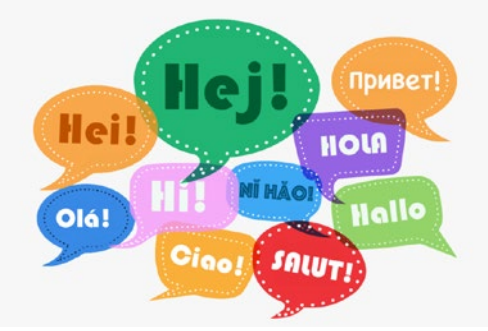
Interested in getting involved?

Please contact Mrs Scully at a.scully@priory.lancs.sch.uk for more information.

Help us show our pupils where languages can take them!

Your experience could make a real difference to a young person's future choices.

Thank you!



Year 10 Work Experience Update

Due to staff absence, there is a temporary change to the school's work experience co-ordinator.



As Mrs Eastham is currently absent, any queries relating to work experience should be directed to Mrs Roberts rather than the Pastoral Team. Mrs Roberts will be happy to assist with any work experience-related matters and can be contacted at k.roberts@priory.lancs.sch.uk.

Year 10 pupils have also been informed of this update in school, and parents should have received an email.

Please note that completed work experience paperwork should continue to be submitted to the school office as previously requested.



Baking Club Gets Off to a Spooktacular Start

Food Technology

Mrs Levy ran her first ever Baking Club session, welcoming pupils from Years 7 to 9 for a fun-filled Halloween-themed after-school event.

The enthusiastic bakers worked together to make delicious chocolate cupcakes using a classic Mary Berry recipe. After carefully measuring, mixing and baking their cakes, pupils unleashed their creativity by decorating them with spooky Halloween designs, including ghosts, spiders, pumpkins and monsters. The results were fantastic, with a display of colourful and imaginative cupcakes that looked almost too good to eat!



Food Technology teacher, Mrs Levy added, “The session was a great success, helping pupils develop practical baking skills, build confidence in the kitchen and enjoy working collaboratively with their peers. We are already looking forward to the next Baking Club event”.



A huge well done to all the pupils who attended and helped make our first Baking Club such a sweet success!











Mary Berry's Chocolate Cupcakes



Ingredients

75g self-raising flour
2 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tsp baking powder
150g caster sugar
150g unsalted butter, softened
3 large eggs
2 tbsp milk
1 tsp vanilla extract

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C Fan) and line a 12-hole muffin tin with cupcake cases.
- Sift the flour, cocoa powder and baking powder into a large bowl.
- Add the sugar, butter, eggs, milk and vanilla extract. Beat until the mixture is smooth and pale.
- Divide the mixture evenly between the cupcake cases.
- Bake for 18-22 minutes until risen and springy to the touch.
- Allow to cool before decorating with your favourite Halloween-themed toppings.

Year 7 Crack Codes and Solve Mysteries at WW2 Museum Visit

REPORT BY MR ECCLES, LEAD TEACHER OF HISTORY

A small group of our Year 7 pupils recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to the WW2 'Secret War' event at the Museum of Lancashire, where they stepped back in time to discover some of the hidden stories behind the Second World War.



The session featured a range of interactive activities, including aerial reconnaissance challenges, D-Day intelligence missions, secret agent training and code-breaking workshops inspired by the work carried out at Bletchley Park.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on nature of the day. They relished the opportunity to analyse wartime photographs, work together to solve intelligence problems, create spy gadgets and ID papers, and test their skills with codes and ciphers. Each activity encouraged teamwork, communication and problem-solving, while bringing history to life in an engaging and memorable way.



Throughout the visit, our pupils conducted themselves impeccably and were a real credit to themselves and the school. Staff at the venue commented positively on their enthusiasm, behaviour and willingness to take part in every aspect of the experience. Their curiosity and maturity helped make the visit both enjoyable and educational for everyone involved.

The trip was a tremendous success and provided a valuable opportunity to enhance classroom learning through real-world experiences. We are extremely grateful to the organisers for delivering such an interesting event and hope to be able to return and take part again next academic year.











Bebras Challenge 2026
9th-20th November

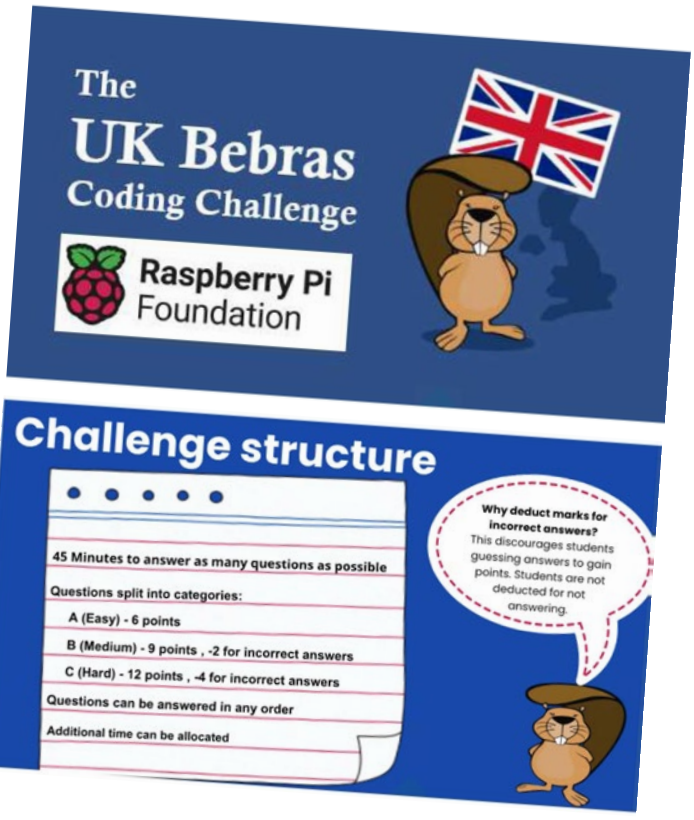
Students will be taking part in the Bebras Challenge during their Computing lessons, an international computing and problem-solving competition that introduces students to key concepts in computational thinking.

It runs every November, over a two week window. Last year, more than 4 million students from over 80 countries took part.

The challenge is designed to encourage logical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills through a series of fun and engaging puzzles. Students do not need any prior programming experience, as the tasks focus on thinking skills rather than coding knowledge.

We are excited for our students to take part and showcase their ability to tackle challenging problems while developing valuable digital and analytical skills that are increasingly important in today's world.

We wish all participating students the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating their achievements.







Residential Trip To Nice (France)

June 2028
Year 7 & Year 8

We are delighted to announce an exciting Languages Department residential trip to Nice, France, taking place in June 2028 for pupils currently in Years 7 and 8.

This four-day visit will give pupils the opportunity to experience French culture first-hand through a programme of exciting excursions and activities. Highlights include exploring the beautiful city of Nice, visiting the glamorous principality of Monaco, discovering the famous perfume industry in Grasse, and enjoying time at the Marineland Aquarium. Pupils will also have the chance to soak up the atmosphere of the French Riviera while developing their confidence and enthusiasm for language learning.



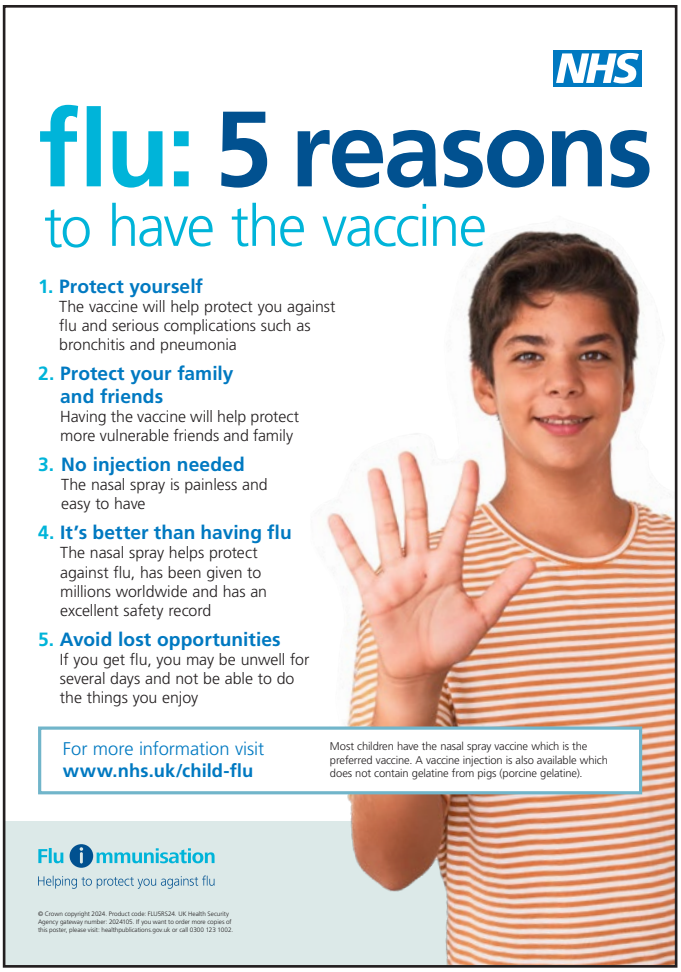
There is no requirement for a pupil to be choosing GCSE French to attend this international visit

Parents and carers of eligible pupils have now been emailed a letter containing full details of the trip, including the itinerary, costs and payment schedule. There are 40 places available. SCOPay is now open for deposits, and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If your child would like to take part, please refer to the information provided and submit your deposit via SCOPay before Friday, 27 November. Please note, this will close earlier if places are filled.

A copy of the letter can also be downloaded from the school website at>> www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/letters

We look forward to offering our pupils this fantastic opportunity to learn, explore and create lasting memories in France.





Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies Visit Blackburn Cathedral's Tyndale500 Exhibition

On Monday, our Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies students enjoyed an enriching educational visit to Blackburn Cathedral, where they explored the fascinating Tyndale500 Exhibition.



The exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of William Tyndale, whose translation of the Bible into English transformed religious life and literacy across Britain. During the visit, students completed a range of activities focused on Tyndale's work, examining the challenges he faced and the significant impact his translation had on the development of the Bible as we know it today.

Students also investigated how biblical texts have evolved over time, gaining a deeper understanding of the journey from the earliest manuscripts to modern translations. The exhibition provided valuable insights that supported and extended their GCSE Religious Studies learning.

Following the exhibition, students were given a guided tour of Blackburn Cathedral. They demonstrated excellent engagement throughout, asking thoughtful and insightful questions about the cathedral's history, architecture, worship, and role within the Christian community. Their curiosity and enthusiasm enabled them to deepen their understanding of key Religious Studies concepts and make meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-life religious practice.





Lead Teacher of RE, Mrs Ham, who accompanied the group said, “The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience their studies beyond the classroom, and they represented the school impeccably. We are incredibly proud of their maturity, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning throughout the day.”

Well done, Year 10! We look forward to building on this valuable experience in future Religious Studies lessons.







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A safe, welcoming and inclusive space for young people to meet, socialise, take part in activities and be part of a **positive community**

MONDAY	6:00pm – 8:00pm (Juniors / Primary School Age)
THURSDAY	6:00pm – 8:00pm (Seniors / Secondary School Age)
FRIDAY	6:00pm – 8:00pm (Juniors / Primary School Age)
SATURDAY	6:00pm – 8:00pm (Seniors / Secondary School Age)

HAVE FUN

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