



WITHAM
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parent, Carer and Pupil,

Headteacher's Welcome

We are excited to be able to share with you information about the Priory Witham Academy. We understand that moving to secondary school is a big step and hope that what you hear and see will help you to make a decision regarding the next step in your child's education. We have been oversubscribed as an Academy for a number of years now and I would like to share with you what makes the Witham Academy so special.

Firstly, we enjoy working with children. Our Academy motto is 'Believe Together, Achieve Together' and we take great pride when we see children working with staff and each other to develop academically and personally each day. We enjoy teaching children. We enjoy seeing them learn, develop, flourish and eventually go on to their next step whether that be University, the workplace or an apprenticeship. Because we enjoy working with children, we build positive relationships with the pupils we teach which makes this a productive and pleasant place to be.

Secondly, we know the children we teach. We take the time to get to know all of our pupils as individuals, their passions, the things they are curious to learn, what they are proud of and who has helped them to become the young person they already are. Because we invest in every young person that joins our family, we get to know how they learn best. We know the strategies that help them remember the knowledge they have gained. We know their gaps – and we plan our lessons accordingly. So you won't find a one size fits all here at the Witham – the teaching is tailored to meet the needs of your child.

Thirdly, we value and invest in our staff. In the classroom our staff know their subjects – they are experts, we support them with training so they that remain excellent practitioners. So your child will be taught all the things they need to know in order to leave here with outcomes which will unlock doors to their next step. But we recognise that the journey to adulthood is more than a set of results. I saw a recent post on Twitter which was written by an adult who had just left education – not the Witham. It said 'I don't know how to open a bank account and I know nothing about how to manage my finances but I know the cellular structure of a leaf'. Here at the Witham we pride ourselves on doing both – we develop our pupils through the lessons we teach and the rich range of experiences we offer. We know how important it is to have knowledge and to learn the skills needed to function effectively in society but we will also teach your child how to be wise, courageous and generous, how to adapt to change and challenge, how to be a Witham – and lifelong - learner.

Headteacher: Mr A Madge

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The Priory Witham Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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Lastly, we support our learners. Each Year Group is led by a Year Director, a Pastoral Manager and a team of tutors who look after the pastoral well-being of your child. You will find here at the Witham that we have high aspirations and consistent expectations for our pupils. We expect them to be Ready, Respectful and Engaged. But we recognise that the journey to adulthood is not easy. Somewhere along the route support may be needed, there will be challenges both pastorally and academically. Our pastoral structure ensures that when that happens we are there to support both the pupil, and you as parents. We will look after the well-being of your child so that they are in the strongest position to make the most of every minute they spend in our care.

We are working hard to ensure you have the opportunity to visit us in person. If you haven't already done so, please share your details either by calling the Academy or emailing our general enquiries email and someone will be in touch to arrange your personal tour with a member of our senior leadership team. If you are a Year 6 pupil at Witham you do not need to take any further action as you will automatically be allocated a place. For other applications we recommend you complete your admission choice form provided by the local authority within their set timeline. If you do have any questions regarding the admissions process please do contact the Academy.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs D Clarke
Secondary Headteacher

