



THE PRIORY WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

WINTER 2023

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,

As we approach the much-awaited Christmas holidays, we wanted to take a moment to extend our gratitude to our community. The return from summer is always a busy time, with pupils either starting on their new journeys or moving further along their educational pathway. It has certainly been a rewarding term, with pupils displaying the academy values on a daily basis and taking up the fantastic opportunities available to them.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and pupils who participated in a number of events that our enthusiastic staff body have provided over the term. Our pumpkin pick event was a tremendous success, and we were thrilled to see so many families come together to enjoy the autumn festivities. The event certainly brought joy and laughter; thank you for your support and enthusiasm!

We are also delighted to share the fantastic work that has been carried out across the curriculum. Our dedicated teachers have been working tirelessly to provide engaging and enriching learning experiences for our pupils. From exciting educational visits to captivating classroom learning, our pupils have been actively involved in their education, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. We encourage you to take some time during the holidays to discuss their progress and celebrate their accomplishments.

Lastly, we are thrilled to be able to say that our annual Christmas Fayre, once again, captured the community spirit that makes Witham what it is, with so many people in attendance. This eagerly anticipated event saw a mixture of celebration and entertainment throughout the evening.

As we approach the Christmas holidays, we would like to remind you of the importance of rest and relaxation. It has been a challenging year for everyone, and this break provides an opportunity for our pupils to recharge and spend quality time with their loved ones. We hope that you all have a safe and joyful holiday season, filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back in the new year, ready to embark on new adventures and achieve even greater success.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs A Tallentire
Primary Headteacher

Mr B Key
Secondary Headteacher

BELIEVE TOGETHER, ACHIEVE TOGETHER

Sleeping Beauty



The pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 were treated to a performance of Sleeping Beauty by M&M Theatrical Productions. The children were excited to be able to join in with the singing and the performers even invited some staff onto stage to dance. We enjoyed watching how the actors had to take on different characters and were very relieved to find Maleficent was defeated in the end. The children really got involved with the characters and made sure Maleficent knew we didn't approve of her evil ways!

#Curiosity #Passion #Wisdom



GCSE Art

Visiting artist Simon Kent came into the Academy for two days to work with our Year 11 GCSE artists. They created a stone carving to fit in with their cathedral coursework. This was an enjoyable workshop and a very exciting opportunity to work in 3D with such a great artist. The pupils learned a brand new skill they've never explored before.

#Curiosity #Passion #Generosity





Careers Fair

On Thursday 2nd November, The Priory Witham Academy held an informative and aspirational Careers Fair. Thirty-eight organisations visited the academy to create an inspiring and educational day for pupils from Year 7 to Year 13, who were all able to view a large range of skills and career opportunities. In this informal setting, students could put their questions directly to working professionals about real jobs, in order to explore possible vocations and make informed choices about their future career prospects.

The fair offered an excellent way for students to learn about what companies have on offer, discover the different roles available, and gain an understanding of what different jobs entail.



There were also opportunities to try hands-on experiences, as well as to hear about the skills that are needed to be successful in today's economy. Exhibitors included local and international businesses from a broad range of industries, alongside recruiters, colleges, universities and other training providers.

The Armed Forces and other front-line services were also in attendance; although seeing a police car, ambulance and fire engine in the car park did cause some momentary panic for Mr Key! Some of the students (and staff) took the opportunity to have a tour of the fire engine, while others valiantly saved the life of 'Joe', the first-aid resuscitation dummy.

It was a fun and rewarding day for all and the organisations in attendance spoke very highly of the Witham Academy students, saying they had been particularly impressed with how engaged they had been.

#Generosity #Passion #Courage





All Things Witham



We have already had a very busy start to our year at Witham and had lots of opportunities to come into school for different events.

We started in Module 1 with our Witham Bingo and Barbie premiere - both fantastic events which were for all children across the whole academy.

Our Pumpkin Party in Module 2 was a spooky spectacular thanks to our gardening club - a pick-your-own pumpkin evening which proved to be incredibly popular.

The Magnificent Magnus cookery sessions have been creating some delicious meals, including: healthy pizza, chicken biryani and mince pies.

Elf movie night on 13th December got everyone in the festive spirit.

Stay posted for more movie and bingo events, coming soon.

#Generosity #Curiosity #Passion #Courage





Construction Day



As part of Construction Week organised by Lincoln Group Training Association and Abbey, pupils from Year 8 were given the opportunity to delve into the world of construction at the Lincolnshire Showground. On offer was a variety of technical, professional and trade career opportunities available within the construction industry from a wide range of local and regional employers.



The pupils were able to get a taste of different aspects of construction, including electrical engineering, scaffolding, carpentry and building. Much enjoyment was had by getting hands-on experience of working in the construction industry and learning some important skills; such as how to wire a plug safely and how not to fall off scaffolding! Pupils even made their own bird box out of wood which they could take home with them.

Alongside the different activities the students had the chance to question instructors, company bosses, and apprentices about their careers and how they got into construction. It was an excellent insight into what construction would look like as a future career path.

#Curiosity #Passion #Wisdom

Energy consumption

We are very proud to announce that the academy's electricity consumption has reduced by 32% over the last five years, with a further installation of solar panels over the summer holidays.

Since our energy-saving journey began, we have saved nearly 32,000kg CO₂e – which is the equivalent of planting 1,933 trees (data from September 2023).

#Passion



The European Language Day

On 26th September, The Priory Witham Academy celebrated The European Language Day with assemblies, different activities during form time and a House Competition, where students were asked to make a poster about a country or about the day itself.

The MFL department was delighted with the number of entries.

Many congratulations go to the winners:

- ★ 1st prize: Julia Frydenberg, Year 7 (30 house points and a goodie bag)
- ★ 2nd prize: Nicole Macczak, Year 9 (20 house points and a goodie bag)
- ★ 3rd prize: Francesca Ditcher, Year 8 (10 house points and a goodie bag).





Remembrance Service

Our KS2 pupils took part in a Remembrance Service to share their reflections on those who have lost their lives during conflicts around the world. Pupils from our Sixth Form supported with readings and poetry, while our Y6 pupils shared some superb poetry they wrote during their WW2 learning. They also drew beautiful poppies to display during the service.

Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a thoughtful time.

#Generosity #Passion #Courage



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Ogden Trust Olympic Challenge 2023

On Friday 6th October, a team of ten Year 6 children travelled to Ling Moor Primary Academy to represent the Priory Witham Academy in an inter-school science Olympics staged by the Ogden Trust.

The challenges included building parachutes, stomp rockets, bridges, boats and a spaghetti and marshmallow tower.



All the children were a credit to the Academy, showing all of the Witham values. It was a wonderful event and a chance for the children to work together in a team and alongside other children in the Priory Trust.



The winning Witham team completed the parachute challenge, having made a parachute which prevented a hard-boiled egg from cracking when dropped from a height of two metres.

Well done to all the children involved.

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Year 5 Ancient Greek Times

Year 5 enjoyed looking at artefacts, using their enquiry skills to find out what the items were and what they had been used for during Ancient Greek times.

The artefacts were kindly loaned by The Collection in Lincoln and included a wax writing table, long jump weights and a discus as used in one of the Ancient Greek pentathlon events. The storage vessels were ornately decorated, showing gods and goddesses from Greek times.



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Post-16 Open Evening

The Post-16 Open Evening held on Thursday 16th October at the Priory Witham Academy was a resounding success, with over 85 people in attendance.

The event aimed to showcase the joint Lincoln offer from Witham, LSST, and Lincoln Academy, providing prospective students with a comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available to them whilst at the same time providing more opportunities to explore the technical pathway on offer next year in subjects such as Fashion, Business and Health.

The evening commenced with a warm welcome from the academy's headteacher, who was eager to share further knowledge and expertise.



Attendees were then given the chance to explore the various subject areas on offer, engaging in informative discussions with teachers and current students.

Throughout the evening, visitors were impressed by the future offer, facilities and the supportive learning environment that the academy provides.

Should you still require any further information on this provision, please do not hesitate to contact the academy.





Open School Facilities Funding

As part of the funding we received from Open School Facilities, we were able to offer a number of our pupils the opportunity to attend free swim classes with Pentaqua and martial arts classes with Senshi Karate.

The last funded martial arts session is due to take place on Friday 15th December. As these classes have proved so popular with our pupils, the instructor, Tom Carruthers, will be starting up a regular class in the New Year at the Academy.

This will take place on a Friday from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and will cost £15 per term. For further details, please contact Tom directly on 07906 553283.

Awards have recently been issued to Casey Duarte, who is working towards his Cadet Leader Coaching Award and Gabriela Pyszna, who was the first Witham pupil to achieve her second belt (Yellow).

#Generosity #Courage #Passion





Chess Club



Chess Club was created after a student enjoyed a relaxing game with Mrs Kraatz. After a generous donation from a group in the local community, Year 7 were able to purchase five amazing chess boards.

Chess Club has been made viable through volunteers from 6th Form, some teaching chess and some learning. We now have more players than boards and many students enjoy playing and watching the game of chess, making friends and memories.

One student said:

"It is a fun educational experience. Once you learn how to play, you can have fun with your friends."



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#Passion #Curiosity #Wisdom



Kumi Yamashita



We have had a very busy first couple of modules in Year 3 and the children have settled in really well.

Part of our wider curriculum is accessed through provision areas and most recently we have been using artistic skills and the transient art areas to explore the artwork of Kumi Yamashita.

Light and shadow play a huge part in Kumi Yamashita's artwork; with the children also using their scientific knowledge to create cityscapes and images using different materials within our learning areas.

The children are very proud of their creations and explanations (and so are we).



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Fire, Fire!

To begin our 'Great Fire of London' topic, Year 2 had a special visit from the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue team. Prior to this, we had learnt about what fire engines were like in 1666 and what advancements had been made between then and now.

We really enjoyed the visit from the Lincoln Fire and Rescue team. They spoke to us about their job roles and about the protective clothing that they have to wear. They showed us the specialist equipment they use, and we even got to try on the clothing and have a go at using the hose.



We came up with questions to ask the firefighters and we learnt lots of information about the service.

#Curiosity #Courage
#Generosity



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Early Years Learning



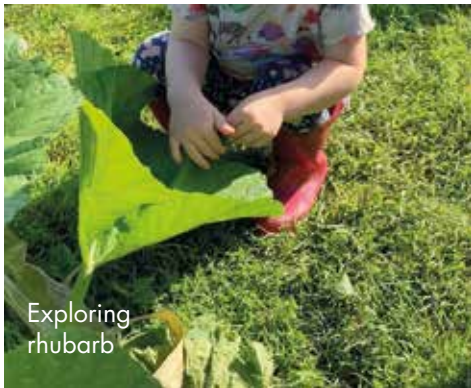
Reception class - Reading and Soup

The children in Reception class have been learning lots of new words from the stories they have been reading. *Pumpkin Soup* has been a favourite. The children have enjoyed making the soup at school, adding a "pipkin of pepper" and then taking it home to share with their families.



Seasonal changes in Pre-Nursery

The children in Pre-Nursery have enjoyed exploring the field and the allotment during September, October and November, talking about what they find there and all of the changes that they see as autumn slowly moves to winter. The children have enjoyed using all of their senses to explore everything they find.



Exploring
rhubarb



Exploring runner bean seeds

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Pets in Pre-Reception

Pre Reception have had lots of visitors over the autumn term from some special pets. The pets have supported the children to learn about how to care for animals, whatever size and shape they are, and what an important part of our family they all are.



Starting school in September?

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, then it is time to apply for a school place.

You should apply by 15th January 2024. Applications can be made online at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions or by phoning 01522 782030.



Vikings

In Module 1, Year 4 were learning about Vikings. We looked at some amazing artefacts from the Lincoln Museum to kick start our learning. The children were fascinated by the Viking lifestyle and were surprised when they came to school and found out they were going on a Viking training day.



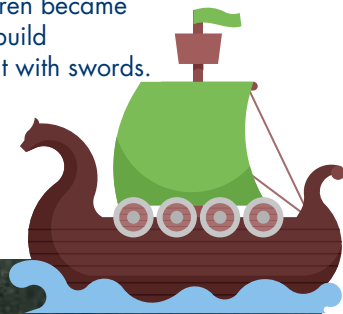
There were four training areas before the children became official Vikings. They had to hunt with spears, build longhouses, cook Viking food and learn to fight with swords.



The children arrived at school that day as Year 4 learners but left school as fierce Viking warriors!



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Netball: England 54-51 South Africa

Eleanor Cardwell leads Red Roses to win in series opener in Manchester

On Tuesday 5th December, Miss Reddington and Miss Aldridge took 11 pupils to watch England v South Africa netball at Manchester AO Arena.

It was a very tightly contested game, with South Africa creeping up on England in the final quarter; but England managed to hang on and finish the game with a 54-51 win.

Lots of chanting, singing and fun was had throughout, with hopefully some skills and techniques learnt to bring back for the girls' own netball practice.



#Courage
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We would like to thank all of our families for their generous donations to our food bank, warm rail and charitable collections so far this academic year.

#Generosity





Primary Dance Club – Royal Opera House

In Module 2, Miss Spence has been teaching Dance Club some ballet moves and they have been dancing to some of the music from *The Nutcracker*. On Wednesday 6th December, Primary Dance Club travelled to London to watch *The Nutcracker* at the Royal Opera House. It was an incredible day travelling on the Tube, walking through Covent Garden and watching professional ballet dancers.

#Generosity #Passion



Year 7 Pantomime visit

On 11th December, 63 pupils from Year 7 visited The Drill to watch the annual pantomime *Peter Pan The Revenge of Captain Hook* (oh yes they did). Great fun was had by all getting into the Christmas spirit, especially Mr Smith who kindled a special friendship with Dame Dotty! A lovely afternoon was spent singing, dancing and heckling the baddies.

#Generosity



Christmas Fayre

On Friday 8th December, we held our annual Christmas Fayre.

We had a variety of stalls, from hot chocolate cones and reindeer food to Elf Crossbar Challenge and Hook a Christmas Duck. Our stalls were very popular with Witham students and their families, who enjoyed the games and winning lots of prizes.

Santa was very busy in his grotto and a wonderful time was had by all.

#Generosity





Christmas lunches

On the last week of Module 2, a free Christmas lunch was served to all Witham pupils. Lunches were prepared in sittings for each year group, with festive music and party hats all round. All students and staff thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas meal with friends and getting in the festive spirit.







Y5 Open Afternoon

In Year 5, we have been learning all about Ancient Greece and the children were excited to share their learning with their parents at an open afternoon. It was great to see so many parents present to hear the children talking so passionately about their work. The children were particularly proud of the double-page spreads they had created as a culmination of all their learning about Greece. We also had the opportunity to make an olive leaf wreath which is what men in Ancient Greece were awarded as a winner in the Olympic Games.

#Courage #Curiosity #Wisdom





Many thanks go to Abbey Access Training, which provided us with an afternoon of fun maths activities on Thursday 14th December.

Lots of families joined us in the main hall, with the children gaining a 'stamp' when they had completed a challenge. Once they had successfully completed six of 12 challenges, they exchanged their stamp card for a wonderful Christmas gift.

It was great to see the children wanting to complete all 12 tasks! Parents were also entered into a free raffle, with one lucky family winning a hamper of festive treats.

#Courage #Generosity #Wisdom



Year 11 Common Room

Year 11 pupils have been involved in a re-design of their designated space. They have worked with Mrs Hackney to design a new board, with other works due to take place over the Christmas break.

#Passion



Reward visits

During Module 1, 10 students from Year 7 to Year 11 went on a reward visit to Lincoln Hollywood Bowl. This module, the reward visit has been to Thor's. Lots of fun was had by all on both visits.

#Generosity

#Passion





Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Day)

Priory Witham Academy rocked Odd Socks Day during Anti-Bullying Week. The school was a burst of colour as everyone – from students to teachers – strutted their stuff in the wackiest, most mis-matched socks they could find. It was like a fashion parade celebrating our differences and saying a big no to bullying.

The day was all about showing off our unique styles and standing together to make our school a super welcoming place for everyone. We chatted about kindness, why it matters so much, and how embracing what makes us different makes us all awesome.

Our Odd Socks Day spread good vibes and showed that here at Priory Witham, we're all about acceptance and making sure nobody feels left out.

#Generosity #Courage #Wisdom



Trying new sports

During November, the PE Department took eight students to the University of Lincoln to take part in an inclusion event trialling a variety of new sports. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and took part in sports such as: new age kurling, seated volleyball, boccia and polybat.

All sports were played in a good spirit, with the help and guidance of the university students who ran the event. The students loved all the sports but, above all, the seated volleyball where they used wheelchairs to keep a balloon in the air as a team.

The PE department look forward to trialling the sports with other year groups across the academy. Well done to all involved.

#Curiosity #Courage





Hampers

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Witham community for its generosity in the number of donations made to our food collection drive. Due to your fantastic donations, and the work of our Sixth Form team and Year 6 students putting together the hampers, we are able to provide food hampers for a number of families within our community.



#Generosity





Witham's Got Talent

Our Witham secondary students enjoyed our annual Witham's Got Talent show at the end of term.

With acts ranging from rapping, Scottish dancing, singing, rock band and cricket skills, the winner was announced as Libby Towning with her album-worthy vocals and piano playing, performing a stunning version of "Talking to the Moon".

A huge thanks to all the brilliant acts, the support team and staff involved.

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Sporting Achievements



We are delighted to share with you some recent achievements from our sporting teams at Priory Witham Academy. As always, our pupils have been working hard and showcasing their skills and commitment in various competitions and events. Here are some highlights:

Our **Y8 Football Team** recently had a fantastic victory, beating North Kesteven School by a score of 4-2. The players displayed excellent work ethic and teamwork throughout, overcoming a difficult and well organised opposition.

Our **Year 10 team**, who again displayed real sportsmanship and on the back of a victory in their last game, were unable to come away with a win on this occasion. They played a close-fought game against North Kesteven, but unfortunately lost out 3-2. However, we want to commend all the players for their admirable performance and sportsmanship.

Continuing in football, we took part in a series of five-a-side tournaments for **Year 7, Year 8, and Year 9 teams** in which they all achieved impressive results and finished third in their respective competitions. Well done to all the players for their hard work and dedication.

We are pleased to announce that University of Lincoln third-year students have joined us on placements to support teaching and learning across the curriculum. Their presence has been greatly appreciated, and we are grateful for their contribution to our academy.

Our **netball trip** to Manchester to watch England v South Africa was a huge success (see the separate report in this newsletter). It provided our pupils with a wonderful opportunity to experience new opportunities and witness top-level netball. Thank you to all the pupils who participated and represented our academy with pride.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils' achievements and their commitment to sports at Priory Witham Academy. We look forward to more exciting events and successes in the future.

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