



# THE PRIORY WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

EASTER 2024

## *Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and Staff,*

We hope this newsletter finds you well and that you are enjoying the arrival of spring. As we head towards a new term, we wanted to take a moment to update you on some of the exciting events and activities that have been happening here at The Priory Witham Academy.

Firstly, we would like to extend our gratitude to all the pupils, staff and parents who made our Academy Panto – ‘The Heart of Wonderland’ – such a resounding success. The talent and dedication displayed by our pupils truly brought the magic of the stage to life.

In line with our commitment to providing enriching experiences, our Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils recently embarked on a thrilling JET (John Egging Trust) Science Trip. These educational outings have allowed our budding scientists to explore new concepts and engage in hands-on experiments, fostering a deeper understanding and love for the subject.

We also celebrated World Book Day with great enthusiasm. Our pupils embraced the joy of reading, dressing up as their favourite literary characters and participating in various literacy-focused activities throughout the day. It was wonderful to see their creativity and passion for literature shine through.

Furthermore, we were delighted to welcome Lincs FM to our academy, as we hosted their Hide and Seek event. Our pupils had a fantastic time participating in this exciting challenge.

Our Year 11 pupils will be busy during the Easter break as they attend Easter Revision classes in preparation for their summer examinations. A key message we have shared with our pupils as they start to plan their revision timetables is that they should include structured rest and activity breaks alongside their timetabled study sessions.

Our drive towards improved attendance and punctuality continues as we aspire for all learners to achieve at least 95% attendance. We have seen improvements across all year groups and we thank you for your support in encouraging our pupils to demonstrate resilience when faced with the coughs and colds that tend to be prevalent at this time of year. As ever, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy if we can support with improving attendance or punctuality.

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of our Post 16 T-Level programme. This innovative curriculum offers our pupils a unique opportunity to gain practical skills and specialised knowledge in their chosen fields, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future endeavours.

Before we conclude, we would like to bring your attention to a couple of important notices. Firstly, we are excited to announce that our annual Spring Fayre will take place on Friday 24th May. This event promises to be a fun-filled event for the whole family, so please save the date and join us for games, food, and entertainment.

Finally, we kindly request that parents avoid parking on the roundabout in the school car park at the end of the day, as it can become congested. Our site team may approach you to request that you move your vehicle if it is causing an obstruction to others. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated, as it ensures ongoing safety and accessibility for all members of our school community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Together, we can continue to provide the best possible education and support for our pupils.

Warm regards,

**BELIEVE TOGETHER,  
ACHIEVE TOGETHER**

**Mrs A Tallentire**  
*Primary Headteacher*

**Mr B Key**  
*Secondary Headteacher*

# Year 5 Open Afternoon

In Year 5, we have been learning all about the Tudors and did you know... The Tudors gave us the first room devoted to bathing, even the first indoor plumbing since the Romans? The Tudor version included hot water. But that came at the end of the Tudor era and was affordable only by the very rich.

Most peasants were still in the bowl-and-cloth stage of bathing. If they had a wash tub, the water was reused. The man of the house had first turn in the bath tub, then the mother and down the line ranked by age. By the time it was the children's turn, the water would be so dirty it was opaque! Imagine being a child in Tudor times and getting the bath water last!

It sounded like a problem that Year 5 could fix. Using their science knowledge, the children attempted to clean the water selecting appropriate equipment.

Parents and Sixth Form Ambassadors were on hand to support, too.



#Curiosity #Courage  
#Wisdom





## Mini Police

Our Mini Police visited De Wint Court to share some delicious cupcakes they'd baked in school. They represented the school with such a mature and caring attitude, playing games and sharing stories with residents.



It was really interesting to find about the local area in the past and even some stories from the Second World War.

#Generosity  
#Curiosity  
#Courage  
#Wisdom





## Italian ski visit



During February half term, Miss James and Mr Biggs had the pleasure of taking 18 pupils from Years 8-11 to Andalo in Italy for six days for the Federation Ski Visit. Pupils travelled for over 24 hours by coach and ferry to reach the picturesque ski resort that has extensive nursery slopes and an excellent range of intermediate graded slopes, with over 100km of piste.

Throughout the week, pupils were exposed to a vast amount of terrain and were all able to make their way up the mountain to complete numerous

runs, ranging in difficulty. As well as this, pupils had the fantastic opportunity of skiing at night under the floodlights. During the evenings, pupils were able to show off their quiz skills, attend an authentic pizza restaurant and show off their skills at the local ice rink. Each pupil showed complete passion, curiosity and engagement throughout a challenging week learning a new skill.

Details of the next Ski Visit will be published in due course.

#Passion #Curiosity #Courage



# Mayor of Lincoln

We were lucky enough to have a visit from the Mayor of Lincoln as part of his official birthday celebrations. Two of our Year 3 pupils showed him around our learning spaces and spoke very well about how we practise skills we have learned in the classroom.

He was very impressed with how they clearly explained their learning and some children asked him lots of questions about his job. Some of our pupils told him that they would also love to be Mayor one day!

#Generosity #Curiosity



## Generosity

A huge thank you to one of our families for showing their generosity by knitting these mittens for our children.

#Generosity



## Bikeability



Some of our Year 6 pupils worked to achieve their 'Bikeability' award. They spent four days practising how to cycle safely on local roads, making turns and passing vehicles safely. It was lovely to hear the instructors complimenting the pupils on their manners and attitude towards learning new skills.

#Courage #Passion





# Year 6 – North America and Maya Civilisation



This module, Year Six have been learning about North America and the Maya Civilisation. In design and technology, we looked at what our spirit animal would be and the importance of storytelling.



Over the past few weeks, we have been creating some fantastic squares for our quilt; our sewing techniques have been brilliant!

#Curiosity #Passion #Wisdom



# Arcade Warehouse Reward Visits

On the last week of module 3, 10 lucky pupils from each Secondary year group were rewarded with a free rewards trip to Arcade Warehouse for two hours packed with gaming fun!

They had the opportunity to enjoy VR experiences and retro arcade games as well as modern PC games, too, meaning that every pupil was able to find something they enjoyed.

The pupils chosen for the trip were selected due to their excellent classwork, attitude to learning and overall commitment and attendance at the academy.

Well done to all of the pupils who were chosen.

#Courage #Passion



# Year 4 Visit to The Collection Museum

Year 4 had an amazing time on our school visit to The Collection museum in Lincoln. We were able to become archaeologists, digging and finding real Roman artefacts. We also became Roman soldiers, and wore helmets and held shields before marching in unison.

The children loved having the opportunity to explore the museum and learnt lots about the Romans and their lives in Lincoln.



#Curiosity #Passion #Wisdom

# Y1 visit to Boultham Park

A Year 1 visit to Boultham Park in Lincoln, an integral part of our Geography and Science curriculum, was an exciting and enriching experience for all.

In Geography, our focus has been on understanding the human and physical features within our local surroundings. As we strolled towards Boultham Park, we engaged in discussions about the human features, such as the school, the cathedral, and various houses. Moreover, we observed and discussed the natural physical features like the stream, trees, and soil.



In Science, the children have been delving into the world of evergreen and deciduous trees. During our visit, they were able to apply their learning by identifying evergreen trees, which

maintain their leaves throughout the year, and deciduous trees, which shed their leaves in autumn. Furthermore, they noticed the signs of spring as some trees and bushes displayed budding flowers, prompting discussions about the current season.

The children were brimming with excitement as they explored Boultham Park. Splitting into two groups, they engaged in different activities. One group honed their observational skills by sketching detailed drawings of trees, meticulously labelling each part. Meanwhile, the other group immersed themselves in the natural environment, creating miniature trees using leaves, sticks, and foliage.

It was a delightful morning filled with exploration and discovery. By the end of our adventure, although tired from all the walking, the children returned with hearts full of new-found knowledge and memories.

#Curiosity #Courage #Wisdom



# All Things Witham Events

We have had a lot of exciting events for our parents and carers so far this year, and Module 3 and 4 have been no exception.



We welcomed lots of families to our family **swim sessions** and enjoyed seeing the excitement on the children's faces as they gained confidence in the pool. In January, we also enjoyed a **family bingo** session – eyes down and dabbers at the ready!



In February, Mrs Gordon kindly shared her wisdom (and extensive cake decorating tools) to hold a **workshop** for some of our families. The tastiest parental engagement event so far, Mrs Gordon showed us all how to pipe icing and make fondant decorations like flowers, teddies and buttons. Yum!



Most recently, we kicked off World Book Day celebrations early with an after-school **Scholastic Book Fair**.

Support from our parents was fantastic, with many of our children using their vouchers to get money off some of the brilliant titles on offer. This has generated extra funds for our school to spend on books to supplement our libraries, too. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Events coming soon (so keep following our Facebook page to find out more) include '**The Big Sow**', **Easter Treasure Hunt** and much more.



**DEADLINE:**  
**31st March**

**Don't miss the deadline to obtain (or renew) your eligibility code.**

Only codes that are valid and in date can be used in the Summer term from 1st April. Don't miss out!

To find out more visit  
[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)



# Virtually Golf

In a bid to foster sports enrichment and introduce students to the world of golf, secondary school pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 at Priory Witham Academy have embraced a six-week after-school virtual golf club. This initiative aims not only to teach the fundamentals of golf but also to instil a sense of enjoyment and friendship among the participants.

The after-school club took place at Virtually Golf on the Brayford, a fantastic venue that facilitates golf through online platforms and provides an avenue for students to learn various golf techniques, including the GASP principle - Grip, Aim, Stance, and Posture. Through interactive sessions led by experienced instructors from Virtually Golf, students are guided step by step in mastering these essential elements, laying a solid foundation for their golfing journey.

One of the key highlights of the programme is the incorporation of cutting-edge sports technology foresight. Students are introduced to innovative tools and equipment used in modern golf, enhancing their understanding of the sport's evolution and the role of technology in refining techniques and performance. This exposure not only educates students about the sport but also nurtures their curiosity and adaptability towards emerging trends in sports.

Beyond the technical aspects, Virtually Golf emphasises the importance of



enjoyment through engaging activities and games. Pupils had the opportunity to put their newly acquired skills into practice through virtual matches and challenges, fostering a sense of friendly competition and teamwork. These interactive sessions not only promote physical activity but also provide a platform for social interaction and bonding among students.

Feedback from both students and staff involved in the programme has been overwhelmingly positive. Many students have expressed new-found enthusiasm for golf, with some even considering pursuing the sport further beyond the club sessions. Teachers have noted improvements in students' confidence, focus, and teamwork skills, attributing these positive changes to their participation in the Virtually Golf after-school club.

For the young golf enthusiasts involved, the journey has just begun, promising exciting opportunities for growth, learning, and enjoyment on the greens and beyond.

**#Curiosity #Courage #Passion**



# \* The Heart of Wonderland ♥

Panto time swept into the Academy in March, all the way from Wonderland, with over 100 students from Years 6 to 13 taking part. The Heart of Wonderland was the Academy's 15th production and was filled with music, dance and a story which was a twist on the traditional tale that everyone knows and loves.





The cast and crew played to packed audiences at night as well as welcoming Year 5 students from local primary schools to morning performances so they could join in the fun.

A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved on and off stage.



# JOHN EGGING TRUST (J.E.T)

So far, my personal experiences with JET have been nothing short of wonderful. To describe it simply, I only began JET this year (early 2024) and since then. JET has considerably and kindly provided us all (including me) with lessons on topics such as finances, jobs within mechanical engineering (specifically aircraft and planes), household bills and expenses (linking back to topics of finance) and team-working and team-building skills. We have also looked at healthy leadership roles, creativity development and equal roles and jobs in careers and so forth.

Since the start of the programme, I have done many different lessons covering different topics. During our first lesson, we had to build a form of transportation to carry along different material objects. This exercise involved the necessities of teamwork, individual contributions and expressions of ideas/creativity. This will help in the future as it shows the team the importance of communication skills, working together and dependency, as well as being imaginative, building connections and bonds, and discovering

new ways to solve problems. During my time at JET, I have also seen aeroplanes (up close), learnt about their different features and functions, and how they can benefit and guide future pilots, mechanics etc (more points on this later). I have also learnt, through a mentor speech last month, how giving up won't solve anything, and if you continue pushing your goals and dreams, nine times out of 10 you will face success. In my most recent session, we learnt about managing finances, debts/loans and bills (as previously mentioned.) In this session, too, we learnt about the importance of keeping positive credit scores, avoiding overdrafts and loans and the reasons for multiple types of bill, some examples being council tax, utilities and TV licences.

It's safe to say, JET has been an entertaining and enlightening experience. My favourite and most enjoyable part was getting to be adjacent to real aeroplanes that you only usually see from so many kilometres below (unless, of course, they're toy ones from B&M). It was fun to see their different parts, briefly

how they are made and learn about their capability (speed, capacity etc).

I certainly believe this is a brilliant opportunity to come by, and I for one am so glad I've been given a chance to take part in the engaging and fascinating tasks that JET has to offer.

*By Tianna*

#Curiosity #Courage





**Jon Egging**  
Trust



Last year I was invited to join The Jon Egging Trust (JET) Blue Skies programme. Since then, I have done numerous activities which include working with fire engines, meeting the Red Arrows pilots and sitting inside a plane. I have also taken part in survival training in a swimming pool, team building and marching.

I also spoke to a physical training instructor as I would like to be a physical training instructor in the RAF when I am older. He made us do some physical exercises and work on our leadership skills. I have learned to work as part of a team. JET has also built my confidence and communication skills. I am looking at a career in HM Armed Forces due to the opportunities that I have been given in JET. I am really glad to be involved in the JET programme – it is a lot of fun and it boosts your confidence and your leadership skills. I am really excited for next year's opportunities and what they will bring. At first when I joined, I was the quiet one and I wouldn't talk or do anything, but now I communicate with everyone and am constantly asking questions.

*by Amber Purdy*

#Curiosity #Courage



## Uniform - A polite reminder

Just a quick reminder that all pupils should be wearing the correct uniform; this includes shoes and not trainers. If you need any support or information regarding the required uniform, then please do not hesitate to contact the Academy. Items are also available from our Swap Shop.

# World Book Day

World Book Day is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place in schools around the world. To mark the occasion, our academy held a range of exciting activities.

Secondary students kicked off the celebrations the week before World Book Day with a House challenge. They collected approximately 300 cardboard tubes and gave

KS3 students form time to create a character from a book. They were provided with coloured card, pompoms, googly eyes, wool, and more.

We were blown away by the

commitment and enthusiasm our students showed and we received some really impressive entries. In the end, it was Year 7 who really showed up and

secured 3rd, 2nd and 1st place with The Seventh Ghost, Mr Bump and The Lorax (in that order!).

The following week we celebrated World Book Day with a school-wide Book Hunt where secondary teachers sported a book badge. All students received a sheet of clues and had to find out the teacher whose book or character met that clue. The excitement from the students was palpable and it was amazing to see how many teachers took part.

Primary students and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters, and some year groups enjoyed the opportunity to meet authors in a virtual experience. All of these activities were designed to promote a love of reading and encourage students to explore new books and authors.

We rounded off our World Book Day celebrations with an assembly for Years 7-11 to remind our students what the day is all about – finding





time to read a book that you have chosen yourself, or with trusted support, and having the space to read said book purely for fun! In these assemblies, we announced our Great Witham Read-Off challenge which is active for both primary and secondary pupils from now until the end of the school year. This is a programme that we hope will inspire students to read as much as they can; whether that be comics, novels, articles, or poems. We also hope to see our students engaging in more discussions with staff members and with each other about what they're reading. The student who has read the most books by the end of the year will receive a voucher prize and be presented at the top of our leadership board. Meanwhile, every student who takes part will receive a Great Witham Read-Off Certificate as recognition of their commitment to reading.

We wanted to make sure the wider Witham community, whose members extend far beyond just our teachers and students, also felt the book buzz this World Book Day. Therefore, our secondary reception now has a wonderful Book Bucket display with recommendations for your next read. Make

sure to take note when you next pass through.

Over in primary reception, you will find our Community



Library which is bursting with book donations. Pop along and borrow or swap a book any time.

All of these activities were designed to promote a love of reading and encourage students to explore new books and authors. It was a wonderful day that celebrated the joy of reading and the magic of books.

#Curiosity #Passion





## Sixth Form Taster Events

The Priory Sixth Form recently hosted a series of taster events to showcase our post-16 provision; igniting passion and enthusiasm among students eager to explore various career paths. These events provided invaluable insights into different industries, fostering practical skills and knowledge essential for future endeavours.

Here at our Witham Campus, we were delighted to welcome a range of students from across the Priory schools to experience the opportunities on offer to them. This included a welcome from our sixth form Lead, Mr Eyre; showcasing the professional development offer available to support students' pastoral care, their wellbeing and to prepare them for the world beyond school. The offer included an extensive enrichment and personal development curriculum, making sure that students are ready for their next steps.



**T Level Craft and Design:** Students immersed themselves in creative activities, guided by our lead teacher Mrs Hackney and later with professionals from Uniform Direct, a prominent industry player based in Lincoln. This hands-on experience not only sparked creativity but also offered a glimpse into the dynamic world of design and craftsmanship.

**Level Three BTEC Health and Social Care:** Mr Jelley and Mr Duggan explored the course on offer as well as engaging in team-building exercises to foster key communication skills. This extended to learning from experts at Age UK and Walnut Care, where students delved into the intricacies of healthcare provision. A highlight was the interactive sessions with the team at Lives and Age UK, where students gained first-hand experience in life-saving skills such as CPR, preparing them for real-world scenarios.

**Management and Administration T Level:** Students honed their presentation skills with our lead teachers, Mrs Hemsley and Mr Eyre, and gained industry insights from none other than the CEO of Co-Op. This first-hand account of opportunities and roles





within the business provided invaluable guidance for aspiring professionals in the field of management and administration.

Level Three BTEC Performing Arts and Music: Along with an interactive session with the lead teachers, Mrs Goodwin and Mr Morris, students benefited from exploring the high-quality resources and learning environment where they learnt about the courses and opportunities to showcase their talents here at the Witham Campus. Afterwards, students were transported to Siren Radio, where they embarked on a captivating tour, unravelling the inner workings of a radio station. Additionally, a visit to the LPAC theatre offered insights into the diverse roles and experiences available, empowering students to pursue their passion in the performing arts and music industry.

These taster events not only offered students a glimpse into potential career paths but also instilled confidence and motivation to pursue their aspirations. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and professionals who generously contributed their time and expertise, enriching the educational journey of our students at Priory Sixth Form. Here's to a future filled with endless possibilities and remarkable achievements!

#Generosity #Curiosity

# Gardening & Wellbeing Club

You may remember the pictures drawn by our Gardening & Wellbeing Club last summer of the beautiful wildflower meadow that was sown and nurtured by our pupils from the seeds we received to celebrate King Charles III's coronation.

We sent these pictures to the King and we are very excited to share that we have received a reply from Buckingham Palace!



# Visiting Artist



Year 12 and 13 Art students had the opportunity to work alongside the artist Simon Kent this module. Simon is mostly known for his 3D wood carvings, film work, set design and 'street art'. He delivered a workshop to students on spray painting techniques which he uses to create his own artwork that can be seen in and around Sheffield city centre ('Banksy style').

The students had researched a theme and created a range of stencils to use on

the day with Simon's expert knowledge of composition, technique and colour. Simon also introduced everyday objects to be used and sprayed through such as net curtains, feathers and leaves, in order to create interesting textures and layers.

By the end of the day, all the students had completed a personal response to their chosen theme. These are their results.

#Curiosity  
#Passion



## Lincs FM



Some of our pupils were lucky enough to meet radio presenter Joseph Begley to take part in Lincs FM's 'Hide and Seek', reading out clues to a secret location somewhere in the world.

It was a little bit nerve-wracking to begin with but they soon grew in confidence and read beautifully. They even managed the 'reveal' in just one take!

#Courage



# Year 2 Visit to St George's Church

As part of our learning in Religious Education, children in Year 2 went on a visit to St George's Church, Lincoln, to learn about the key features of a church and the important celebrations to Christians.

When we got to the church, we were greeted by Jonny, the Children and Families Outreach Worker, who showed us and spoke to us about the features of a church. He also spoke to us about the events that Christians celebrate.

After we had listened to Jonny, we were then invited to explore some activities that have been set up for us. These included us thinking about and drawing things we were grateful for. We also discussed and drew people from our lives who we appreciate, which we then displayed on a tree to show the community around us.

We enjoyed learning and exploring the features of the church and it was lovely to hear fun facts from Jonny about St George's Church.

#Generosity #Curiosity #Wisdom



# Occupation visits to Pre-Reception

We have been very lucky to have "The Witham Chef" come and visit us in Pre-Reception. This is because Pre-Reception are looking at different types of occupations. The staff member told us what duties a chef has. She told us that she is a chef at school and makes our dinners. Then she showed us what a chef had to wear for hygiene – eg a hair net. She then showed the children how to make a sandwich and safely let the children help to make two types of sandwich.

We also had some members of the Witham site staff team come and visit us in Pre-Reception. They told us what



their job entails and how they work together to get work done.

One member of staff told us that they open and close the school at the start and end of each day. Children then asked questions, "Do you sleep at school?"; "Do you lock the doors to make it safe?" Another member of staff told us that he takes care of the swimming pool which Pre-Reception use. The children then asked, "Do you use a vehicle?" The staff member told the children they use a van and a minibus to take children to different places. They have to wear a uniform.

All the children enjoyed touching the steel toe cap boots, which the staff wear on their feet to protect their toes.

We are also due a visit this year from PCSO Carter and PCSO Webber to talk to us about what their job entails.



#Generosity  
#Curiosity

# KS2 Choir



KS2 Choir has taken a diverse step into performing not only vocally, but also with sign language. Makaton signing is used alongside spoken English language, providing the students with a fun and easy approach of learning to use sign with singing. This opportunity enables the students to develop both communication and language skills, as well as allowing them to further develop their confidence and social skills.

This term, students worked on learning to sing and sign a popular song by George Ezra. Students worked hard to learn the lyrics and the sign to go alongside their lyrics, showing the ability to develop

confidence and express their voices. They built towards a final performance held on Friday 22nd March where students showcased their talent and hard work to their peers in KS2.

As we continue to grow our sing-and-sign choir, we aim to build a repertoire of songs for our Makaton singing and work towards a final performance to family, friends and staff at the Academy.

A big well done to all students involved as they have continued to show their passion, curiosity and courage throughout.

#Passion #Curiosity #Courage



CURIOSITY GENEROSITY WISDOM COURAGE  
PASSION COURAGE CURIOSITY  
COURAGE WISDOM  
PASSION CURIOSITY  
PASSION GENEROSITY  
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WISDOM COURAGE WISDOM



BELIEVE TOGETHER, ACHIEVE TOGETHER



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