

July 2017



## Penwortham Girls' High School

### First Class Feedback from the 2017 Parents Survey

We are delighted to report that the parents who took part in our recent Kirkland Rowell survey were overwhelmingly positive about Penwortham Girls' High School. Like our last survey in 2015, parents judge our school to be Outstanding in all areas.

Every single subject was graded as either Good or Outstanding and it was particularly pleasing to see that:

- Over 90% of Y8-11 parents believe that the school has either maintained or improved standards since the last survey.
- Over 90% of Y7 parents believe that the school has either met or surpassed their expectations.

Parents also rated our school as either Good or Outstanding for all the non-academic criteria including exam results, caring teachers and school discipline.

Since PGHS carried out its first parents' survey in 2002, the overall performance scores have steadily improved. We were especially pleased to see that several aspects of the school's work were held to have improved over the last four years, including school facilities, social and health education, developing moral values, community spirit, availability of resources and the school's image in the local community.

Of course, though immensely proud of the report we are never complacent. Indeed, one or two areas for improvement were identified in the survey and we are determined to address these rapidly and effectively. To this end we are about to embark on a consultation exercise with parents through our new Parent Council. We will then take the necessary steps to ensure our future success.

Mr J Ramsdale, Assistant Headteacher

Here are just a few of the comments made by individual parents:

*"We are so happy with everything about the school ... our daughter loves being there and seems really happy".*

*"My daughter has been very happy at PGHS and we feel privileged that she has been able to attend here".*

*"The absolute dedication of the staff is so easy to see".*

## A very warm welcome to the summer edition of our Penwortham Post!



As I reflect on yet another successful and busy year, I think about the sheer amount of hard work and dedication that our staff show both inside and outside the classroom. At a time when there has been much press coverage about the more rigorous exam system and the increased demands on children, I can tell you that a huge amount of time and effort has been put into developing the 'whole child' at PGHS and this newsletter is testimony to this. Enjoy!

In the meantime, on behalf of all the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer holiday. As I write, the sun is shining and the forecast is looking good. Let's hope this continues throughout July and August!

Mrs Karen Pomeroy,  
Headteacher



I am writing my very last newsletter for the department as I am retiring after 33 years of teaching Art!

I hope I have nurtured many budding artists to continue with their passion for Art, whether that is to pursue Art and Design through to higher education, to study various creative fields or just to use their spare time to draw or paint.

I will now be able to spend much more time on my own art work and submit my work in exhibitions....hopefully! Here are a few photographs of a recent gallery visit to the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool with Year 9 pupils and art work by our talented pupils at PGHS. I have included a photograph of my last Year 11 GCSE group; they were a real treat to teach for my final year at school and I wish them all the best for their future careers. May I take this opportunity to wish Mr Quinlan all the best, as we have forged together an outstanding department over the past decade and I know he will continue to enthuse his passion for Art in future generations of students.

Mrs Staines





## Art Department News



## ..and it's goodbye from me

In 1981 a large black metal box was delivered to the school I was teaching in. No-one knew what to do with it.



One RML 380Z computer had been given to every secondary school in England. It came with no instructions. It ran one piece of geography software on its 12 inch green screen. The internet wouldn't really become useful for another 5 years.

I was a young Science teacher at the time (there were no ICT or computing teachers in schools), so the bemused Headteacher asked me to find out what to do with it because it looked vaguely technical. You needed to go on a course not to learn how to use it but to learn how to lift it!

Luckily, about a year later the BBC released the BBC microcomputer and a wonderful television series to accompany it. ICT and programming took off. People of a certain age may remember BBC Basic:

**10 Print "Hello world"**

**20 Goto 10**



This caused an unwarranted amount of excitement! I was allowed to buy 10 of them. Shortly afterwards the school was inspected and the puzzled HMI inspector wanted to know what they did as he'd never seen one.

In ICT (and now computing) a lot has happened in the subsequent 30-odd years. The new BBC Micro: bit has more computing power than its predecessor at a fraction of the size and is a brilliant way of teaching young people coding and 'computational thinking'. A new language has arisen of algorithms, iteration, de-bugging and concatenation (my favourite word). It works with strings by the way....



After a teaching career of 39 years I'm now bowing out after an extremely rewarding four years here at Penwortham Girls' High School. I've had the privilege of working with a wonderfully dedicated staff and bright, motivated pupils.

I would like to wish the new Head of Faculty, Mrs Smith, all the best in her new role and hope she will be as happy as I've been here.

Mr Riley

## School App

Our school app is now available to download from your iOS or Android device from Apple's App Store or Google Play.

Just search for 'School Alerts' and once downloaded type 'Penwortham Girls' High School'.

You'll get 'at a glance' updates for news stories, forthcoming events, important reminders as well as a whole host of other content.

We hope you find this app useful. Please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see on the app.

Email [m.murray@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:m.murray@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)

Android Phone -

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.concept4.standard>

iPhone -

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/school-alerts/id1151384667?mt=8>



## Darwen Tower Walk



On Tuesday 27th June, Year 8 went on a walk to Darwen Tower.

**T**his walk was part of our Intermediate Passport. We walked 13.8 kilometres and it took around 4-5 hours.

It was a challenging walk, as it was tiring, windy and was mainly uphill. However, climbing up the hills led to an astonishing view of the countryside.

It was quite cold and a bit rainy, but it was a fun time to enjoy the nature and bond with friends. The ground was rocky and muddy but that did not stop us enjoying our trip. The steepest slope upwards was 17% and the steepest slope downwards was 22%. The highest point we reached was 388 metres!

What I enjoyed the most about the walk was spending time with all my friends and making new friends. I also enjoyed looking at the beautiful view from the top of Darwen Tower.

Following completion of the Darwen Tower Walk, I now only need a few more merits to achieve the Intermediate Certificate as I have already met the attendance, hobbies and community requirements. So a little more imagination, resilience and determination and the passport will be mine!

To reach the Gold standard next year, I'll need to plan an expedition with my friends. A possible summer holiday adventure!

By Lydia Aitchison, Year 8

## Drama Department News

On the 21st June 2017, we visited Runshaw College to view "V", a performance by the A-level Performing Arts students (professional performance programme). We thoroughly enjoyed the piece and it inspired us all.

Our favourite techniques they used were:

- Physical theatre
- Choral speaking
- Slow motion
- Narrating

We especially loved the physical theatre element as we have been studying this device in our GCSE drama class. The physical theatre has influenced us with our devised pieces so now we can use and develop these ideas into our own GCSE performances. The themes in "V" can be manipulated to fit our theme of Social Media. For example, when the narrators were talking about social media and how the character 'Melissa' was cat fished, they portrayed it through elements of physical theatre which we could develop into our own devised pieces. This was a fantastic production full of truly talented actors, designers and technicians.



We'd like to thank Runshaw for putting this amazing performance on and for inviting us to enjoy this experience.

By Kate Lund, Ami Traynor, Amy Clement, Reilly Sutton-Lee, Taya Edmonds, Zohra Khan, Larissa Cantzler, Chloe Ward and Demi Taylor.

AKA – Miss Garlick's Drama Girls.



### Lancashire Book of the Year Award



**T**his year we have taken part in choosing and deciding which book we felt deserved to win the Lancashire book of the year award from 92 books.

We were given 30 books at a time and challenged ourselves to read as many books as we could. Aiming to read all of the books gave us the chance to read genres we wouldn't usually engage with. After a month and a half we went to meetings to discuss our opinions on each book with three other schools across the county. This allowed us to interact with other people and hear different opinions on the books we had read.

After each meeting, we were sent back to school with a new box of books to read over that 6 six weeks. This process was repeated until we had been given the chance to read the entire 'long list'. We gathered opinions from our classmates to decide on our top ten choice of books which consisted of various genres and we felt these books deserved a chance to win the award.

Later, we were invited to County Hall in Preston city centre where the overall top ten was revealed. This short list was put together by all of the schools involved using their top tens. We then had the chance to read any of the books on the final shortlist that we had not yet read which gave us the chance to judge every book fairly. Two representatives from each school came to County Hall two months later to ultimately decide which books were our favourites and earn the possibility of winning the award.

Taking part in this event exposed us to many different styles of writing which, on an everyday basis, we would not pick up. We feel our vocabulary and social skills have greatly improved thanks to the opportunities this competition brought us. We met up with many different people and realised the different views people can have on a book, which later encouraged us to read that book.

We thank the Lancashire Book of the Year Award, not only for the opportunity but for the chance to experience this event. It gave us more confidence to share our thoughts and to meet new people.

By Faatimah Omer and Imogen Halliwell (Year 9)

### Summer Reads

**T**he Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow By Katherine Woodfine



The Mystery of the Clockwork Sparrow is set in Sinclair's department store; a posh, busy and crowded place for rich people to spend their money on luxury items.

Throughout the novel there are colourful descriptions of the lavish store. The story centres around the characters of Sophie, an intelligent shop girl who organises products in the store, Billy, a porter who enjoys problem solving and reading mystery books and Lil, Sophie's friend who is brave, helpful and certainly doesn't care what anyone thinks of her. All the events that take place are centred around the new store opening and Mr Sinclair's exhibition of priceless artefacts.

Sophie, the protagonist of the story, is underestimated by everyone but her friends and, as readers, we desperately want her to succeed in everything she does. Although the characters in the book are the most engaging part of the story, there are also some wonderful illustrations in the book, including newspaper articles and a shopping list which make it exciting to read and brings it to life; you feel constantly immersed in the story. Another positive about the book is the way it is structured and how the events unfold because you never know what will happen next; it is tempting to skip parts and just read the ending. Every chapter ends with a cliff-hanger and you are left in suspense wanting to keep reading and reading until you reach the conclusion.

Even though you can easily get swept along with the story, at times the description of the story seems too long and detailed. The mystery adventure only really gets going about a third of the way into the story. However, as soon as the action begins to pick up pace, don't be surprised if you find yourself finishing the book sooner than you thought you would!

Anyone who enjoys reading mysteries would enjoy reading this book (boys and girls over the age of 8 or 9). There are similarities to Enid Blyton's adventures (a group of friends solve a mystery) but we'd suggest that Woodfine's book is suitable for older children. We give this book 4 stars.

## English Department News

### Library News and Cathy Cassidy Author Visit

On Friday 14th July, our Year 7 and 8 pupils, along with girls from our feeder primary schools, were treated to an author visit from Cathy Cassidy.

This was a fantastic event where we spent the afternoon learning about Cathy's inspiration behind her writing and her new character, Lexie.

The girls had the opportunity to ask Cathy lots of questions about her life, her books and her characters and purchase signed copies of her books. This rounds off a year of superb author visits including Jenny Downham, Krystal Sutherland and Robin Stevens. Author visits are a brilliant way of boosting reading for pleasure and the girls now have lots of ideas for their summer beach reading!

Next year we will be stocking the library with titles from our visiting authors plus books from all the Lancashire Book Award winning authors. Our new senior librarians will be on hand to recommend books to all pupils, regardless of age or reading ability. We look forward to seeing you in the library in September!

Mrs McKeown  
English Department



## History Department News

### History Department visit to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool.

On the 4th July, 50 Year 8 students visited the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool as part of their study of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Students explored the different interactive exhibits and developed their understanding of the causes, events and consequences of the slave trade during the 18th Century. During an artefact handling session students were given the opportunity to examine a variety of objects including items from African culture, evidence from plantations and artefacts linked to the abolitionist movement.

The students were also given the opportunity to visit the maritime museum which had a fascinating display on the sinking of the Titanic. The students were enthusiastic participants throughout the day and were excellent ambassadors for PGHS.

Mr Herbert, Head of History



## Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition Mock Exam

Year 10 were able to pick from three product briefs:

- Increasing the fibre content of dishes
- Cuisine from the Mediterranean culture
- Cooking for a vegetarian

Preparation time included the tasks below:

- research and analyse the life stage, dietary group or culinary tradition related to your chosen task
- make 3-4 dishes to showcase a range of practical skills
- prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes, planning in advance how this will be achieved
- prepare, cook and present your final dishes in one three-hour practical session.

The final dishes looked spectacular and displayed an array of skills and techniques.

The girls worked under pressure and stuck to detailed time plans. They enjoyed the experience but commented on how tiring the day had been and how time planning and organisational skills had been essential.



## Year 9 Curry Making and Chapatti Workshop

International cuisine is an essential part of the new food preparation and nutrition specification.

This is introduced at key stage three and Year 9 pupils cook curries from various parts of the world. These include a Thai, Indian and Moroccan curry. Pupils look at the basics of a curry sauce, tenderising meat and the use of lower fat substitutes e.g. crème fraîche, and greek yoghurt. Spices and their health benefits form part of the research.

Chapattis and naan bread are made in the bread making section and specialist equipment is used. This accompanies the curry section.

Mrs Khan  
Food Technology Co-ordinator





## Geography Department News



**T**he Geography Department are coming to the end of our first full academic year in the new Humanities classrooms and we now feel very much at home.

There are various displays of pupil work and other information around the department. Thanks to all students who have contributed.

Our Year 11 students recently sat their 3 GCSE Geography exams and, on the whole, pupils came out feeling confident. We would like to take this opportunity to say well done to two fantastic GCSE Geography classes. You worked your socks off girls and we know you will do well. Looking forward to seeing you all in Room 39 for Results Day in August!

This term has seen units of work on the Geography of Health, the Geography of Crime, Environmental Issues and Tourism. Some Year 7 students are designing eco-homes, Year 8 students are putting together crime reduction plans for their local areas and Year 9 are planning a dream holiday. Here's to the architects, police officers and travel website entrepreneurs of the future! Parents; you may be getting requests for energy efficient boilers, security lighting or exotic travel over the next couple of weeks. Don't say you weren't warned!

The Department recently ran an event with a local primary school; the Year 5 students of Whitefield Primary were enthusiastic, knowledgeable (and energetic!) Geographers on our trip to the woodland ecosystem found around Roddlesworth reservoirs near Abbey Village. The pictures show them taking in the woodland environment.

Remember, you are always a Geographer: both in the classroom and away from it so try to spread your wings a little and see some of our local countryside if you can. If you are going further afield, have fun and be a respectful and interested tourist and, regardless of where you are off to, don't forget to send us a postcard from your travels. Have a great summer!

PS – if you are stuck in the house, here are a few Geography ideas to keep you busy! Try Geoguessr, a web based world location game. Alternatively check out the Missing Maps Project where your love of maps can be put to good humanitarian use.

The BBC iplayer has some Geography related programmes like Coast and Nature's Weirdest Events, while Channel 4 have a brilliant programme on catch up called Man-made planet as well as movies like Earthquake and Volcano.

Mr Bowles, Head of Geography



## Year 9 Maths Inspiration Visit, Liverpool

**O**n 22nd June a group of enthusiastic Year 9 pupils, along with Mr McVey and Mrs Davies, visited the Capstone Theatre in Liverpool to watch the 'Maths Inspiration' lectures.

The lectures were delivered by three renowned maths speakers:

- Helen Pilcher, who writes for the science magazine Nature. She is also one half of the Comedy Research Project, a stand-up comedy duo who spent long hours deriving the mathematical formula for the perfect joke!
- Rob Eastaway, an author whose books on everyday maths include the bestselling "Why Do Buses Come In Threes?" and "The Hidden Maths of Sport". He appears regularly on BBC Radio 4 and 5 Live to talk about the maths of everyday life and has given maths talks across the world to audiences of all ages.
- Ben Sparks, who is, amongst other things, a mathematician, a musician, and a twin. He has busked around the world, but still gets unashamedly excited about the good bits of maths. He works at the University of Bath for the Further Maths Support Programme delivering maths lectures and workshops around the country.

The lectures were based around a series of interactive games that involved either lots of strategy, just plain luck or a mixture of both. One game involved the presenter having a bet with the audience that someone in the front four rows would share a birthday with someone else. Pupils were asked if they would wager £1 against the bet with a chance to win £100. The related probabilities were investigated and it soon became clear that the presenter's money was pretty safe!



Logic and reasoning was also a focal point, with one presentation centred on an analysis of the flak damage incurred by Lancaster bombers during World War Two. Most of the damage found on the returning planes was on the fuselage so engineers initially thought they should reinforce the fuselages of the bombers ready for future missions. However, when logical reasoning was applied it became apparent (and somewhat obvious when you think about it!) that the planes that returned home sustained the least amount of damage to their engines. Hence the engineers realised that the engines, rather than the fuselage, should be reinforced to improve the chances of the bombers making it back to base successfully.

Kiera McLernon who was lucky enough to go up on stage to take part in one of the games said; "I found the visit really interesting and saw how maths is used in real life. The strategy games used by the presenters also made the maths fun".

Overall, the girls enjoyed the day and came away with a different perspective and a renewed enthusiasm for mathematics and a genuine feeling that it can actually be great fun!

Mr R McVey  
Mathematics Department



## Modern Foreign Languages Department News

A big thank you to our Year 11 who have recently left us, having completed their GCSE in French or German.

**T**hey were the last students to do the controlled assessments and we are looking forward to their results.

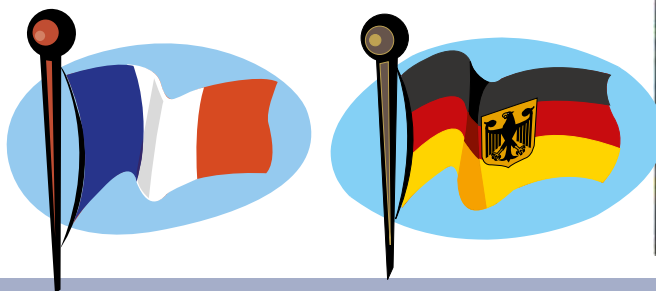
Year 10 worked hard on their mocks for the new examinations, with no controlled assessments and they will have some interesting tasks to work on over the Summer to ensure they are focussed for the start of the Autumn term. PGHS recently hosted examination board training here for all teachers in our Modern Languages Network with the emphasis on developing Year 10 speaking and writing skills. We will be working with the girls on developing all four skills in the next academic year to ensure they are prepared.

This term will see us taking two groups abroad to France and Germany. The girls have been looking forward to these visits for some time and are keen to practise their foreign language skills! In France the focus is very much on food and in Germany it's all about action. The bakery, the snail farm, the sweet factory, the supermarket and the cafes will see pupils listen to and understand French people at work and, of course, get to taste the food. We will also be visiting the museum where the English defeated the French in the battle of Agincourt.

There will also be food related activities such as cheese tasting and pancake making in the evening with a game of boules thrown in! In Germany, there will be opportunities to order drinks and cake in German and to taste chocolate in the Lindt factory, as well as more energetic activities such as the chair ride and a river cruise. Pupils also get to visit a castle and a cathedral and to do some shopping in one of the small towns to practise their German listening and speaking skills.

We will report back in the Autumn term to let you know how it went!

Madame Rourke  
Head of MFL





# Music Department News

## Arts Week

**O**ur annual Arts Week theme this year was 'Legends'.

Throughout the week, pupils studied various legends in their different guises in each and every subject; From Pythagoras in Maths to Pop Art paintings of iconic legends such as David Bowie and Arianna Grande. Penwortham Girls' embraced the theme, as usual, with gusto.



In Music lessons this half term pupils have had the opportunity to learn how to play as part of a Steel Band and subsequently performed 'Wimmoweh' and 'Feelin' hot hot hot!' in the Celebration Concert on Thursday evening. Music Mania Day was held on Wednesday where we hosted 90 Primary pupils from Longton and Whitefield. The pupils came dressed up in their Rock 'n' Roll outfits complete with sparkles, hair gel and even rock guitars!



After working tremendously hard, they then gave their very own concert performance during the afternoon. They performed superbly and I know all the staff that accompanied them were as proud of them as we were. Well done! We hope to see you again soon.



The Celebration Concert is always the climax of our week and this year was no different. Pupils amazed their teachers and parents alike with mesmerizing dances, spell-binding drama and scintillating musical performances. For some of the younger pupils taking part, this was their first performance at Penwortham Girls' and we were incredibly proud of the way they approached this. It was clear to us that there were many 'home-grown legends' performing throughout the evening. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each and every pupil on their superb contribution to the evening and also thank all the parents that took the time to congratulate staff on the evening; your support is very much appreciated.

Mrs Alison Cattanach  
Head of Music & KS2/3 Transition Manager

## Music Department News

### ITV News Visit

A number of Year 10 pupils were lucky enough to visit ITV Granada in Media City earlier this term.



Pupils were shown around the Media City complex taking in the iconic waterfront view and, of course, The Blue Peter Garden! After this short tour pupils were split into

three groups and were able to gain an insight into the work of a camera operative, a gallery technician and the wider roles available at ITV. Following a superb buffet the girls were able to watch the show go out 'live' before trying their hands at reading from the auto-cue and sitting in the famous 'Granada Reports' chairs. The girls had a fantastic time and we were all very grateful to Paul Duckworth from ITV for giving us this opportunity.

Mrs Cattanach, Head of Music



### Lancashire Music Hub Big Show

Rose Creer, Beth Elliott, Olivia Gill, Chloe Hodson, Mimi Mayer-Payne, Grace Thomson and Kianna White all took part in the Lancashire Music Hub Big Show on Wednesday 28th June at the Guild Hall in Preston.

Pupils worked alongside David Ashworth to create soundscapes to represent typical Lancashire landscapes and images such as our rolling hills and the Pendle Witches. The soundscapes were created on the app Thumbjam and amplified through the Guild Hall sound system.

Well done, girls.







## PhD Philosopher Visit

**O**n a Friday lunchtime, Miss McDermott hosts 'Debating Society' in room 25 and this is led by Year 10 girls in order to engage younger pupils in challenging debates, usually centred on current affairs, issues raised in the news and/or on social media.

In order to give the Year 10 girls an opportunity to focus on developing their debate skills further, on Friday 23rd June I invited John Foster (Philosophy Lecturer, Lancaster University) and Faye Tucker (PhD Philosophy student) to deliver a lunchtime session on female philosophers and feminist philosophy.

This was an excellent opportunity for girls in both Years 9 and 10 to be challenged and engage in a highly academic debate with experts in their field.

The session focused on Existentialism and how feminist philosophers such as De Beauvoir interpreted this theory in the 1940s.

## Soroptimisses

### Inspirational Quotes Book

A group of pupils have recently launched the first school-based Soroptimist society in the North West, known in school as the 'Soroptimisses'.

The club runs on a Monday lunchtime in room 25 and they have already been visited by the local Soroptimist group who have engaged girls in debates and helped launch charity events. The local Soroptimist Society have also offered prizes for the girls in the group to enter their national writing competition and have invited them to their regional meetings.

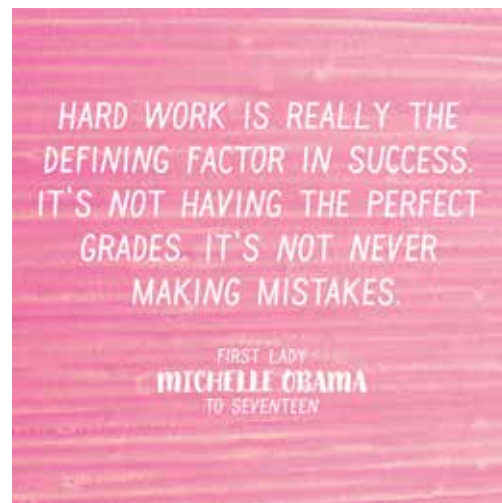
The first project launched by the Soroptimisses is to devise a book of inspirational quotes, to be populated by PGHS pupils and staff. All girls have been asked to submit a quote for the book and those chosen will be published.

***"...The quote tells me that Michelle didn't just succeed, she worked hard for it. Mistakes are inevitable and it's not about having the best grades, but it's the attitude towards life that counts and truly matters..."***  
— Jawharah Bodi



They will then receive a copy of the book free of charge. All girls need to do is to choose a woman who inspires them, explain why and pick a quote from her that they feel is inspirational.

Entry forms can be collected from room 25. For example, Jawharah Bodi in Year 10 has completed her submission on Michelle Obama (see below):





## Sports Day: Cakes and PIES

**T**he Soroptimisses also had a Cakes and Desserts stall at Sports Day this term.

All of the members brought in homemade treats and we even had a delivery of cakes to sell from our local Soroptimist Society! There were some wonderful creations by our girls and Miss McDermott's red velvet cake sold out in record time!

Overall we raised over £250 and the Soroptimisses want to use this money to sponsor a girl in Swaziland, so that she can have a secondary education that otherwise her family could not afford.

This is part of an initiative called 'Partners in Education Swaziland' (PIES), which girls will continue to support next academic year.

We hope to sponsor as many girls into secondary education as we can, with lots of exciting fundraising event planned.

Mrs McDermott



## Mary's Meals

**A**n on-going project launched by the PGHS Soroptimisses is collecting donations for the charity 'Mary's Meals'.

This charity works in less economically developed countries all over the world, sending provisions to children who do not have what they need to attend school.



Our Soroptimisses have been collecting items such as:

- Large school/sports bags/backpacks
- T-shirts/ plain unwanted school shirts (no logos)
- Shorts
- Towels
- Flip flops
- Stationery (pencils, pens, rulers, rubbers, pencil cases)

“Packing basic items such as pencils really brings home to our pupils how little some of their counterparts in many countries actually have. By donating backpacks, the pupils realise just how much we take for granted, and they really understand the difference their gift makes to children their own age.”

## Sports Presentation Evening

A big thank you must go to all the pupils and parents/carers who attended the Sport Presentation Evening this year.

We were extremely lucky to have Kate Cross, Lancashire Cricketer as our guest speaker, who gave an interesting insight into the world of women in sport and in cricket. It is always lovely to see so many girls taking part in a wide variety of sports and give up their time to practise, train and take part in sport at school.

Team of the Year - Year 7 Cross Country Team

Rising Star Award - Amalie Garcia

Team Spirit Award - Lucy Thompson

Outstanding Contribution Award - Charlotte Daley

Sports Personality of the Year - Chloe Boardman



Team of the Year  
Year 7 Cross Country Team



Outstanding  
Contribution Award  
Charlotte Daley



Rising Star Award  
Amalie Garcia



Team Spirit Award  
Lucy Thompson



Sports Personality of  
the Year  
Chloe Boardman

### Leadership in the Primary Schools

**O**ur young leaders have helped out in a number of primary school sports days again this year.

Both Middleforth and New Longton primary schools have benefitted from our support. The leaders were fantastic ambassadors for Penwortham Girls!

### Rounders

**T**he rounders tournaments were very early this year and thankfully we weren't too badly affected by the weather.

We did face some tough competition and the girls have vowed to face their challenges next year with even more enthusiasm and determination.

**Year 11 – 3rd**

**Year 10 – quarter finalist**

**Year 9 – 3rd**

**Year 8 – 2nd**

**Year 7 – 3rd**

### Old Fashioned Sports Day

**D**uring the Summer term we welcomed Ashbridge Primary school and Hoole St Michael's into school to take part in our annual Old Fashioned Sports Day event.

They experienced traditional activities: country dancing, boules, lacrosse and short tennis. The event runs alongside our sports and dance leaders final assessment. The PGHS pupils were assessed throughout the day and all gained their Level 1 Sports Leaders Qualification.

The staff from the primary schools were very impressed with our pupils' attitude and conduct throughout the day.

### Athletics

**T**he Under 16s South Ribble Athletics Championships was held at Preston Sports Arena on 5th May.

This was a fantastic team event and they finished 3rd overall, with only a few points behind the winners.

Well done to Charlotte Daley, who broke the South Ribble record in 200m.

We achieved the best results ever in the Year 7, 8 & 9 South Ribble Championships this year. Year 7 & 8 groups finished in 1st place and Year 9 finished a very close 2nd place.

There were 6 new South Ribble records for the PGHS teams; 3 in Year 7, 1 in Year 8 and 2 in Year 9.

The Year 7 team achieved a massive 106 team total points. Winning 7 events, runners up in 2 and 3rd in one event, out of a total of 10 events.

Darcy Smith broke the South Ribble record in 2 events. Well done!

The Year 8 team achieved 4 1st place, 2 2nd place and 1 3rd place. Breaking the record in the 4 x 100m relay.

Year 9s also achieved outstanding results; with Alissa Darbyshire and Chloe Boardman who broke South Ribble records.

### Arts Week

**W**e rehearsed very hard for the Arts week concert which took place in the last half term.

The girls performed dances from different genres to put together another spectacular final show. We had seven dances in total from girls in Years 7-11.

A busy, but very successful and enjoyable summer term, despite the weather! We're looking forward to starting again in September with Netball, Basketball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Handball, Dance, Gymnastics, Hockey and Football.

Mrs Burns, Head of PE

### Outdoor Cricket

**T**he outdoor cricket teams have continued to develop and improve.

Both teams made it to the county finals in June. This is a fantastic achievement and we aim to nurture our talents next year.



## Sports Day

**W**e enjoyed a fabulous Sports Day this year.

There was a fun, festival atmosphere enjoyed by all participants and spectators. Everyone got involved and the girls entered into the spirit of the day.



Pupils created amazing banners and raised over £1000 for charity. The awards podium was a very welcome addition and the new events raised the bar even higher for the staff events. The final event of the day, the Championship Relay, was won, again, by the Staff Humanities Team. The Staff STEM team came 2nd and the Year 9 girls finished a very respectable 3rd place.



## New school records :-

Izzy Clayton (10)	Shot Putt	8.81m
Darcy Smith (7)	Discus	18.06m
Olivia Corbett (8)	Discus	19.78m
Eve Rigby (7)	R.Ball	42.30m
Lois Carroll (8)	100m	13.56s
Alissa Darbyshire (9)	300m	46.36s
Scarlett Sutton (8)	1500m	5.21

## New Staff Records:-

Mr Farrington	100m	13.88s
Mr Herbert	1500m	5.51
Mr Shorrock	Shot	14.24m
Mr Shorrock	Discus	32.60m

## Form Champions

7H 8S 9J 10S

## Individual Champions

Year 7	Eden Staines & Darcy Smith Runner up – Amani Valli-Carter
Year 8	Lois Carroll Runner up – Scarlett Sutton & Olivia Corbett
Year 9	Cody Willis Runner up – Alissa Darbyshire
Year 10	Maisie Saul Runner up – Emily Broadbent & Izzy Clayton

## Science Laboratory Refurbishment

Last year, Penwortham Girls' were lucky enough to be awarded a £40,000 grant from The Wolfson Foundation to support and promote excellence in education and Science.



This money was used to improve the Science facilities within school. Over the Easter holidays, two of the science rooms underwent a radical refurbishment. The old wooden benches had to be removed and were replaced with new state of

the art chemically resistant work surfaces with curved ends.

New flooring was also put in and the girls have commented on how quiet the floor is; no more stool scraping noises! The colour schemes were chosen by Mrs Goodwill, who went for red and black and Mrs Honeyman, who went for grey and green. There is still some work to be finished on the new rooms; the walls need a fresh coat of paint and this is planned for the next half term holiday. The pictures below show the rooms during and after the refurbishment. I am sure you will agree the rooms look amazing!

Mrs Honeyman, Head of Science



## Introducing our new Science Teachers



Mrs R Cahill

In 2004 I started teaching Science, initially at St Mary's college in Crosby, followed by Greenbank High in Southport. I completed my BSc (Hons) in Biological Sciences at Plymouth University and have a real passion for the subject, especially human physiology. I enjoy involving pupils in dissection and hearing about their experience as they share their findings. Many of my past pupils have gone on to study A'level Biology, then a Biology related degree course, including medicine and dentistry. I generally enjoy all practical aspects of Science and feel it helps further pupils' understanding. I ran a successful science club which involved many cool experiments, Eco club, animal care and the completion of the Crest award scheme. We also regularly visited the annual Big Bang Science Fair. I also established links with the Royal Society, Society of Biology and the Galton Institute. My aim is to continue stimulating a practical interest in Science and I look forward to developing the scientist in our pupils. Outside of school I love to be outdoors, whether it's camping, walking, cycling or gardening.



Mr C Coogan

I have had a passion for Science since secondary school, sparked by a particularly inspirational science teacher. This led me to choosing the sciences at A-level and then studying for a BSc (Hons) in Chemistry at the University of Manchester, specialising in organic chemistry and graduating in 2010. Following university, I started working in the oil and gas industry as a geochemist. This gave me the opportunity to work across Europe and North America as well as gaining an appreciation of how a wide array of scientific disciplines are applied in industry. In 2016, having spoken to numerous science teachers, I chose to move into teaching and completed my PGCE. The chance to inspire young people and help them get into STEM careers is an incredible opportunity. I'm looking forward to opening pupils' eyes to the huge range of options that can open up to them as they progress through their scientific education. During my spare time I enjoy running (occasionally), fishing and fell walking in the Lake District.



## Design and Make It Challenge

Congratulations to the Year 9 STEM team who have won the 2017 Design and Make it Grand Final, held at Old Trafford Football ground on Friday 7th July 2017.



The girls had qualified from the Preston and district regional heat held at Ribby Hall Village in March 2017.

The winners and best runners up from all the regional competitions were then invited to compete in the Grand Final at Old Trafford. The 12 finalist teams had to design, plan, cost and pitch their proposals for either a commercial passenger aircraft, a transport aircraft or a military aircraft to a panel of judges. Each team was issued with component lists, job specifications, customer specifications, materials specifications and a host of other information that had to be decided upon and included in their presentations.

The presentations were given to representatives from industry, including BAE Systems & Tata and the students had to respond to some intensive questioning at the end of each pitch. I could not be more proud of our girls. They gave their absolute best, worked through their lunch (as did quite a few teams!) and went on to give a fantastic presentation. The fact that all other teams had eight members, (the maximum allowed) and our team had five was a testimony to how hard they had worked. This group of girls had progressed through the qualifying rounds and wanted to keep the same team for the final, even if it meant they were at a disadvantage. In the end this proved to be no disadvantage at all as they went on to win the Grand Final, in our first time there!

As well as the trophy and voucher prizes, we also picked up a victory visit to Costa coffee on the way home, which helped pass the 2 hour rush hour drive back to school. Thank you to all the girls' parents for being patient and waiting for us back at school and a big thank you and congratulations to our victorious Aeronautical Engineers: Zainab Dawood, Emma Fielding, Imogen Halliwell, Katherine Taylor and Maariyah Farooq.

Mr Bartlett  
Technology Department





# Technology Department News

## Year 7

Year 7 students have worked exceptionally well this year producing some fantastic pop-up book designs taking inspiration from all different themes.

Further to this, students have been researching about mechanisms in the real world such as cams, levers and gears and they have also been presenting and sharing their designs to the rest of the class just like a real design studio.



## Year 8

Year 8 students in Design and Technology have been creating some fantastic jewellery products and packaging taking inspiration and designs from the Native American culture.



## Year 9

Year 9 students in Design and Technology have taken on the Architecture project this year by building innovative scale models and developing these through 3D software taking inspiration from nature and the environment.



# Learning Support Department News

## Vintage Tea Party

**O**n July 5th, the Learning Support Department hosted their annual 'Vintage Tea Party'.

Once again it was a department wide effort with everybody chipping in to make the afternoon a roaring success. Decorations were kindly donated and lovingly created by staff and friends, and there was a scrumptious array of homemade (and some not so homemade) cakes on offer.

Guests included past and present pupils who have been supported by our department together with their parents. Former members were also in attendance together with current staff members who couldn't resist the call of tea and cake!

Miss Hodgson and the Learning Support Department donned their pinnies to serve tea and homemade cakes which were generously provided by a number of teaching assistants as well as Year 10's star baker Eleanor Woods. The atmosphere was provided by authentic 1920s music which was soon drowned out by the buzz of chatter as everybody got to sharing anecdotes in between slices of cake and sips of tea.



The hour and a half passed very quickly and the guests were very complimentary about the afternoon as well as the year round support that our department provides.

Once again, a huge thank you to all involved and a special thank you to Miss Parker who has done an excellent job of organising the event; we hope to see you all again next year!

Miss Hodgson & the Learning Support Department

## M.O.T.H.S

**T**owards the end of the summer term, the Learning Support Department were joined by a number of Year 6 pupils who will be starting with us in the autumn term.

They came to take part in our annual Moving On To High School workshops.

The M.O.T.H.S sessions are designed specifically for pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities; they can also be helpful for pupils who struggle socially, or who find the prospect of High School a scary thought.

They have had three sessions which involved getting to know each other; getting to know their buddies and more importantly getting to know their way around school! They even had the opportunity to witness Penwortham Girls' High School's Sports Day- the premier event on our sporting calendar! The girls were supported by Miss Hodgson the school's SENCO and Mrs Cattanch their Year 7 Raising Achievement Co-ordinator.

All the girls have found the sessions useful and we look forward to seeing them in September.

Miss Hodgson, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator





# Golden Nuggets

## Golden Nuggets

**T**his term we have implemented a system of peer observation allowing teachers within school to observe each other in the classroom.

Research into developing teaching shows that this is an excellent vehicle to share and further enhance excellent practice. All staff took part in the programme and they were invited to observe a colleague model: a teaching technique such as collaborative learning, questioning or using new technologies such as the interactive white board. They were then asked to share their 'golden nugget', in other words the one golden idea they would take away and develop in their own classrooms.



Following this they shared some of their reflections on the peer observation schedule:

*"The class was clearly engaged! I will be taking away your use of literacy throughout the lesson (questions about techniques was a great idea!) and also how you use evidence in your planning to support your tasks. Thanks again! It was a privilege!"*

*"The hinge question is a great way to get the pupils to enter a greater depth of thinking which further improves their understanding of a topic. All the answers of the hinge questions can be correct or there can be red herrings in there to check pupils understanding of the topic being covered".*

*"I was very impressed with your insistence on the use of clear and precise language, superbly modelled through your exposition and instructions. Also, I was impressed with the maturity of the debate on feminism and how the students were encouraged to formulate balanced and objective judgements".*

*"There was a trust amongst them which made for a really safe and relaxed atmosphere, a love for this subject has clearly been nurtured!"*

*"I very much enjoyed the opportunity to view a lesson from another department. I was particularly impressed with the attention to detail evident in pupils' work regarding drawing diagrams and charts as this represents a clear cross over with Maths. I also got further ideas about transitioning from one part of the lesson to another... I would like to investigate ways to make these transitions flow even more smoothly".*

Many thanks to all staff for observing and volunteering to take part.

Mrs Hall  
Deputy Headteacher





## School as a Workplace Day

**O**n Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June the whole of Year 8 took part in a brand new initiative called School as a Workplace Day.

The aim of the day is to give every student the opportunity to experience school from the perspective of the people who work here, including teachers, office staff, technical support staff and teaching assistants.

Each member of staff devised a range of tasks for the students to complete including designing lessons and resources, putting together new wall displays, ordering and organising stock, typing, filing, photocopying and so on...

The students delivered some short presentations about their experiences at the end of the day and their evaluations were overwhelmingly positive about what they had got out of it.



### Quotes and photos from the students who took part in School as A Workplace Day:

*"I learnt that a lot goes on behind the scenes."*

*"I learnt that I'm not as shy as I often think of myself."*

*"Science teaching would definitely be something I would consider as a career."*

*"I have learnt how to be a more confident speaker."*

*"I learnt that teachers have to stand up a lot and it hurts!"*

*"I learnt to be confident with other pupils and that it's good to step out of my comfort zone because I had no friends with me most of the day and I had to do things on my own."*



# School Workplace Day



*"I learnt that the things we take for granted are made with great effort. Also, after working with an experienced person I have learnt skills I never thought I would."*

*"I feel like I have made a difference and helped."*

*"There is more to the job of a teacher than you think."*

*"It was cool to see how fun and hard work it is to be a Science Technician."*

*"It gave me an idea of how much work teachers put into their lessons."*

*"The lessons and supplies aren't just ready for us by magic; it takes work."*

*"Great day!"*

*"I learnt not to be afraid to talk and encourage others."*

*"I learnt that you have to be ready for anything."*

*"I loved planning a lesson because I was able to share my ideas."*

*"I am fantastic at laminating!"*

*"It was very stressful but it was an amazing experience."*



*"I learnt how to cope with pressure today."*

*"You feel good after completing each task."*

*"I enjoyed working as a team with other students and teachers."*

*"I want to be a Teaching Assistant when I'm older."*

*"I learnt what it is like to teach a class."*

*"My favourite task was helping Year 7s with their Maths."*

*"I disliked nothing... because everything was fun!"*

*"I learnt that patience is key."*

*"I wasn't just helping a teacher, I was also helping students to learn."*

*"I enjoyed all the tasks I was given because I enjoy interacting with younger people and I have always wanted to be a teacher."*

*"I think students should respect teachers more because they put hard work into lessons and planning."*

Mr J Ramsdale  
Assistant Headteacher



# Valedictory Dinner

## Valedictory Dinner 2017

**O**n the evening of Thursday 29th June it was time to say our goodbyes to our current Year 11 at their Valedictory Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Broughton.

As per tradition, the girls arrived in style in a variety of vehicles, ranging from a Ferrari to a motor home complete with chimpanzee passenger. This was a much-anticipated finale to their time at Penwortham Girls' and more than well-deserved following all their hard work.

They looked extremely glamorous, of course, and very grown-up and sophisticated as they carefully negotiated the red carpet, expertly pausing for photographs along the way. Staff and pupils then enjoyed a delicious 3 course meal, after which everyone danced the night away, stopping, of course, for more photos and the occasional visit to the chocolate fountain. A photographer from Lancashire Life magazine arrived to take a few snaps too and we are looking forward to seeing the article in the coming weeks.

They have been a fantastic Year 11 and we would like to wish them every success for the future. They now deserve a well-earned rest and we look forward to seeing them all on Results Day on August 24th.

Mrs Akers  
Year 11 RAC





# Valedictory Dinner



## SMART UK Collaborative Schools Programme

**A**s a school we are continually researching new and innovative ways to improve the learning experience of all our pupils, so that they enjoy lessons and make good progress.

Over the past year we have been providing CPD to all our teachers on the effective use of the Smart Notebook software. After a successful application and visits from Louise Haines (SMART Programme Manager), we are excited to have been accepted into the SMART UK Collaborative Schools Programme for 2017-2018.

### What does this mean for us?

Our IWB ambassadors for the school will become part of the SMART communities and will apply to become SEEs (SMART Exemplary Educators). They will be trained to the highest standards and lead on teaching and learning across the school, in the effective use of SMART for delivering lessons.

As part of the SMART UK Collaborative Schools Programme we will be sharing good practice with SMART solutions with other schools and will deliver training using our new training suite. We will also host termly visits for visitors to observe our staff teaching using the IWB.

Our pupil SMART Lead Learners are Poppy Jones and Emma Fielding. Our IWB Ambassadors are Mrs McGuire, Mrs McDermott, Mr Pye, Mrs Khan, Mr Quinlan, Miss Ibrahim and Miss Hasan.



## Fond farewells

Mr. Riley will be retiring this summer after a hugely successful teaching career in Lancashire and elsewhere. Mr Riley has taught an impressive range of subjects during his career, including Geography, Mathematics and Science. Although he has been with us for a relatively short time (3 years) he has had a massive impact on both the success of the Computing department and on the wider life of the school, especially as a superb photographer for so many of our events like Sports Day and the various concerts.

Mr. Riley will be replaced by Mrs. Joanne Smith, a highly-qualified Computing Teacher who will also be in charge of our Computing, Arts and Technology Faculty.

Finally, we will also be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs. Marie Staines, who will be retiring after an incredible 34 years at Penwortham Girls'. Under Mrs. Staines' leadership, the school's Art Department has enjoyed considerable success with an enviable track record of exceptional GCSE results. Art has long been one of the most popular option subjects and under her guidance our girls have produced stunning art work that now adorns every part of our school. Several of Mrs Staines' former pupils have gone on to forge successful careers in art-related fields and have spoken of her inspirational lessons.

Both Mrs. Staines and Mr. Riley will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike, and we wish them both very long, healthy and happy retirements.

Mrs Gemma Morris, an exceptionally well-qualified Art teacher will be joining the department full time in September as second in the Computing, Art and Technology Faculty.



## Penwortham Girls' High School

Cop Lane Penwortham Preston PR1 0SR

Telephone: 01772 743399 Fax: 01772 752475

Email: [enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk)