

# Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September  
2020



Penwortham Girls'  
High School

## Important Dates:



**1st October**  
**VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING**

**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October**  
**HALF TERM**

**19<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Year 11 Parents Evening**

**10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Year 9 Parent Evening**



## Virtual Visitors

In English, we love welcoming authors, actors and performers into school. Sadly, we've not been able to allow this for several months. However, we are determined that the current situation will not stop us sharing our love of books and all things literary.

Next week, we are beginning our programme of "Virtual Visitors". We are embracing new technologies so that we can meet local authors and even have question and answer sessions with them. Two Year 7 forms will be the first to sample this new approach when they get chance to meet Eve Hainsworth, a talented author who is showcased by UCLAN publishing (who also look after the New York Times bestselling author, AJ Hartley – a previous visitor whose novels are set in Preston).

Eve's books will be available to buy via Parentpay and we will arrange for signed copies to be collected in school. There are a range of different novels from this author, some of which are particularly suited to students with dyslexia, those who prefer shorter reads, and some novels for more confident readers with mature themes - we will indicate all this on Parentpay.

This is just the start! We are hoping to bring more virtual visitors into school for all year groups. Our plans include more author "visits", "performances" and "workshops" and it is our intention that all students in every year group will be given these opportunities.

*Mrs Woodhouse*

*Curriculum Leader for English*



National Teaching School  
designated by  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



National Support School  
designated by  
National College for  
Teaching & Leadership



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## Supporting Reading at Home

One of the most common requests the English Department receive at Parents' Evening is for advice on ways to encourage students to read at home. Sadly, students who were once avid readers become more engaged with new technologies once they reach high school and seem more interested in their mobile phones than their favourite authors! I'm not advocating removing the use of social media – it is a vital way of staying connected during the current situation – many authors have their own websites with games and further reading (JK Rowling's 'Pottermore' website is just one example).

However, research has proven time and time again that reading does not just support English, it also develops the skills of decoding that are vital for success in Science and Maths. This helpful chart provides a few ideas for simple ways parents can support their children.

In addition, the English Department provide reading recommendations each term. We have chosen these as they run alongside and support the term's scheme of work and key theme. These will be inside your daughter's English book.

### 7 Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures.

- 1** Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

- 2** Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

- 3** Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

- 4** Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

- 5** Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

- 6** Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

- 7** Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Education Endowment Foundation (2018)

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## Geography News



What a pleasure and a relief it is to be back at school and teaching face-to-face Geography lessons once again. Things are certainly different with Geography having to scale back our group tasks and practical work but on the bright side, Years 7 and 8 have an extra half hour of Geography each week – silver linings!

Year 7 start the year with a unit on what Geography is and some of the key skills required to be a good Geographer. There have been some excellent early homework tasks and students have been engaged and knowledgeable in lessons.

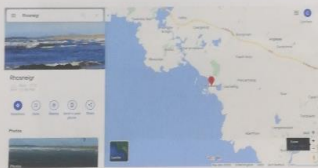
Year 8 has begun with a unit on river landscapes. This starts with the geographical processes and landforms, before moving onto flooding and river management. The level of detail being included in work and the standard of vocabulary have been impressive.

Year 9 is a year when we start to blend in some GCSE content and to raise the complexity of work. These students are investigating the spatial distribution of biomes around the world and how these are created by the shape and orbit of the planet. We will soon be looking more closely at tropical rainforests.

The GCSE students face a real challenge to maintain our usual high standards but great credit goes to both year groups for the work they have put in so far and the independent approach many are taking to their studies. Something I always mention at this time of year is The Year 7 'Moving On Up' work that many students completed over the summer holidays – this year the Great British Staycation saw more postcards and travel logs than ever! In total, there were 57 postcards from a wide range of locations; I really enjoyed receiving these! Thank you to everyone who took the time to write and send a postcard, and a particular mention for Mariella and Jessica, (both in 7S) who produced great travel logs for their trips to Anglesey and the canals of North Wales respectively.

### Where we stayed

We stayed in a holiday house not far from the beach in a little seaside village popular for surfers and dog walkers. We went for ice-cream everyday even though it wasn't warm. After a few days wandering down the beach, me, my brother and my dad decided we wanted some new wetsuit to have a splash in the sea. Rhosneigr is in Anglesey, North Wales.



Mariella (7S)



Jessica (7S)

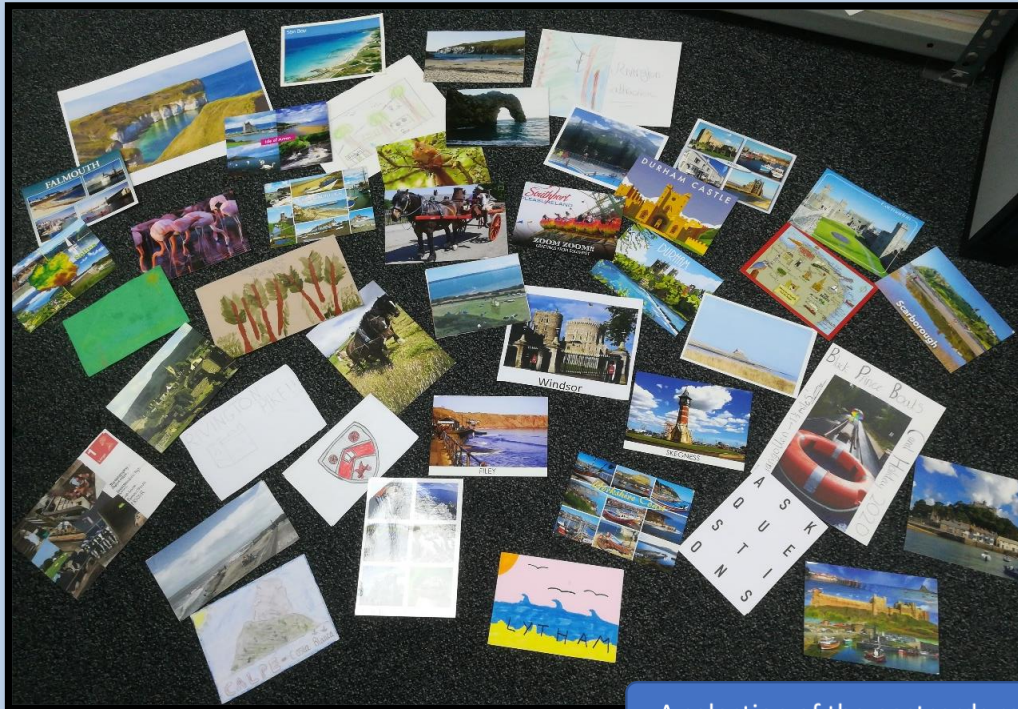


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A selection of the postcards received

*Mr Bowles, Curriculum Leader for Geography*



## Where's Earthy?



Earthy has had a Staycation too! Can you identify where in the UK he is? Be as specific as possible and email your answer (from your school account) to [g.bowles@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:g.bowles@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk).

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## PGHS Student Appearing on BBC IPlayer's 'Into the Wild'!

Look out for Shanzeh (Year 11) who will be appearing in 'Into the Wild – Mimi on a Mission Digital Detox', available on BBC IPlayer from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The episode shows city-loving Mimi and seven teens from across the UK who are about to swap their phones, social media, gaming and home luxuries to head to the wilds of the spectacular Scottish Highlands. They spend one week going back to basics, connecting with nature and taking part in a series of bracing outdoor activities.



## Macmillan Cake Sale

We held our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September for KS3 and Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> September for KS4. The kitchen staff in school made some amazing cupcakes, which went down a treat! Thank you to all the kitchen staff involved with this!

The event was an immense triumph and we would like to thank everyone who purchased one or donated for Macmillan Cancer Support. Watch this space for the final amount raised!

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## Head's Commendations

### Lojaina A (Year 8)

Head's Commendation awarded for fantastic linguistic skills and a fabulous start to German. You have mastered the past and present tense in German in your first ever lessons of German and your spoken skills and pronunciation are excellent. Well done on your fabulous efforts!

### Hanya A (Year 8)

Head's Commendation awarded for fantastic linguistic skills and a fabulous start to German. You have mastered the past and present tense in German in your first ever lessons of German and your spoken skills and pronunciation are excellent. Well done on your fabulous efforts!

### Elena L (Year 8)

Head's Commendation awarded in English. Elena used her initiative and challenged herself to write her own ending for a 'cliff-hanger story' that we read and work on in English. It was written beautifully, with reference to all the finer details read earlier on in the story. Not only did she write this all by herself, she was also brave enough to eventually stand at the front of her class/peers by herself and read the ending to them. Well done Elena - proud of you!

### Amy M (Year 7)

Head's Commendation awarded for excellent work completed over the summer in the 'Moving On Up' booklet. Great attitude to lessons.

### Esha C (Year 9)

Head's Commendation awarded for excellent attitude to completing work, even when home learning. The work was done to a great standard too!



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## Covid Response

Please note, our 'September 2020' webpage has now been re-named as 'Covid Response'. This can be found from the main navigation bar on our website. A tab within this page is 'useful home learning information'.



**If your child has:**  
**a high temperature**  
**a new, continuous cough, or**  
**a loss of, or change in, sense of**  
**smell or taste**

**This could be a sign of**  
**coronavirus**

**Book a test**

**If your child has:**  
**a runny nose, is sneezing or**  
**feeling unwell**  
**But they don't have:**  
**a high temperature**  
**a new, continuous cough, or**  
**a loss of, or change in,**  
**sense of smell or taste**

**These are**  
**not normally symptoms of**  
**coronavirus**

**Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial**  
**111 or see your GP**

Please visit our Attendance Policy Appendix on our school '**Covid Response**' webpage for Attendance information.

<http://www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk/september-2020-opening/6093207.html>

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**SCHOOL  
ADMISSIONS  
SECONDARY**

**SOUTH**

Do you have a child starting secondary school  
in September 2021 and living in Lancashire?

**APPLY NOW!**

**WWW.LANCASHIRE.GOV.UK/SCHOOLS**

or give us a call on 01772 532109

**CLOSING DATE: 31 OCTOBER 2020**

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

#### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

Between 1 October and 31 January schools are consulting with you to make sure admission arrangements meet future needs. To find out more please visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) and search 'School Admission Policies'.

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools)





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**PRESTON'S**  
COLLEGE

**THE BEST  
PERFORMING  
COLLEGE** IN CENTRAL  
LANCASHIRE

## OPEN EVENTS

### DATES & TIMES

Wednesday 7th October 2020 (Virtual)  
4.00pm – 7.00pm



Thursday 8th October 2020 (Virtual)  
4.00pm – 7.00pm

Saturday 7th November 2020  
10.00am – 2.00pm

Thursday 28th January 2021  
4.00pm – 7.00pm

Wednesday 24th March 2021  
4.00pm – 7.00pm

**APPLY NOW**  
[preston.ac.uk/apply](https://preston.ac.uk/apply)

  [prestoncollege](https://www.instagram.com/prestoncollege)

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## Attention all parents!



## ParentMail Have you registered?

It's an easy, convenient way to  
receive school messages.

### You can:

- ✓ Receive messages on your computer, tablet or mobile
- ✓ See all your messages in one handy, uncluttered feed
- ✓ Link to other schools or clubs that also use ParentMail
- ✓ Keep up to date with your school calendar
- ✓ Authorise trips or permissions online



### Registering is really easy...

Ask your school office to send you a registration message



## Attention all parents!

### Download the ParentMail App for the best way to pick up school messages

FREE  
DOWNLOAD



"Nice simple little App but such a great, effective way of accessing important school information"



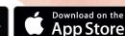
"Great communications tool - makes life a bit more organised"



"Brilliant! I don't have to go back to all my emails to check up what's going on at my children's school, 10 out of 10"



Search "ParentMail" in your App store...



ParentMail



Please note: If you are not already registered, you will need to register online on the ParentMail website before trying to access the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message.

Follow us on twitter  
for regular school  
news and updates. @  
<https://twitter.com/PenworthamGH>



## Virtual Open Evening

We will be holding a virtual open evening for prospective parents and pupils on **Thursday 1st October from 6pm**. Whilst we're unable to meet face to face, we hope parents and pupils will enjoy our 'Virtual Open Evening' experience.

Prospective parents and pupils can visit our school website for the virtual open evening and this information will stay live throughout October. Parents and pupils can watch our curriculum films to meet the staff and will be able to get in touch with the school by email to ask any questions that they may have regarding our school and the admission process.  
<https://penworthamgirls.theschooltour.co.uk/>

## Breaktime service



Break-time service will  
resume on **Monday  
21<sup>st</sup> September** with  
one year group per key  
stage, each day.

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## New Work Experience Opportunities

An excellent opportunity to advertise to students in Years 10 and 11



## New Work Experience Opportunities

Ages 12 to 18

Autumn Internships

8 New Industries

For further details please visit the website using the link below:

<https://mailchi.mp/investineducation/7mwpbvydmd-996567?e=cf07ad3cc3>



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Supporting world class treatment,  
research and outstanding care  
Reg. Charity No. 1051294



Lancashire Teaching  
Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Virtual Rainbow Run 2020!**



Supporting world class treatment,  
research and outstanding care



**Get your rainbow colours on and run, walk,  
cycle or scoot in support of our hospital  
charity, any day & distance between**

**Monday 5th and Sunday 25th October!**

Whether it be a 1k Rainbow Toddle for families with young children to  
a full marathon, the distance is completely up to you, so you can set  
your own personal challenge!

For more information and to sign up visit:

**[www.lthcharity.org.uk](http://www.lthcharity.org.uk)**

Or call us on: **01772 528500**

f t in @LancHospCharity  
[www.lthcharity.org.uk](http://www.lthcharity.org.uk)