Penwortham Post

Summer 2026

Penwortham Girls' High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our school community and thank you for your continued support.

This year has been defined by ambition, resilience and a commitment to high standards. Our students have embraced opportunities both inside and beyond the classroom, showing enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude towards both their academic learning and personal growth. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work, but also the continued support of our dedicated staff and families.

We finished the year with a fantastic production of Frozen. It was wonderful to see so many students involved, both on stage and behind the scenes, and their confidence, teamwork and talent shone throughout. It was a fitting way to celebrate another successful year together.

We are proud of the many successes and opportunities this year has brought. We achieved the Careers Quality Mark, recognising the strength of our careers provision and the support we provide to help students plan for their futures. We were also delighted to become the first secondary school in Lancashire to be reaccredited across all of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Marks, reflecting our commitment to ensuring every girl feels valued, respected and empowered to fulfil her aspirations.

Throughout the year, students have enjoyed a wide range of experiences, including the Year 10 History trip to Saltaire, the Year 7 PGL residential and our exciting expedition to Costa Rica. These opportunities have developed confidence, teamwork and resilience while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

We are also proud of our students' commitment to supporting others. Their work with Galloway's society for the blind, alongside fundraising initiatives supported by Tesco, has helped raise awareness and foster compassion and social responsibility within our school community.

Earlier this year, I shared our plans for the new school building. Preparations continue to progress well and we will keep you informed as we move closer to the transition. While our surroundings may change, our commitment to our values, high expectations and supportive community will remain constant.

On behalf of all our staff and governors, I would like to wish you and your families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We look forward to welcoming students back in September and continuing our journey towards an exciting new chapter for Penwortham Girls' High School.

Mrs Sharon Hall, Headteacher

Year 11 Valedictory Dinner

continued overleaf...

Year 11 Valedictory Dinner

On Wednesday 1st July, the Class of 2026 marked the end of their time at Penwortham Girls' with their Valedictory Dinner.

It was a fabulous evening celebrating their end of their time at PGHS and of course, the end of their GCSE exams.

Prom offers a great opportunity for the girls to get dressed up, but the most important thing about the night was the opportunity to spend time as a year group before embarking on the next stage in their journeys.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the event. The dance floor was full and the 'selfie mirror' was a hit, supplying mementos of the evening.

We look forward to seeing them all again on results day.

Mrs Hope, Head of Year 11

PGHS News

Year 7 Trip to PGL Winmarleigh Hall

Sixty excited Year 7 students enjoyed an unforgettable weekend at PGL Winmarleigh Hall from 3rd – 5th July, taking part in a wide range of adventurous activities designed to build confidence, resilience and friendships.

After arriving on Friday, students quickly settled into their accommodation before coming together for a fantastic silent disco. The evening was full of laughter, energy and enthusiasm, providing the perfect start to the weekend and helping students to socialise with classmates in a fun and relaxed environment.

Saturday was packed with challenges and adventure. Throughout the day, students rotated through activities including canoeing, archery, archery tag, climbing, the giant swing, survivor challenges and disc golf. Whether paddling across the water, aiming for the bullseye, scaling climbing walls or stepping off the giant swing, students showed tremendous courage and determination. Many challenged themselves to try something completely new and were rewarded with a real sense of achievement.

The evening concluded with PGL Games, where teamwork, communication and friendly competition were on full display.

The adventure continued on Sunday, with groups completing a final selection of activities before departure.

Throughout the weekend, staff were incredibly proud of the students. They demonstrated excellent behaviour, supported one another during challenges and represented the school exceptionally well. It was wonderful to see new friendships develop and existing ones strengthened as students worked together, encouraged each other and celebrated individual successes.

A huge thank you goes to the staff who gave up their weekend to accompany the trip and to the parents and carers for their support. Most importantly, congratulations to our Year 7 students for embracing every experience with positivity, enthusiasm and determination. The PGL weekend was a tremendous success and one that we are sure will create lasting memories for years to come.

Mrs Phillips, Trip Lead

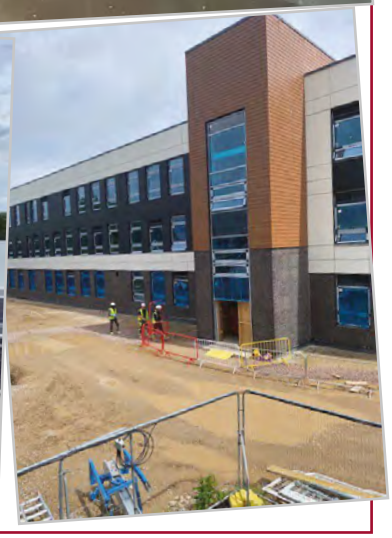
New School Build Update

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, we are delighted to share a selection of photographs showcasing the fantastic progress being made on our new school building during the Summer Term.

It has been exciting to watch the development take shape week by week, and these images highlight just how far the project has come.

We know that our whole school community is looking forward to this exciting new chapter. We can't wait to welcome students, staff and visitors into our new home and continue creating opportunities for excellence in an inspiring learning environment.

We hope you enjoy browsing the photographs and sharing in the excitement as we count down to our move in January 2027!



Art & Photography

Art Department News

The Art Department has had a fantastic term, with students producing an impressive range of creative and imaginative work across all year groups.

Year 7 students have created these gorgeous, intricately painted insects housed within matchboxes, inspired by the work of artist **Kate Kato**. They explored collage techniques using text and paper, before adding watercolours and detailed paint pen embellishments to bring their miniature creations to life.

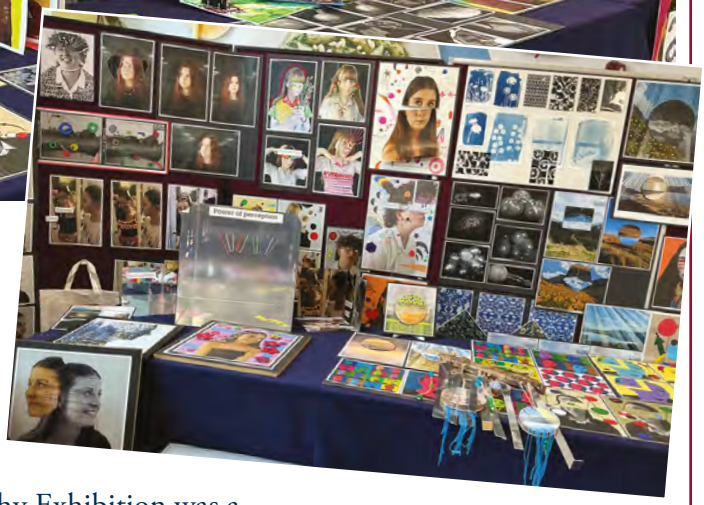
Year 8 students have been developing their ceramic skills by creating delightful pinch-pot cakes. Taking inspiration from the work of **Wayne Thiebaud** and **Joel Penkman**, students carefully sculpted, painted and decorated their designs, resulting in a collection of colourful and realistic, sweet treats.

Year 9 students have produced these beautiful textured dragon eyes from clay. Using a variety of techniques to create depth and surface detail, they combined imaginative design with strong technical skills to produce striking and unique ceramic pieces.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the **GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition**. The exhibition showcased the culmination of two years of dedication, creativity, and hard work from our talented students. Visitors were treated to an outstanding display of artwork and photography, demonstrating exceptional skill, originality and personal expression. The quality of the work on display was truly jaw-dropping, and the exhibition was a fitting celebration of our students' achievements.

We are incredibly proud of all our students and look forward to seeing their creativity continue to flourish in the year ahead.

Mrs Mitchell, Head of Art, Photography & Design & Technology



GCSE Art & Photography Exhibition Summer 2026

The GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition was a tremendous success, showcasing the exceptional creativity, dedication and talent of our students. Visitors were greeted by an inspiring display of artwork and photographic pieces that reflected months of hard work, experimentation and personal expression. The standard of work on display was truly outstanding, demonstrating the high level of skill and commitment our students have developed throughout their courses.

The preview evening, held on Monday 6th July, was extremely well attended, with many staff, students, parents and Governors coming along to celebrate the achievements of our young artists and photographers. The exhibition created a wonderful atmosphere, with visitors taking time to admire the impressive range of work and discuss the creative journeys behind each piece. It was fantastic to see so many members of the school community supporting and recognising the achievements of our students.

One of the most striking aspects of the exhibition was the sheer volume of work on display. The amount of artwork and photography produced by students was astounding, highlighting the dedication and perseverance shown throughout their GCSE studies. The Art Department is incredibly proud of every student who contributed to the exhibition and grateful to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a memorable celebration of creativity and success.

Mrs Gerrard, Art Department

Technology

Design Technology

On Friday 26th June, our Year 9 Design and Technology Club students attended the finals and celebration event of the competition they entered earlier this year.

The competition, ***Engineering Design Challenge Project in School***, is part of the BAE #Inspiring Lancashire Programme—a unique 3D printing STEM initiative that has involved over 3,000 students across 52 schools in Lancashire.
As part of the challenge, students were tasked with planning, designing, making, and presenting a product aimed at contributing to a more sustainable society and addressing climate change.

We are especially proud to announce that the group received the award for 'best prototype'.
The celebration, hosted by BAE, brought together finalists from a number of schools and included a tour of the BAE Systems facility.

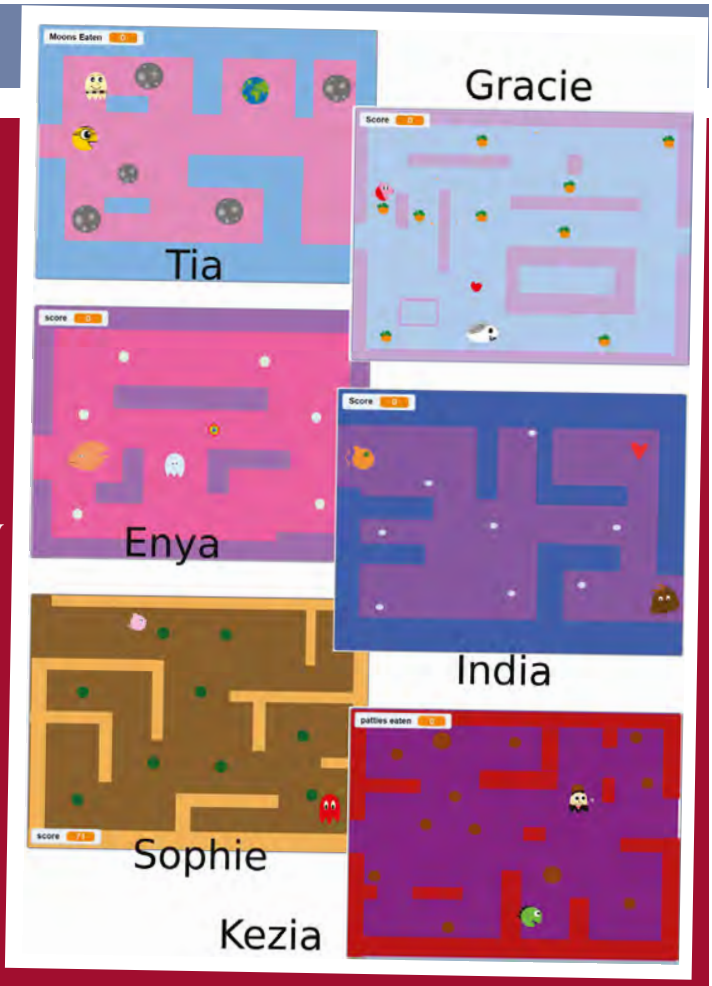
We would like to congratulate our students on their determination, curiosity and resilience throughout the competition. They are now able to look forward to mentoring future groups for the competition when they will be able to share their expertise.

Mrs M Moss, Curriculum Co-ordinator for Design Technology

Computing

Year 7 Students Bring Programming to Life with Scratch Pacgirl Projects

Our Year 7 Computer Science students have been showcasing their creativity and programming skills by designing and developing their own versions of Pacgirl using Scratch.g



Throughout this project, students have explored the fundamental programming constructs of sequence, selection and iteration. They learned how instructions must be carried out in the correct order (sequence), how decisions can be made within a program (selection), and how actions can be repeated efficiently using loops (iteration). These key concepts form the foundations of computer programming and have enabled students to create engaging and interactive games.

In addition to these programming skills, students learned about variables—what they are, why they are used, and how they can store data within a program. Using variables, students were able to create scoring systems that kept track of points earned as players navigated their Pacgirl games.

What was particularly impressive is the level of creativity demonstrated by the students. Rather than simply following a template, many students developed their own unique interpretations of the game. They designed original characters, customised ghosts and obstacles and created eye-catching backgrounds to enhance the gameplay experience.

Students also developed their digital design skills by creating their own vector graphics for sprites, ghosts and game environments. The variety of ideas on display has been outstanding, with each game reflecting the personality and imagination of its creator. From colourful fantasy worlds to futuristic mazes, the range of designs has been remarkable.

This project has been a fantastic opportunity for students to combine computational thinking, problem-solving and creativity. The quality of work produced has been extremely impressive, and students should be proud of how confidently they have applied their newly acquired programming knowledge.

Well done to all the Year 7 programmers for their enthusiasm, perseverance and imagination.

Ms Platten, Head of Computing

Computing

Year 8 Students Develop Their Python Programming Skills

Our Year 8 Computing students have taken the next step in their programming journey by learning how to code using Python, one of the world's most widely used programming languages.

Building on the key programming concepts introduced previously, students have applied the fundamental constructs of sequence, selection and iteration to create a range of exciting programs. Through hands-on projects, they have developed their understanding of how programs work while strengthening their problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

During the unit, students programmed a variety of applications, including a dice game, a pet age calculator and an interactive quiz. These projects challenged students to think logically, plan algorithms and write code that responds to user input.

Students also expanded their knowledge of iteration by learning how to use 'while loops' and 'for loops'. They discovered how loops can be used to automate repetitive tasks, making programs more efficient and powerful.

One of the highlights of the unit was a debugging challenge involving a sabotaged Friendship Calculator. Students were tasked with identifying and correcting a range of syntax errors and logic errors within the code. This activity helped them develop an essential skill used by all programmers: debugging. They demonstrated great resilience and attention to detail as they worked systematically to find and fix each issue.

The progress made by Year 8 students has been outstanding. They have shown confidence in applying new programming techniques, a willingness to tackle challenging problems and an excellent understanding of how to test and improve their code. Their ability to identify errors, think critically and develop solutions has been particularly impressive.

We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm and determination shown throughout the unit. Year 8 have excelled in developing their coding skills and have laid a strong foundation for more advanced programming projects in Year 9.

Ms Platten, Head of Computing

```
import random
compliments = ["you are super", "you are incredible", "you are kind"]
more_compliments = "y"
while more_compliments == "y":
    print (random.choice(compliments))
    more_compliments = input ("do you want another compliment?")
```

```
#integer
human_age = 0
pet_age = int(input("How old is your pet?"))
#the * means times
#orange
#63
if pet_age >2:
    human_age = pet_age*7
    print (human_age)
else:
    print (pet_age)
# you have to use elif
```

```
play_again = "y"

while play_again == "y":


    Score = 0
    question_one = "What year did Stray Kids debut"
    answer_one = "A - 2017"
    answer_two = "B - 2018"
    answer_three = "C - 2019"

    print(question_one + "\n" + answer_one + "\n" + answer_two + "\n" + answer_three + "\n")
    users_answer = input("Answer :").lower()
    #the function .lower() will change any input into lowercase

    if users_answer == "a" :
        print ("incorrect! the correct answer is 2018")
    elif users_answer == "b" :
        print ("correct answer!")
        Score = Score + 1
    elif users_answer == "c" :
        print ("incorrect! the correct answer is 2018")
    else :
        print ("invalid input")

    print ("SCORE=", Score)
```

Computing

Year 9 Explore Digital Safety and Digital Media

Year 9 students have enjoyed a varied and engaging Computing curriculum this term, combining important lessons about online safety with creative digital media skills.

The term began with a focus on digital wellbeing and the importance of maintaining good mental health when using social media. Students discussed the positive and negative impacts that online platforms can have and explored practical strategies for ensuring that their online experiences remain safe, balanced and healthy.

As part of this learning, students were educated about online risks, including sextortion, and how to recognise warning signs and seek help if they ever feel concerned. A key message throughout the unit was that students should never deal with worries alone. They learned about the support available from trusted adults, CEOP, Childline and the wide range of safeguarding support available within school. Students were reminded that they can speak to their Form Tutor, Head of Year, use the Impero Confide button, or approach any member of staff if they have concerns about themselves or others.

Following their work on online safety, students moved on to studying how computers represent different types of media. They explored how sound and bitmap images are stored digitally and developed an understanding of how images are made up of individual pixels. Through practical investigations, students created and manipulated bitmap images to observe how image quality changes as pictures become pixelated.

Students then progressed to creating professional-looking vector graphics using Photopea. They learned how vector graphics differ from bitmap images and discovered why vectors can be scaled without losing quality. Using industry-style design tools, students developed their skills with the Pen Tool, worked confidently with layers, and applied colour effectively to create their own high-quality designs.

The creativity displayed throughout this unit has been exceptional. Students used their new skills to create eye-catching graphic designs, including photo cut-outs and striking glowing text effects. Their work demonstrated both technical understanding and artistic flair, producing some truly impressive results.

Ms Platten, Head of Computing

Practising using the pen tool

The Library is Open for Borrowing Again!

Reading Cloud is a library platform used by thousands of schools and after scanning in all our existing fiction books, we're delighted to finally open it up to students.

The system allows for careful record keeping and smooth management of the library. Not only does it help us monitor borrowing and returns, it also gives students the ability to renew and reserve books, write reviews, explore the library online and discover what others are reading.

Only 12% of secondary school students read outside of school. While girls are more likely to continue reading for pleasure, there is still a sharp drop from KS3 to KS4. A lack of exposure to words and ideas can leave some young people struggling to access the world around them. Beyond academic success, reading offers calm, reflective moments and new perspectives — real benefits that enrich our lives.

The launch of Reading Cloud is a fantastic opportunity to encourage students to read more for the pleasure of it, not just because teachers or parents tell them to. We want to see more students picking up books during quiet moments in the day — in form time, at breaks and at lunch — whatever they choose to read.

Our team of librarians is on hand to help students navigate the new system, support library use and champion reading across the school. The library cards issued to students, while not necessary to borrow books, is a nice way for them to feel included in the library space, offering a reward for frequent borrowing and hopefully a transition into using library services in the local area.

With the new build providing a dedicated library space, there are even more exciting developments on the horizon. For those who still feel reluctant to read, we firmly believe it's just a matter of finding the right book.

"The course of true love never did run smooth"

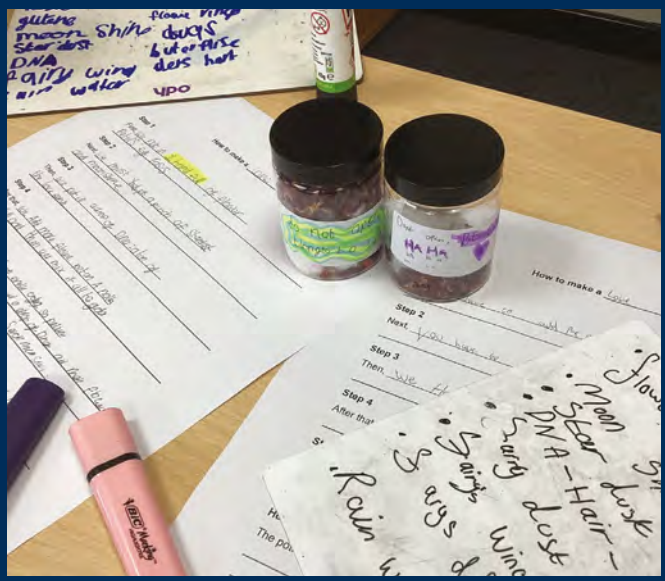
Some of our Year 7 students recently stepped into the magical and mischievous world of Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and had an enchanting time!

Inspired by the character Puck and the famous love-in-idleness flower—a wild violet struck by Cupid's arrow—students explored the ideas of love, chaos, and magic. In the play, the flower's magical properties cause anyone who is touched by it while asleep to fall instantly in love with the first creature they see upon waking, often with hilarious consequences!

Taking this wonderfully whimsical idea, students were challenged to invent their own love potions. Their creativity truly sparkled as they dreamed up magical ingredients such as stardust, fairy wings, bottled moonshine, crushed rose petals and even whispered wishes caught in jars. Each student carefully crafted and wrote their own potion recipes, considering not only the ingredients but also the spellbinding effects their mixtures might have.

Room 6 was filled with imagination, laughter and a touch of Shakespearean mischief, as students embraced both the language and themes of the play. Through this activity, they developed their writing skills while engaging their imaginations.

Who knows? If Puck himself had fluttered through our classroom, he might have picked up a few new tricks!



Mrs Snowdon, Curriculum Leader for English

Shakespeare Comes to Life in Year 7

This half term, our Year 7 students have been stepping back in time to explore the exciting world of William Shakespeare. For many students, The Tempest introduced them to magical islands, shipwrecks, mischievous spirits and unforgettable characters and they certainly rose to the challenge of bringing the play to life!

As part of their home learning project, students were given a range of creative tasks to choose from. Some budding architects carefully reconstructed Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, while aspiring fashion designers created stunning costumes for the play's characters. Others imagined what The Tempest would look like in the modern world, developing imaginative adaptations and creative reinterpretations of Shakespeare's famous story.

We have been blown away by the quality of the work produced. From detailed models and colourful designs to innovative presentations and thoughtful modern-day versions of the play, the creativity on display has been incredible. The effort, enthusiasm and imagination shown by our Year 7 students have been a pleasure to see.

Studying Shakespeare can seem daunting at first, but this project has shown just how engaging, relevant and enjoyable his work can be. It has been wonderful to see students embracing the challenge, thinking creatively and developing a deeper understanding of the play in such unique ways.

A huge well done to all of our Year 7 students for their fantastic contributions. Who knows? Among our classes, we may have discovered some future actors, theatre designers, directors and playwrights!

All the world's a stage and Year 7 have certainly stolen the show!

Miss Bullon, Teacher of English

English Department News

Cambridge University - Trinity College: The Litmus Project

How do we know what is real in a world shaped by artificial intelligence, social media and endless information?

This was the question our students explored as part of this year's Litmus Creative Writing Project, delivered in partnership with Trinity College, University of Cambridge.

Responding to the thought-provoking theme, "Are You For Real?", our students produced a range of creative and insightful pieces that challenged readers to think differently about the world around them.

Drawing inspiration from texts and films such as Black Mirror, The Truman Show and Pixar's WALL-E, students explored topics including the rise of artificial intelligence, unrealistic beauty standards on social media, and world events that have shocked and influenced their generation. These ideas acted as a springboard for even more imaginative responses, with students taking the theme in a variety of original and unexpected directions.

We are delighted that a number of our students have had their work published on the Litmus website. To have their writing recognised through a project linked to Trinity College, Cambridge is a fantastic achievement and highlights the creativity, talent and thoughtfulness of our young writers.

Congratulations to all students who took part, and a special well done to those whose work has been published. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they have used their voices to engage with such an important and relevant theme.

Miss Bullon, Assistant Curriculum Leader for English

Fake faces Fake bodies Fake stories Fake hobbies
People start to head to lobbies
Of places ready to "fix" their bodies
New noses, new lips
New shoulders and new hips
You change everything possible until you are left with a plastic doll
No marks, no wrinkles, no sign of life
All is changed by just 1 like

Are you for real?
Ridiculous posts changes the way people look at me,
Everyday I regret that thoughtless thing,

Yikes I messed up there look at my screen - the bleeding red is swallowing up the green,
Oh my gosh it has just hit me I might be sent away and that I am not keen,
Underneath the water is what I feel like unable to breath as no one seems brave enough to back me,

Fine! I made a mistake everyone does it no need to make me feel astray,
Over and over quiet whispers slice the air, cutting me down every single day,
Really? An edit on a video. You honestly believe,

Restricted to where I can go makes me look like I'm the one being mean,
Even though people know I only made a mistake they still don't have the courage to vote me green,
Actually I am done with this I am going to put my foot down even thought I am only a teen
Leave me alone is all I want to scream

I woke to a profound silence. It was thick and heavy, lingering in the air like a held breath. No sound, no life, no feeling. Throwing back the covers, I called out, but my voice was instantly swallowed by the quiet. A sudden panic rising, I ran from room to room in a frantic search for my brother, utterly perplexed by the eerie atmosphere that had grasped the day. The silence was deafening. Needing to escape the suffocating walls, I threw open the front door and stepped outside with bare feet. I fully expected to feel the cool, damp grass and see the familiar blue skies that usually defined a normal morning in Meadowbrook. Instead, the sight that met my eyes was completely unrecognizable.

Suffocating black smoke filled the air; blocking my airways and causing me to cough. Destroyed cars lay on the road carrying dead corpses which no one could revive. No signs of life were anywhere to be seen with the thriving nature of the setting being completely diminished by soot, fire and darkness. Pitch black. The kind of black that makes you wonder if daytime could ever come again. The kind of black that blanketed the whole atmosphere with no specks of light to be seen whatsoever. It was 9 am. Light was supposed to be flooding the streets conveying happiness and love. Instead, the life in Meadowbrook had gone... completely gone.

Geography News

Year 9 Volcano Models Project – Prize Winners

Another bumper year for models with the Humanities corridor rammed full of amazing entries. Staff were asked for their top pick, a runner up and couple of highly commended entries.

We have also handed out innovation awards this year for those models that showed us some new and different.

The results are as follows.

Highly Commended:

- **Lara M**
- **Amana E**
- **Ebony C, Ivy G & Sadie D**
- **Helena G**
- **Julia K & Abbie M**
- **Samara B**
- **Ava M & Jemima T**

Innovation Awards

- **Erin H & Izzy E**
- **Heidi A, Sophie B & Alice T**
- **Delilah M, Evie S & Evelyn B**

Staff picks

Mrs Hall – Alisia J & Jayaani S

Mr Bowles – Lesley Y & Olivia B, Emily H & Bella P

Mr Ward – Amelia N, Sahlah V & Alara W

Mr Claydon – Tallulah H, Grace D

Mr Bowles, Curriculum Leader for Geography

Geography Department News

Lancashire Sustainability Learning Conference

Back in June, members of the Geography Club were invited back to attend the Schools Sustainability Conference at Ewood Park in Blackburn.

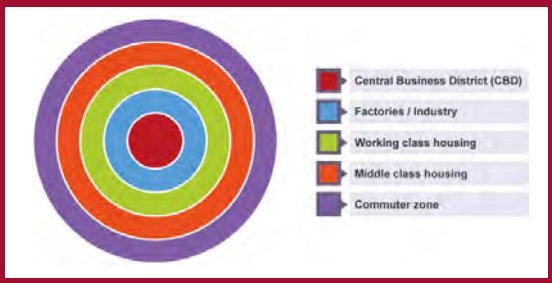
It was a great experience to meet so many companies and organisations working in the field of sustainability and the students were inspired by the people they met and heard. We entered one team of six into the Fashion Production Line competition during the morning session of the event and two teams into the Year 9 STEM Challenge. Sahlah in Year 9 won a prize in the STEM challenge while the Year 7 and 8 team won the production line challenge outright.

What was the biggest bonus of the day? The actual money they won and the numerous freebies the students collected form the exhibitors; the cuddly octopuses were a big hit!

Thanks to Glynis Goldsborough and her team for hosting, Lorimer Russell-Hayes (PGHS Chair of Governors) for her support on the day and to Miss Lindsay for accompanying us. We have already signed up for next year!

Mr Bowles, Curriculum Leader for Geography

Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork



Year 10 GCSE Geographers assembled on Fishergate at 9:15am on Monday 22nd June, many with Starbucks in hand, ready to test if Preston follows the Burgess Model of Urban Land Use.

This involved moving outwards from the city centre to the edge of Preston to perform various tests to collect data and try to ascertain if the buildings, traffic and environment quality changed as hypothesised.

The students were excellent, really throwing themselves into the investigation and hopefully building clear memories of the process. The findings of the day will be tested on the students' Paper 3 exam next summer and this is always a real strength for Penwortham Girls'; the attitude and commitment shown by these students on the days suggest next year will be no different.

Summer postcards

The department loves hearing about your travel, near and far.

Please send a postcard to us at the school address to share your expereinces from whichever interesting places you visit this summer.

Geography @ PGHS

Mr Bowles

Year 10 Historians Explore 19th Century Industrial Britain at Saltaire

On Monday 6th July, our Year 10 historians enjoyed a fascinating visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire as part of their GCSE study of 19th century industrialisation.

The day began with an engaging workshop at Hoyle Court, where students analysed primary sources to investigate the impact of the Industrial Revolution, exploring issues such as overcrowding, poor sanitation and pollution. Students then visited Saltaire to see first-hand how Sir Titus Salt's model village was designed to improve living conditions through better housing, clean water and excellent community facilities.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to bring classroom learning to life, helping students deepen their understanding of the challenges and developments of industrial Britain. Our students were a credit to the school throughout the day, demonstrating exemplary behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and represented Penwortham Girls' High School with pride.

Mr Herbert, Curriculum Leader for History

Online Learning Update

We have some new and exciting changes to our online maths learning provision from next academic year.

Change of Platform

We will no longer be subscribing to Sparx Maths. Instead, we have invested in two new online platforms:

- **Times Table Rock Stars (TT Rockstars)**
- **MathsWatch**

These platforms will provide a broad range of activities, including skills practice, homework, revision and targeted support following assessments.

Homework Expectations

Homework will continue to be set weekly:

- **KS3:** 30 minutes
- **KS4:** 45 minutes

Homework at KS3 will include a combination of:

- TT Rockstars (for fluency in times tables)
- MathsWatch assignments
- Teacher-set tasks, including revision for **Knowledge Checks** and **Learning Reviews**

How MathsWatch Will Be Used

MathsWatch will play a central role in both homework and class follow-up learning.

After Assessments (Knowledge Checks)

Students will be set targeted MathsWatch tasks to address gaps in their understanding. These tasks will include:

1. **Watching a teacher-assigned video** explaining the topic
2. **Taking notes** on the method shown
3. Completing:
   - **5 standard questions**
   - **5 more challenging questions**

This approach supports students in revisiting key skills and building confidence step by step.

What is MathsWatch?

MathsWatch is an online platform that provides:

- Video tutorials that explain topics clearly
- Interactive, exam-style questions with **instant feedback**
- Homework and test assignments set by teachers
- Opportunities for independent practice and revision

Students can log in to view their assigned work, track their progress, and receive feedback from their teacher.

Additional Benefits

- Videos can be rewatched for revision
- Questions include hints and step-by-step support
- Students can attempt homework multiple times before the deadline
- Instant marking helps students identify and correct mistakes quickly

Support for Independent Learning

MathsWatch also allows students to:

- Practise extra questions independently
- Identify strengths and areas for improvement
- Work towards mastering topics through repeated practice and feedback

We encourage students to use this platform regularly beyond homework to support their learning.

KS4 Additional Provision

In addition to MathsWatch, KS4 students will continue to have access to **Method Maths**, which allows them to:

- Complete past exam papers (Edexcel)
- Practise exam techniques in preparation for GCSEs

How Parents and Carers Can Support

You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to complete homework on time
- Asking them to show you the videos they are working on
- Checking they are attempting both standard and challenge questions
- Promoting regular independent practice on MathsWatch and TT Rockstars

We are very excited about these changes and believe they will provide students with a more effective and engaging way to learn mathematics.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maths Department.

Kind regards, The Maths Team

Maths Inclusion Update:

Supporting Every Child to Succeed in Secondary Maths

In our Maths department, we want every student to feel confident, supported and able to make strong progress. We know that students learn in different ways, so we plan our lessons carefully to ensure they are accessible for all learners.

How We Make Maths Accessible for All Learners:

We use a range of inclusive strategies to help students understand and enjoy maths:

- **Small step planning:** Learning is broken into manageable chunks to reduce cognitive overload and build confidence.
- **Adaptive teaching:** Lessons are adjusted so every pupil can access the same curriculum at the right level of challenge.
- **Strategic seating:** Some students sit closer to the board or teacher to support focus.
- **Visual accessibility:** We use coloured overlays on PowerPoints or print worksheets on coloured paper for students who benefit from reduced visual stress.
- **Concrete and visual models:** Tools such as algebra tiles, counters and bar models help students understand abstract ideas.
- **Effective TA support:** Teaching Assistants provide planned targeted support that encourages independence.

Building Fluency, Reasoning & Problem Solving

We want students to become confident mathematicians who can think, reason and apply their knowledge. To support this, we use:

- **Task variation:** Carefully designed tasks help students spot patterns, deepen understanding and improve fluency.
- **Starter booklets:** Every lesson begins with short recall tasks to strengthen key foundation skills, conditional knowledge and problem solving and reasoning tasks.
- **A/B paired tasks:** Students work in pairs on linked questions to encourage discussion, reasoning and shared problem solving.
- **Mini whiteboards:** Teachers check understanding in real time and give instant feedback through live marking.

Interleaved Gaming Activities to Boost Engagement

To make maths enjoyable and to strengthen long term recall, we use interleaved gaming style activities throughout the year. These help students practise key skills in a fun, low pressure way while improving fluency and confidence.

Examples include:

- **TT Rockstars battles:** Class vs class competitions to build rapid recall of multiplication facts.
- **NumBots challenges:** Engaging number sense games for students who need extra support.
- **Interactive quiz games:** Short, mixed topic quizzes that help students revisit previous learning.
- **Timed problem solving rounds:** Encourages teamwork, reasoning and resilience.

These activities increase motivation, build confidence and help students retain knowledge over time.

How We Build Confidence in Speaking & Thinking in Maths:

We want every pupil to feel confident sharing ideas, even if they are unsure. To support this:

- **No hands up questioning:** Instead of relying on volunteers, teachers choose students to answer so everyone stays engaged.
- **Think–pair–share:** Students always get time to think individually, then discuss with a partner, before being asked to share with the class.
- **Cold calling:** After think–pair–share, teachers select students to answer, ensuring everyone has had time to prepare.

This approach builds confidence, improves reasoning and ensures every voice is valued.

Homework and Follow-up tasks:

Some students benefit from additional practice or structured intervention. We offer:

- **TT Rockstars:** Builds quick recall of multiplication facts.
- **NumBots:** Strengthens number sense for students who need extra support.
- **MathsWatch:** Provides video explanations, practice questions, and personalised tasks for KS3 and KS4.
- **MethodMaths:** Provides additional practice at GCSE style questions and past papers
- **Numeracy intervention** - Small group or 1:1 sessions to help students catch up and close gaps.

Our Commitment: No Student Left Behind!

We are proud of our department mantra:

"We are a team, and no student is left behind."

This belief guides everything we do. By planning in small steps, reducing cognitive overload, offering targeted support, and providing high quality teaching, we ensure every student feels capable, supported and confident in maths.

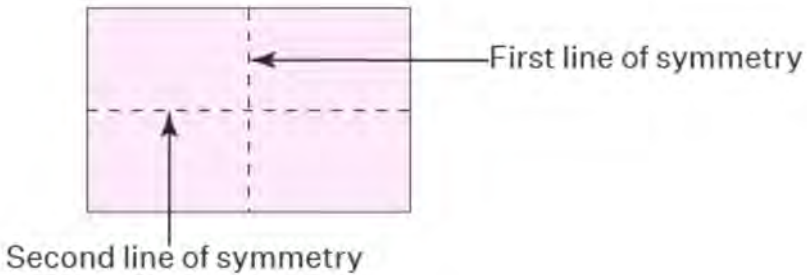
Mrs Bennett, Maths Department

Y7 Folding, Investigating and Having Fun with Symmetry

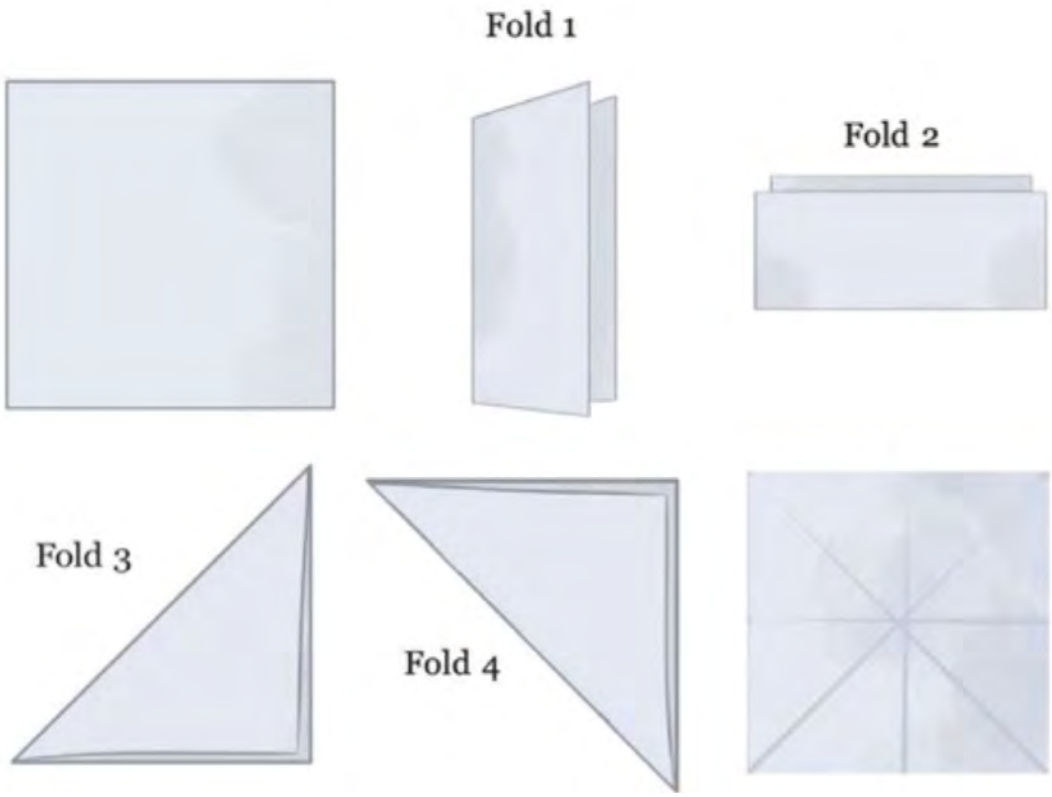
This term, Year 7 pupils have been exploring transformations, beginning with a closer look at lines of symmetry in two-dimensional shapes.

A quick pre-test revealed that some pupils were unsure how many lines of symmetry could be found in familiar quadrilaterals, particularly squares, rectangles and parallelograms. To investigate this, we used a simple but effective method: paper folding.

By folding paper rectangles, pupils were able to see that a rectangle has two lines of symmetry. Although it may look as though the diagonals could also be lines of symmetry, folding along a diagonal showed that the two halves do not match exactly.

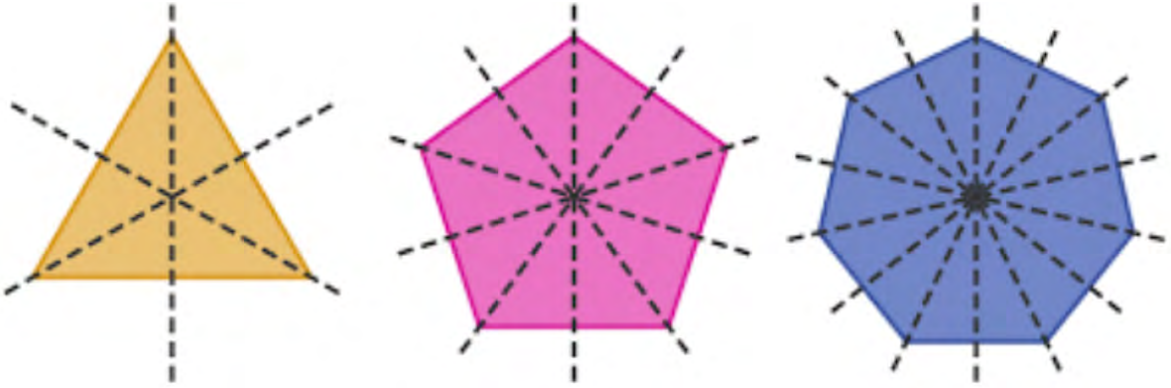


In contrast, a square could be folded equally in four different ways, confirming that it has four lines of symmetry.



Maths Department News

Using SMART software, we then investigated a range of other regular polygons. Pupils spotted an important pattern and were able to generalise that, for a regular polygon, the number of lines of symmetry is the same as the number of sides. We also explored parallelograms and discovered that they have no lines of symmetry.



To finish the lesson, pupils made paper chatterboxes and filled each section with symmetry questions to test one another's recall. A few maths jokes were added too — just for a laugh!

Mrs Bennett, Maths Department

United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Mathematical Challenge 2026

On Wednesday 29th April, our Year 7 and 8 pupils to take on the yearly challenge of the UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge 2026.

This national event takes the form of a multiple-choice quiz based on using mathematical skills learnt in lessons to solve problems.

Over 4000 schools across the UK take part in this event and the standard of participation is high, only the best achieving students can receive an award and to do so is recognition of the effort and ability of our students.

After good showings from previous year groups in their respective challenges, last year expectations were high and I am proud to announce that this year, the results were on a par with some of our best with many pupils receiving awards.

This year's prize winners are as follows:

Quinn M (Year 8) – Best in School, Best in Year 8 and Silver award.
Isabelle M and Sarah M (Year 7) – Joint Best in Year 7 and Silver award.
Silver awards were also achieved by the following:
(Year 7) Maleeha Y, Esther N and Mia P.
(Year 8) Annabelle B, Poppy E, Darcy A, Aisha B, Elodie K, Alice L, Elizabeth B, Evie O and Kathryn M.
Bronze awards were achieved by the following:
(Year 7) Mariyah C, Matilda B, Rahma O, Scarlett O, Sarah F, Zahraa B, Felicity H, Juliette C and Gracie W.
(Year 8) Emma L, Gracie E, Harriet F, Nevaeh S, Ammarah A, Missy E, Grace C, Laura F, Charlotte P, Francesca T, Muznah A, Olivia M, Olive W, Harper E, Ruqayya M, Sienna K, Dhemica P, Molly S and Lingyi Z.

Congratulations to everybody involved.

The department is already looking forward to seeing what each year group can do in their respective challenges next year:

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (Years 9 and 10) – Wednesday 27th January 2027

Junior Mathematics Challenge (Years 7 and 8) – Tuesday 27th April 2027

Mr S. Cheal, The Mathematics Department

Maths Department News

Year9/Year10 LUSoM KS4 Maths Competition

On Wednesday 1st July, four of our top mathematicians took part in the Key Stage 4 Maths Competition at Lancaster University School of Mathematics (LUSoM) in Preston.

Alisia J and Lesley Y from Year 9 and Emily T and Arina A of Year 10 pitted their mathematical wits against teams from several local schools and some from farther afield such as Blackburn and Lathom.

The competition involved several rounds of highly challenging, logic based, problem solving activities that required close teamwork and resilience along with an ability to work fast and accurately under pressure.

Despite a heroic effort, the girls didn't quite finish in the top three. Neverthless, all thoroughly enjoyed their experience and gained a useful insight into the facilities and atmosphere at one of the UKs leading Maths Schools.

Mr McVey, Mathematics Department

Modern Foreign Languages News

Year 7 Puppets

Mrs Raine's Year 7 class have particularly enjoyed using puppets this year to support their language learning.

The puppets have helped to build confidence when asking and answering questions, encouraging students to participate more actively in speaking activities. This approach has created a fun and engaging learning environment while helping students develop their communication skills.

Mrs Gill, Curriculum Leader for MFL

Year 9 Get Creative: Board Game Design Project

This term, our Year 9 students have been putting their creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test through an exciting board game design project.

Linking to our recent learning on fairy tales (*Märchen* in German), students based their games on well-known stories such as *Rotkäppchen* (Little Red Riding Hood), *Aschenputtel* (Cinderella) and *Schneewittchen* (Snow White). This gave them the opportunity not only to be creative, but also to reinforce key vocabulary and cultural knowledge from their lessons.

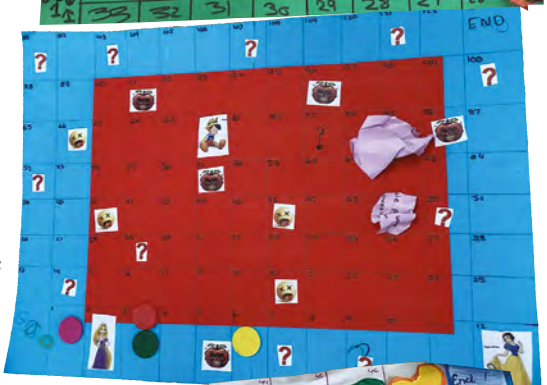
Working in small groups, students were challenged to design and create their own original board games from scratch. From developing unique themes and rules to designing eye-catching boards and pieces, they took full ownership of the entire creation process. The results have been incredibly impressive, with games ranging from strategy-based challenges to imaginative fairy tale adventures.

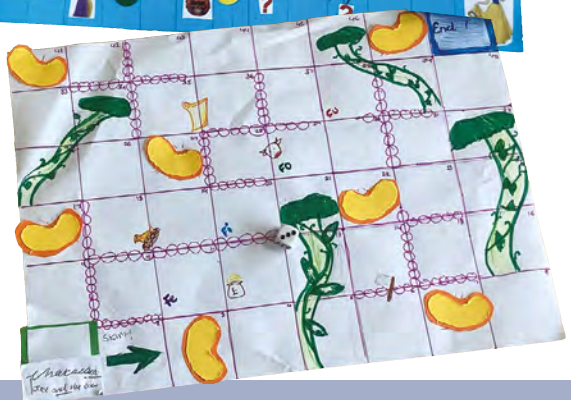
One of the highlights of the project was when students had the opportunity to play each other's games. Each group was given a scorecard to evaluate the games they played, scoring them on creativity, educational value, fun factor and overall design. This encouraged thoughtful feedback and added an element of friendly competition, while also helping students reflect on what makes a successful game.

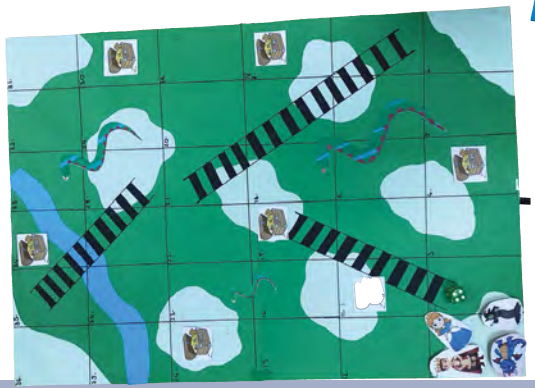
The classroom was filled with energy and enthusiasm as students explored the different games their peers had worked so hard to create. We were particularly impressed by the level of detail and originality shown, with many groups incorporating elements of their German learning into their designs, including vocabulary, characters and storylines inspired by the fairy tales studied in class.

This project has been a wonderful way to end the year, showcasing not only students' creativity but also their resilience and teamwork. Well done to all of Year 9 for their hard work and imagination—we look forward to seeing what they create next!

(See photos oppostite for a glimpse of some of the fantastic games produced.)







French and German penpals

This year, our students have continued to benefit from our strong links with our German partner school, Sickingen Gymnasium, and our French partner schools in Lille and the Loire Valley.

Through a range of language and cultural exchange activities, students have had the opportunity to communicate with their international peers, gain valuable insights into life in other countries and develop their confidence in French and German.

Letter exchanges have allowed students to share experiences of school life, local traditions, celebrations and holidays, while learning about the lives and cultures of their partner schools. These authentic opportunities to communicate in another language have helped to strengthen language skills, increase cultural awareness and foster lasting international friendships.

We are proud of our students' enthusiasm and engagement throughout these exchanges and look forward to continuing to develop these valuable partnerships in the coming year. Plans are already underway for further letter exchanges providing even more opportunities for students to connect with their peers across Europe.

Mrs Raine, MFL Department

Frozen: The West End Musical

On 14th and 15th July 2026, our talented students brought the magic of *Frozen: The West End Musical* to life in two unforgettable performances. The production was a tremendous success, delighting audiences with its energy, talent and professionalism.

A huge congratulations to every student who took part in the production. From the principal cast to the ensemble, musicians, dancers and backstage crew, every member of the team played an important role in creating a truly spectacular show. Their commitment, enthusiasm and countless hours of rehearsal were evident in every performance, and they should all be immensely proud of what they achieved.

Performance, Sport & Health Faculty Department News

Our cast delivered outstanding performances, with every actress bringing confidence, emotion and sparkle to the stage. Their hard work and dedication over many months shone through, captivating audiences from the opening scene to the final curtain call.

The performances were beautifully accompanied by our school band, whose exceptional musicianship added depth, emotion and excitement throughout the production. Their outstanding contribution helped bring the story to life and was greatly appreciated by everyone in the audience.

The spectacular scenery and stage design, expertly created by the Art and Technology Department, transformed the stage into the enchanting world of Arendelle. Combined with stunning costumes, lighting and technical effects, the production looked every bit as impressive as it sounded.

Our dazzling dancers added colour, energy and excitement throughout the show, impressing audiences with their enthusiasm, precision and flair. Their performances complemented the cast perfectly and added to the magic of every scene.

Productions of this scale are only possible through the commitment of many people behind the scenes. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all the staff who generously gave their time, expertise and encouragement throughout rehearsals and performances. Their patience, creativity and dedication ensured that every aspect of the production ran smoothly and provided our students with an unforgettable opportunity.

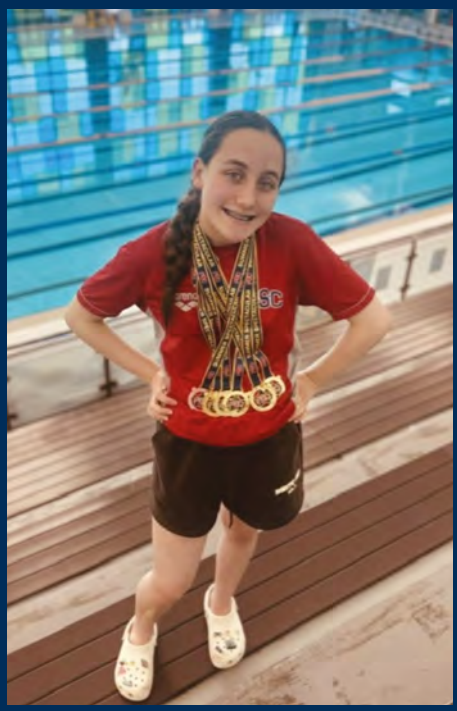
Most importantly, congratulations once again to every student involved. Your talent, teamwork, resilience and determination were an inspiration, and you created a production that entertained, amazed and made the entire school community incredibly proud. The standing ovations at the end of each performance were a fitting tribute to all your hard work and commitment. Frozen will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the highlights of the school year, our final one in this school hall and every student involved should take great pride in their remarkable achievement.

Mrs Cattanach
Associate Assistant Headteacher & Curriculum Leader for Music

PE Department

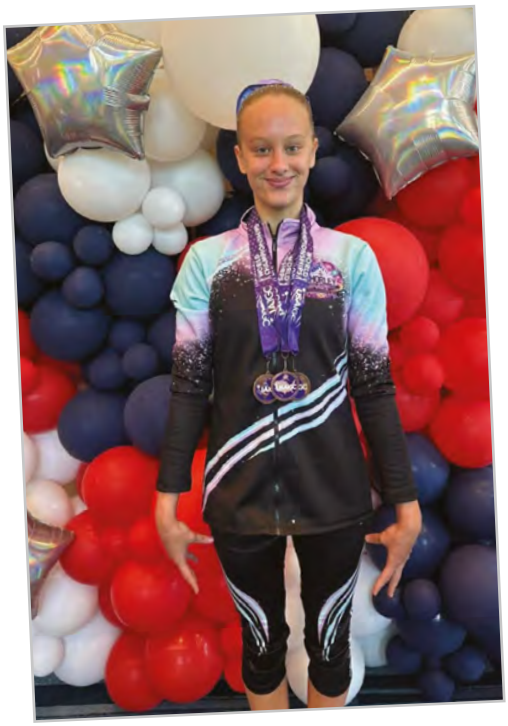
Preston Swimming Club's Summer Spectacular Gala

Congratulations to Ada in Year 8 on another fantastic achievement at Preston Swimming Club's Summer Spectacular Gala, held in Darwen this weekend, which attracted over 300 competitors.



This has been Ada's best swimming season yet. Training for an incredible 14 hours each week, with many 5:30am starts before school as well as evening sessions, her hard work and dedication have truly paid off. Throughout the season, she has won countless medals, consistently achieved new personal bests, and represented Preston Swimming Club in the Sub League team. She has also competed at both Lancashire County and North West Regional level.

After an outstanding year of success, Ada has certainly earned a well-deserved summer break before returning to training for the new season in September. She is incredibly proud of everything she has achieved this year—and so she should be!



Gymnastics

Congratulations to Martha in Year 9 on her outstanding performance at the World Championships in Florida.

Competing against some of the world's most talented gymnasts, Martha delivered an exceptional performance in the preliminary competition. She achieved an incredible score of **9.7 on vault** – the highest vault score of the day – securing her place in both the vault and bars finals.

Martha went on to finish **3rd in the World Championships on bars** and **4th in the World Championships on vault**, an extraordinary achievement at such a prestigious event.

Representing her club on the world stage is something to be incredibly proud of, and Martha's dedication, talent and hard work have been rewarded with a truly remarkable performance.

Congratulations, Martha, on this amazing achievement – we look forward to seeing what you accomplish next!

PE Department

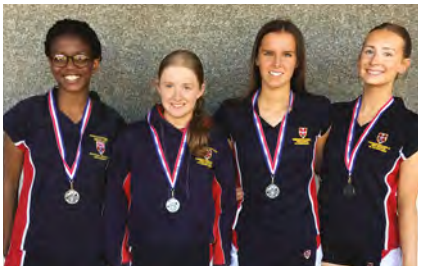
South Ribble Inter-School Athletics Competition

On Friday 12th June, we took four teams from Years 7–10 to Stanley Park, Blackpool, to compete in the annual South Ribble Inter-School Athletics Competition.

All of the girls performed fantastically across both track and field events, demonstrating exceptional skill, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day. We had many individual students achieve first-place finishes and podium positions in their events, with every result contributing valuable points towards their year group's overall team score.

Competing against 11 South Ribble schools, our athletes produced some outstanding team performances, achieving the following results:

Year 7 – 5th place
Year 8 – 2nd place
Year 9 – 4th place
Year 10 – 3rd place



These are excellent achievements, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who represented the school so positively. Their hard work, commitment and teamwork were evident throughout the competition, making it a very successful day for our athletics teams. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Mrs Tompson,
PE Department

Year 7 South Ribble District Rounders Tournament Report - Monday 22nd June 2026

The Year 7 girls represented the school superbly at the South Ribble District Rounders Tournament, competing against ten schools split into two pools. For many of the girls, this was their first ever rounders tournament and their first experience of playing under high school rounders rules. Despite this, they displayed excellent skill, determination and teamwork throughout the tournament.

The team played four pool matches, winning three and drawing one, meaning they remained undefeated for the entire tournament. Their consistent performances and excellent results saw them finish as overall tournament winners, achieving the highest points total across the competition.

Every player made a valuable contribution to the team's success, demonstrating impressive batting, fielding and tactical awareness. The girls adapted brilliantly to the new rules and showed fantastic resilience and sportsmanship in every match. Their teamwork and support for one another were outstanding from start to finish.

A special congratulations goes to **Elodie P**, who was deservedly named ***Player of the Tournament***. Elodie delivered exceptional performances throughout the competition and was a key contributor to the team's success.

The squad consisted of:

Katy L, Isabelle M, Gracie W, Scarlett O, Jessica F, Elodie P, Frankie D, Sarah F, Dominika Z, Elsie M, Olivia L and Neytiri F.

The girls should be incredibly proud of their achievements. To go undefeated and be crowned South Ribble District Champions in their first Year 7 tournament is a fantastic accomplishment. Every member of the squad played their part, and the team produced outstanding performances throughout the day. Well done to all involved!

PE Department

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place last month and was a tremendous success, providing a fantastic experience for everyone involved.

Students participated enthusiastically in a range of events, including athletics, netball, and rounders. Throughout the day, they demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, and determination. Every student played an important role, whether competing on the field or supporting the event as photographers, journalists, or members of the form banner teams.

Sports Day not only promoted physical fitness and discipline but also strengthened our sense of community while encouraging healthy competition. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students, teachers, and support staff made the day both enjoyable and memorable.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff and pupils whose hard work and positive spirit contributed to the success of the event. We are incredibly proud of everyone at PGHS!

Miss Shahi, PE Department

Sports Day 2026 Results

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
100M	1st: Libby-S 2nd: Mia-P 3rd: Lottie-G	1st: Lucie-H 2nd: Neveah-Y 3rd: Elodie-S	1st: Seren-H 2nd: Eni-P 3rd: Munachi-J	1st: Jasmine-P 2nd: Chloe-J 3rd: Leyla-S
200M	1st: Tabitha-S 2nd: Orla-Y 3rd: Lysha-J	1st: Emma-H 2nd: Jacinda-G 3rd: Elsa-P	1st: Tallulah-S 2nd: Ebony-G 3rd: Erin-J	1st: Esther-S 2nd: Beaux-G 3rd: Erin-J
300M	1st: Lottie-G 2nd: Safiyya-J 3rd: Estelle-H	1st: Maddie-H 2nd: Elsa-P 3rd: Olivia-G	1st: Molly-S 2nd: Aleena-H 3rd: Lesley-G	1st: Freya-J 2nd: Phillippa-S 3rd: Klara-G
800M	1st: Aubre-H 2nd: India-J 3rd: Dominika-S	1st: Gracie-G 2nd: Tilly-H 3rd: Harper-Y	1st: Izzy-S 2nd: Alara-G 3rd: Rosie-H	1st: Jenya-G 2nd: Jessica-J 3rd: Isabella-P
1500M	1st: Sophie-J 2nd: Esther-H 3rd: Kitty-G	1st: Darcy-G 2nd: Mia-Y 3rd: Annabelle-H	1st: Grace-H 2nd: Sophie-S 3rd: Kaushi-J	1st: Elizabeth-G 2nd: Jess-S
Relay	1st: P 2nd: Y 3rd: S	1st: H 2nd: G 3rd:PG	1st: P 2nd: H 3rd: G	1st: P 2nd: J 3rd: H
Shot Put	1st: Rhama-G 2nd: Juliette-Y 3rd: Katy-P	1st: Sienna-P 2nd: Bridie-G 3rd: Elizabeth-H	1st: Sienna-P 2nd: Evie-G 3rd: Isla-S	1st: Victoria-P 2nd: Grace-G 3rd: Emily-H
Discus	1st: Olivis-H 2nd: Kezia-J 3rd: Iqra-G	1st: Evie-Y 2nd: Quinn-P 3rd: Eleanor-H	1st: Charlotte-S 2nd: Ava-G 3rd: Rose-P	1st: Lilah-G 2nd: Aasiya-J 3rd: Amelia-S
Javelin	1st: Elsie-P 2nd: Neytiri-J 3rd: Iqra-G	1st: Amy-H 2nd: Lingyi-J 3rd: Grace-P	1st: Munachi-J 2nd: Dima-P 3rd: Esther-H	1st: Elizabeth-G 2nd: Hanna-P 3rd: Surayya-S
Long Jump	1st: Elsie-P 2nd: Sarah-S 3rd: Aubre-H	1st: Poppy-G 2nd: Emily-P 3rd: Sophia-J	1st: Eva-S 2nd: Phoebe-J 3rd: Alicia-H	1st: Abi-P 2nd: Julia-J 3rd: Martha-G
Triple Jump	1st: Rosie-H 2nd: Scarlett-S 3rd: Zaynab-J	1st: Olivia-G 2nd: Elodie-S 3rd: Emmi-P	1st: Helena-P 2nd: Gauri-H 3rd: Alice-S	1st: Julia-J 2nd: Amelia-S

Netball results:	
Y 7	1st: G 2nd: P 3rd: Y
Y 8	1st: H 2nd: Y 3rd: G
Y 9	1st: G 2nd: J 3rd: H
Y 10	1st: G 2nd: S 3rd: J

Rounders results:	
Y 7	1st: H 2nd: G 3rd: Y
Y 8	1st: P 2nd: J 3rd: G
Y 9	1st: J 2nd: S 3rd: H
Y 10	1st: J 2nd: P 3rd: S

Religious Education Department News

Year 8

Year 8 RE students have been exploring how Christian teachings influence the way believers live their lives today, with a particular focus on charity and service to others.

Linking ideas such as compassion, stewardship and love for one's neighbour to real-world action, students researched a range of charities and created engaging posters to advertise their chosen organisation's work.

Through this project, students also investigated the wide variety of careers within the charity sector, from fundraising and campaigning to project management and community outreach.

In doing so, they recognised how Religious Education helps develop essential skills for these roles, including empathy, ethical reasoning, communication, critical thinking and a strong sense of social responsibility- skills that are vital for making a positive difference in the world.

Year 9

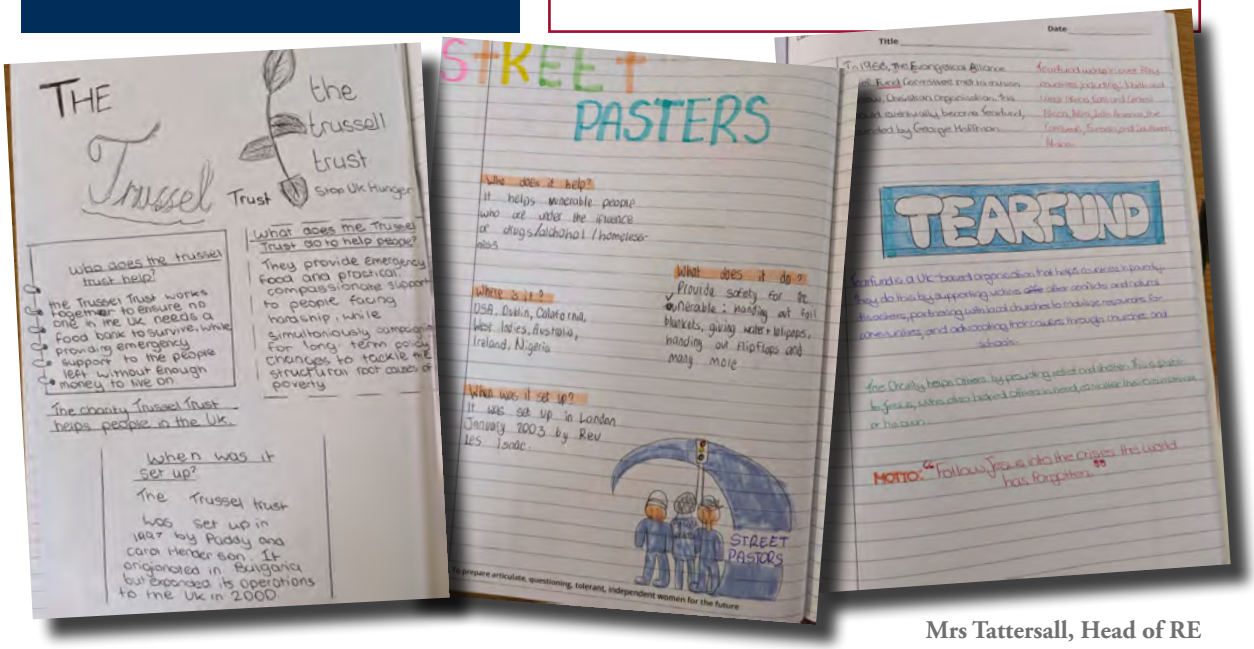
Year 9 RE students have been investigating reasons for belief in God in the world today, exploring concepts such as miracles, near-death experiences and conversion accounts.

Through thoughtful enquiry, they have evaluated different perspectives and considered how these experiences influence faith in contemporary society. Students have been invited to create an entry to the national Spirited Arts competition on the theme 'Searching for God' which can be approached from a faith or a non-faith perspective.

Anyone wishing to enter can find further details here **https://natre.org.uk/spirited-arts-main-page/spirited-arts-2026/** .

Looking ahead to Year 10, their Core RE course (which is not examined and delivered as part of the Life Skills programme) will explore key and engaging questions including *"Is the UK still a Christian country?"*, *"What are human rights and why do they matter?"* and *"Can religion help save the earth from boiling seas?"*

I have been incredibly impressed with the high level of discussion, engagement and evaluation skills demonstrated throughout this year and I am excited to see these continue to develop further.

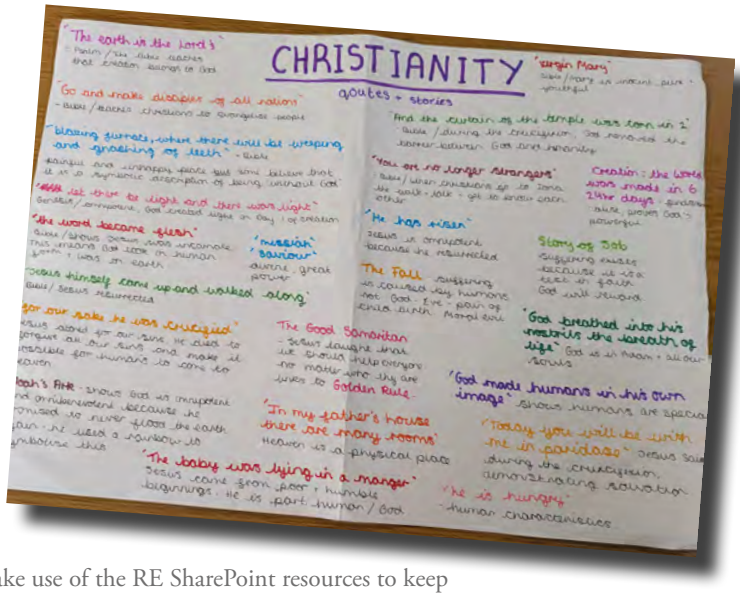


Mrs Tattersall, Head of RE

Religious Education Department News

Year 10

Well done to all Year 10 students for their hard work and commitment in completing their RE mock exams.



They have shown real maturity in preparing for this important milestone. Following the mocks, students have been creating useful quote revision sheets to support their learning next year, as well as reflecting thoughtfully on lessons learned and areas for improvement. Moving forward, intervention sessions will run on Thursdays, with a clear outline of topics to be shared in September to help guide revision and support progress.

Over the summer, students are encouraged to make use of the RE SharePoint resources to keep their knowledge fresh and to practise exam technique using AQA past papers, which can be accessed here: **https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/assessment-resources**

Mrs Tattersall, Head of RE

Science Department Events During 2026

2026 has seen a variety of exciting events experienced by students across all year groups within the science department. Please read on to view a summary of the highlights from the current academic year.

Safari Phil Animal Adventures Visits Year 9 students

Year 9 students had an unforgettable experience when Safari Phil Animal Adventures brought their impressive collection of exotic animals to school. The visit, which left students both fascinated and slightly terrified, provided a hands-on learning opportunity that tied into their current studies on genes and evolution.

The diverse collection of animals included a blue-tongued skink, a royal python, a bearded dragon, tortoises, Madagascar hissing cockroaches,and African giant millipedes. As part of the session, students explored the fascinating adaptations and evolutionary histories of these creatures.

Many students embraced the chance to handle the animals and learn about how to properly care for exotic pets. We apologize to any parents who may now find themselves fielding requests for vivarium's and reptiles for Christmas!

Science Department News

Year 7 Students Explore the Universe in a Mobile Planetarium Experience

In January, Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to visit a mobile planetarium and take part in an immersive journey through space.

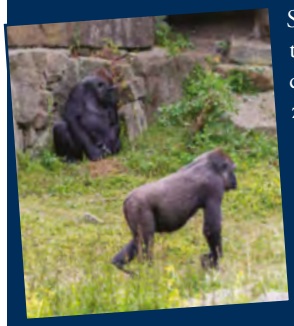
During the session, students discovered the fascinating life cycle of stars and learned how the elements that make up everything around us -including themselves- were formed within the hearts of distant stars. The experience also provided an engaging introduction to NASA's Artemis programme, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon in the near future.

Throughout the visit, students enthusiastically engaged with the session, asking thoughtful and probing questions of the expert presenter, Dave and deepening their understanding of the universe.

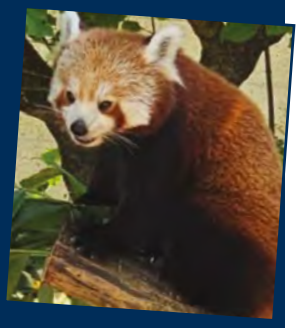
Year 8 Explore Biology at Blackpool Zoo

Year 8 students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to Blackpool Zoo, where they brought their KS3 Biology learning to life. Observing animals such as giraffes, lions, gorillas and penguins allowed students to see first-hand how species are adapted to survive in their environments.

The visit reinforced key topics including adaptations and natural selection. Students were fascinated by the giraffe's long neck, enabling it to reach food high in trees and the lion's powerful build, helping it to hunt effectively. Watching gorillas highlighted similarities to humans, while penguins demonstrated specialised adaptations for swimming and life in colder habitats.



Students also explored the importance of conservation, learning how zoos support endangered species through breeding programmes and habitat protection.



Blackpool Zoo cares for over 1,000 animals, helping to promote biodiversity and raise awareness of global conservation efforts.

STEM Careers Carousel Inspires PGHS Students to Explore Boundless Opportunities

In March, Penwortham Girls' High School hosted its annual Careers Carousel as part of the STEM festival, providing an inspiring opportunity for Year 9 and Year 10 students to explore future career possibilities.

More than 25 professionals from a wide range of STEM industries generously gave their time to share their knowledge and experiences, helping to spark curiosity and ambition among students.

The carousel format allowed students to engage with experts across multiple sectors, gaining valuable first-hand insights into different careers. They explored fields such as engineering, manufacturing, construction, radiotherapy and logistics, as well as learning about the role of mathematics in the financial sector and opportunities within higher education as well as the armed services. This varied exposure helped students develop a broader understanding of the many pathways available within STEM.

Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many describing the experience as both eye-opening and inspiring. The sessions encouraged thoughtful reflection on future career choices, with several students reconsidering their plans after discovering new opportunities they had not previously considered.

The success of the event was made possible by the dedication of our STEM Ambassadors, who gave their time and expertise to support and guide our students. Their enthusiasm and commitment have had a lasting impact, motivating students to consider careers in STEM and helping them to envision exciting possibilities for their futures.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the STEM Ambassadors who contributed to the Careers Carousel. Their support has not only informed our students but also inspired them to pursue their goals with confidence and determination.

As we look ahead, we are excited to see our students build on this experience, equipped with greater awareness, inspiration and confidence as they begin to shape their own paths in the world of STEM.

Science Department News

Many thanks to our STEM Ambassadors who supported the event (including).

- **Sgt Craig "Tank" Abram - RAF**
- **David Nuttall** - Engineering Manager **Leyland Trucks**
- **Ellie Coxhead** - Learning & Development Advisor **Leyland Trucks**
- **Nick Smith - BAE Systems**
- **Olly Crossley, Jane Hetherington, Ynah Rondina - Mace Group**
- **Mona Baig** - Social Value manager **Bowland + Kirkland**
- **Charlotte Bolton** - Project Quantity Surveyor **Bowland + Kirkland**
- **Chris Duffy** - Mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering **T. Clarke**
- **Lucy Marrin, Olivia Hall - Bluegyp** Drywall Contractor
- **Beth Dalgleish, Ruth Amissah - Taylor Wimpey**
- **Anatasia Bingha -Kirkland, Valentine Pietri** - Engineering **Baxi Heating**
- **Pika Solanki** - Victrex, manufacturer of polymers used across, aerospace, automotive, electrical, industrial and medical industries.
- **Simon Close** - ForexClear, Portfolio Director, Post Trade, LSEG
- **Helen Bleasdale** - Quality Manager, Resonant Clinical Solutions. My role is that of Quality Manager - ensuring that we meet regulatory and customer expectations in servicing the Clinical Trials industry
- **Patrice Gibbons** - Accountancy
- **Giannis Sarantitis** - Gastro surg eon
- **Catherine Blackledge** - Science journalist and author.
- **Steven Rawlinson - SISK Group** - Construction and Engineering
- **Emily Heaton** - Process Engineer from a chemical engineering background. **Heidelberg Materials Ribblesdale Cement Works**
- **Zane Dandy** - Higher Apprentice **Heidelberg Materials Ribblesdale Cement Works**
- **Sarah Dyson - Westinghouse Electrical Company**
- **Alexa Lee** - Project Management degree apprentice at **BAE Systems**
- **Andrew Lane, Steph Edwards - Cumbria NHS Radiology**, diagnostic radiographers and lecture on radiography and related subjects at the **University of Cumbria**
- **Caroline Peters, Hamza Patel, Amin Patel** - Trainee clinical biochemists,
- **Kat Woods - National Grid** Electricity distribution and transmission
- **Neil Kiley - BAE Systems**

Mr Knee, Science Department

Harry Potter Science

Harry Potter Comes to Life in Year 8 Science

All Year 8 students have had the exciting opportunity to explore how the magic of Harry Potter can be brought to life through Science.

Stepping into the role of young witches, students used their growing scientific knowledge to recreate some of the most famous spells from the Wizarding World.

One of the highlights of the lesson was creating their own "Lumos" effect. Students observed the brilliant white light produced when magnesium burns in oxygen, demonstrating a vivid example of an exothermic reaction; much like the spell used to light up a wand in the books.

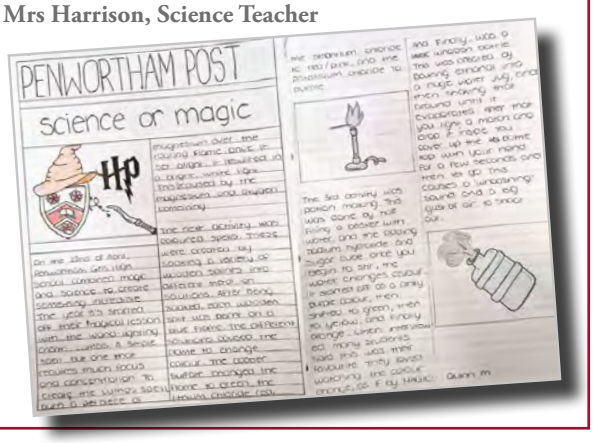
Students also investigated flame tests, discovering how different metal ions produce distinctive flame colours.

The magic continued with potion-making, where students carried out a fascinating colour-changing reaction. By exploring the different oxidation states of manganese, they observed dramatic shifts in colour, bringing a touch of Hogwarts' dungeon classrooms into our own science labs.

Throughout the lesson, students made connections between science and storytelling, strengthening both their scientific understanding and their appreciation of literature. To finish, they were challenged to step into the role of journalists for the Daily Prophet, writing their own creative articles to describe the "magical" experiments they had carried out. Here are a couple of articles written by Quinn M and Molly S.

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, curiosity, and creativity from all of Year 8. Experiences like this show how Science can spark imagination and bring learning to life in memorable ways.

Mrs Harrison, Science Teacher


PENWORTHAM POST

science or magic

Life Skills

Galloways
Support through sight loss

Working in Partnership with Galloway's

This year, we have been delighted to work closely with **Galloway's Society for the Blind**, our local sight loss charity, on a range of exciting and meaningful projects.

Throughout the year, Galloway's staff visited school to deliver engaging workshops to **Years 7, 8 and 9**, helping students learn about eye health, sight loss, and the valuable support that Galloway's provides to people living with visual impairments across our local community. These sessions were both informative and inspiring, giving students a greater understanding of the challenges faced by those with sight loss and how they can make a positive difference.

Our students have also supported Galloway's through a number of fundraising and creative initiatives. **Years 7 and 8** designed a fantastic collection of Christmas cards which were sold through the Galloway's website, helping to raise vital funds for the charity while showcasing our students' creativity.

More recently, **Year 8** students have worked incredibly hard in preparation for the **Galloway's Summer Fayre on 2nd August**. They have enthusiastically created colourful bunting to decorate the event and crafted beautiful clay bead bracelets which will be sold at the fayre to raise additional funds for the charity.

I would like to say a huge **thank you to the Year 8 students** for their enthusiasm, commitment and positive attitude throughout these projects. Their willingness to support Galloway's and contribute to their local community has been outstanding, and they should be very proud of their efforts.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with **Galloway's** next year and supporting the fantastic work they do within our community. We are excited to build on this successful relationship and create even more opportunities for our students to make a difference.

Miss Lindsay
Life Skills Co-ordinator

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Penwortham Girls' High School

Cop Lane Penwortham Preston PR1 0SR
Telephone: 01772 743399 **Fax:** 01772 752475
Email: enquiries@penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk
Website: www.penworthamgirls.lancs.sch.uk

Ofsted Outstanding Provider
SMART UK Confidential School
The Quality in Careers Standard
BRONZE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AWARD
Lancashire Equality Mark
International School Award
Gold BEHAVIOUR QUALITY MARK