## Pioneering THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION



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## WELCOME

For a hundred years, our PREP community has wholeheartedly empowered our youngest Westholmians to exceed their potential. Today, our state-of-the-art new PREP building, nestled in the heart of our beautiful rural Wilmar Lodge setting, ensures every PREP pupil enjoys a refreshingly different impressive education.

Our PREP really is like nothing else! The incomparable **warm family feel** is tangible from the moment you first visit Westholme and is a well-known defining feature.

Our bespoke educational philosophy at Westholme is rooted in the acquisition of the 21st century essential skills vital for the rapidly evolving modern workplace – and this starts with our very youngest pupils aged 4 years old. With a plethora of opportunities inside and outside the classroom, we fully utilise our incredible facilities across the whole site to passionately deliver unrivalled holistic excellence. This simply means we place an equal importance on all activities, subjects and experiences to enable our PREP pupils to blossom within a forward-thinking and innovative environment that develops confident, well-rounded, happy young people.

The beauty of being part of an all-through 4 – 18 School is that we facilitate seamless transitions between stages and encourage daily interactions between Westholmians of all ages – it is always so lovely to see the older ones inspiring the younger ones and vice versa within our exceptionally **strong family ethos.** 

By joining Westholme PREP, your children will be wholeheartedly empowered every day. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our amazing PREP experience very soon so you can see this first-hand for yourself and why we continue to be the highest achieving school in Lancashire.



"Our bespoke
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## EXTRAORDINARY BEGINNINGS

An educational philosophy like no other. It is simply remarkable, beyond what you would ever expect for children aged 4 – 11.



The warm family ethos is a well-known defining feature of Westholme; our children are kind, caring and make friends for life. We offer an educational and developmental experience that is distinctive, empowering our pupils to **discover who they are,** how they best achieve and their own special talents and personalities. Memories are made every day and confidence is rooted in a belief that **no dream is too big!** 

Throughout this booklet you will discover how our unique educational provision provides extraordinary beginnings, encourages **determination** and **independence**, whilst empowering our PREP pupils with an **unquenchable thirst for learning** that prepares them holistically for the journey ahead.

Westholme prides itself on traditional manners and values coupled with high standards and expectations. PREP pupils are cherished, and **individuality is celebrated**. The wholehearted relationship children develop with their teachers is transformative and they thrive and blossom into **happy**, **articulate**, **confident** and **impressive young people**.



"The tools that he is already developing to equip him for his life – not just his education are phenomenal."

- Current Prep R parent



#### At Westholme Prep:

- We are nurturing, welcoming, with a family atmosphere where children feel they belong
- Our class sizes are small where every pupil is **cherished** and **valued**
- We celebrate individuality and develop character
- We nurture warm, caring and supportive relationships
- We forge **strong bonds** within our **close-knit** community
- Friends for life are made
- Family values are at the heart
- Exceptional personalised pastoral care is provided
- **Dreams** and **aspirations** for the future are facilitated





# MAXIMISING INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC POTENTIAL

A totally bespoke curriculum unique for all Westholme PREP pupils.

Our ambitious, holistic approach at Westholme fosters intellectually agile, imaginative and independent thinkers. The dynamic curriculum and forward-thinking pedagogy ensure academic advancement throughout all areas of learning. Whilst consistently building upon prior learning and linking transferable skills, our pupils are fully immersed in a complete education, unique to Westholme and incomparable to any other primary school.

PREP pupils study a bespoke range of subjects, clustered equally to form six themed pillars.

Our inspirational teachers nurture each PREP pupil, as they know them individually, and this **tailored approach** results in swifter mastery of key skills and concepts across all six pillars. With personalised challenge and targeted support within a stunning environment, a culture of teaching to the very top is imbued.

#### Individual potential is developed by:

- Tailoring academic support to every PREP pupil
- A bespoke **holistic** approach unique to Westholme
- Academic stretch, challenge and teaching to the top approach
- Breadth and depth of activities both in and outside of the classroom
- Whole School (4 18) curriculum **leadership** from Directors of Creative Arts and Technology, Sport and **Performing Arts**
- Specialist teachers in Sport, Drama, Languages, Music and Technology from 4 - 18
- An inspirational teaching culture and pedagogy that cultivates aspirations and dreams







## PIONEERING EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY - 21CES

## Our pioneering educational philosophy is predicated on preparation for the 21st century workplace.

A unique and exciting educational approach has been developed at Westholme as the six pillars are brought to life through the 21st century essential skills (21CES). Developing essential leadership, confidence, adaptability and communication skills are woven into the fabric of everyday experiences inside and outside the classroom.

Before the pandemic, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) reported that nearly half of all employers found young people were not ready for the world of work; broader skills were lacking such as **real-world experience, creativity, independence** and **problem solving.** PREP empowers our youngest pupils with a pioneering holistic education that equips them with 21CES to sustain a successful, professional career in the rapidly evolving 21st century workplace.

From the very beginning, seeds for aspirational ambitions are sown. We believe in teaching PREP pupils how to manage obstacles or setbacks positively and to be prepared for challenges ahead. We frontload 21CES alongside digital learning from a young age as we believe taking the **initiative**, **working in a team**, developing a strong **work ethic** and **emotional intelligence** form an essential part of the holistic curriculum alongside traditional subjects and activities.

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#### Our philosophy is delivered through:

- A defined programme of leadership opportunities from PREP Reception upwards
- Opportunities to learn initiative, critical thinking and decision-making skills
- The unique 'Singleton Award' which encourages PREP pupils to achieve through developing 21CES
- 21CES intermingled into everyday experiences throughout the curriculum
- The 'Philosophy For Children' programme which promotes higher order thinking and questioning skills
- An innovative 'Student Voice Programme' to develop confidence and communication skills
- Public speaking lessons taught by specialists from PREP Reception upwards
- Charitable leadership opportunities developing organisation and responsibility
- Pupil-led PREP initiatives fostering collaboration and adaptability





"There is no joy in possession without sharing."

- Erasmus



## OUR COMMUNICATION PROMISE



## Fruitful relationships between parents, staff and pupils are the beating heart of the Westholme family.

We are in this together! We know effective flow of information is an essential part of travelling this exciting journey together and being part of the Westholme family means we all share in your son's or daughter's success together. From the moment parents arrive at Westholme, it is about becoming innately part of our family and highly effective communication is of paramount importance to us.

The multiple layers to our **communication promise** makes it very easy for parents to acquire the information they need quickly and efficiently. It is very much a two-way process, and we are just as receptive to hearing your thoughts and feedback as we are proactively sending daily, weekly, monthly information home. At the end of every day, your child's teacher will be available to speak to you when you collect and they will be on hand to ask any questions you have.

Parental involvement opportunities are regularly provided in each class.

The Westholme Association is our parent/teacher organisation that unites our community with events from fun movie nights for children and their parents in our amazing professional theatre, to meeting Santa at the Christmas Fair!

#### **Our promise includes:**

- **Individualised communication** home from PREP Reception upwards
- Daily direct access to your son's or daughter's teachers
- Monthly family events, assemblies and interactive sessions together
- **Dining invitations** to join us to eat with your son or daughter
- Half-termly informative and personalised reports
- Tailored feedback from subject specialists in Music, Languages, Drama, Sports and IT
- Celebrating significant achievements with personalised feedback
- A bespoke Westholme Communications App
- Weekly electronic newsletter





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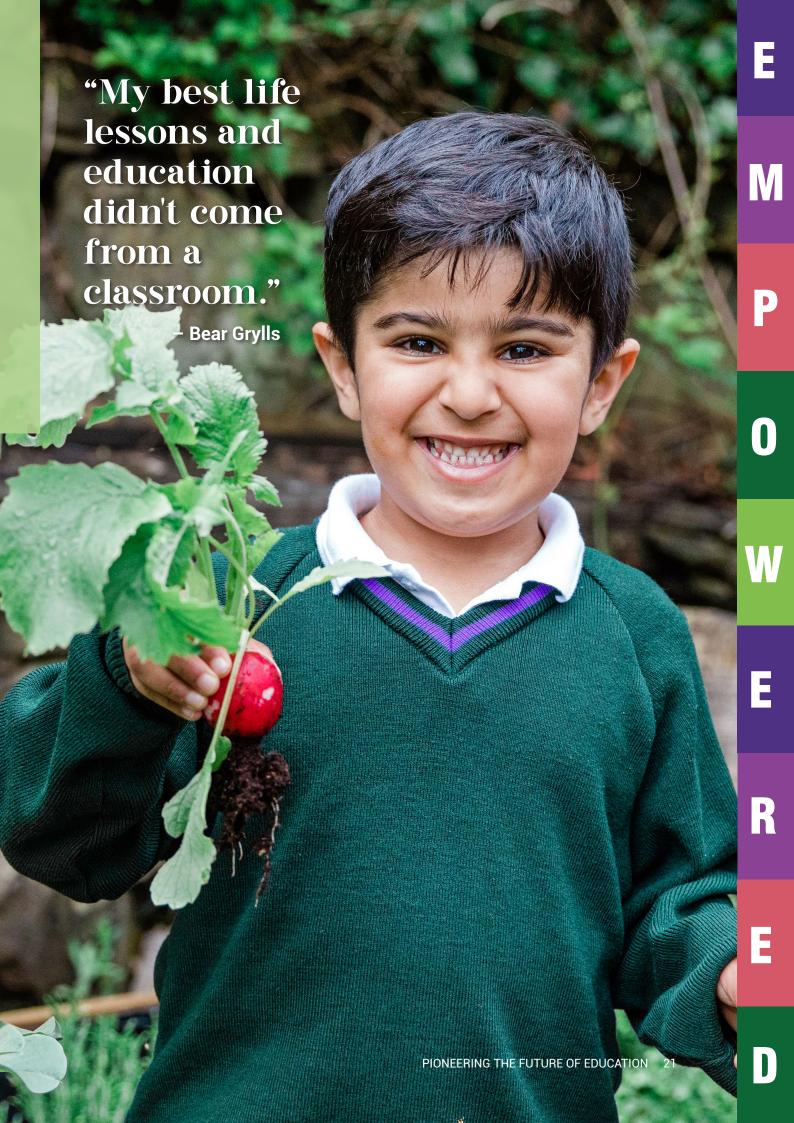
## WHOLEHEARTEDLY EMPOWERED

Westholmians form lifelong friendships through Westholme's incredibly close-knit and welcoming community.

From the very beginning, PREP pupils adopt a 'both feet in' approach, they support and push each other in equal measure. We passionately believe in educating the whole child and we wholeheartedly provide every PREP pupil the opportunity to, as the late Sir Ken Robinson would say, discover their element!

For a hundred years, our **unrivalled holistic excellence** has delivered an education beyond normal realms of expectation. Our unparalleled focus on co-curricular enables our children to experience incredible activities that they may not otherwise encounter, in addition to trips, visits, competitions, clubs, societies and charity events.

Our School motto, *Mens sana in corpore sano*, a healthy mind in a healthy body, is something we wholeheartedly embrace and actively empower our PREP pupils to live out every day. From Scrabble to Yoga, Art Club to Speech Club, Ultimate Frisbee to Pony Club and Construction Team, we place an equal status on activities outside the academic classroom developing *lasting memories*. PREP pupils experience a range of visits from doctors, dentists to the Fire Brigade and world famous authors, all learn an instrument, how to read music from Prep 2 and play in musical ensembles, string groups, recorder clubs, PREP orchestra and sing in the PREP choir!

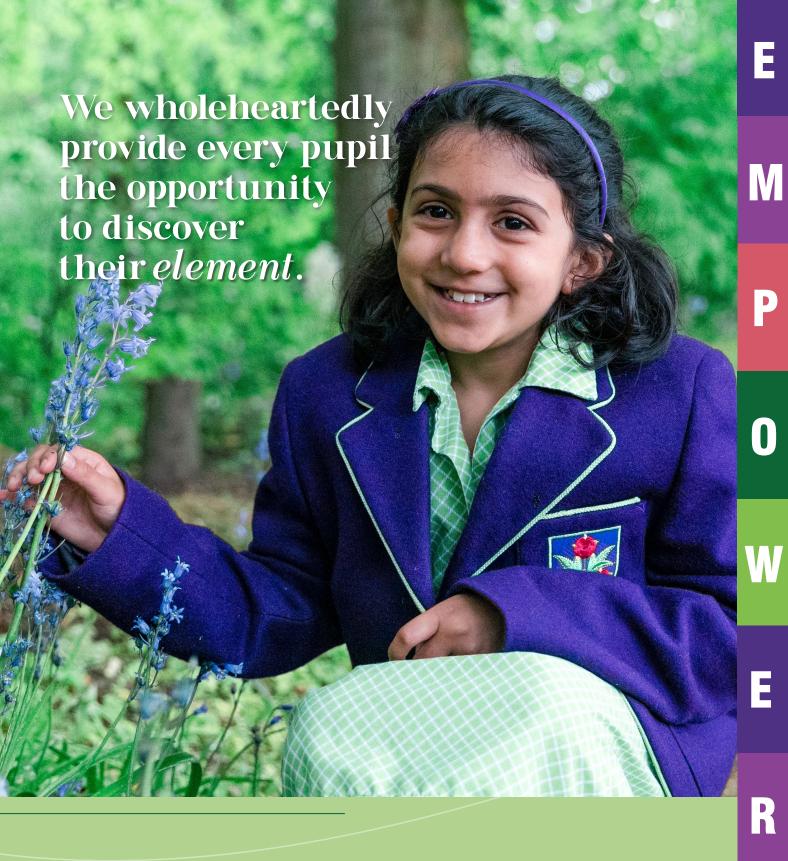


#### Young minds are empowered by:

- An unrivalled range of co-curricular clubs and activities
- The **freedom** and **confidence** to explore their personal interests and discover new **passions** and **talents**
- Elite pathways to reach beyond sporting potential
- Developing 21CES outside the classroom
- After school clubs which enhance the curriculum
- Bringing learning to life such as the Living Museum
- International trips such as skiing and French trip
- Outdoor adventure trips developing character and building relationships
- Inspiring workshops delivered by renowned specialists
- Recognition through Westholme's very own PREP 'Singleton Award'
- A commitment to wellbeing and happiness







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## ENTREPRENEURIAL ENTERPRISE

Developing positivity, resourcefulness and creativity is easier to embed the younger the pupil is.



Our innovative Enterprise and Entrepreneurial Programme inculcates negotiating skills, risk taking and solution-focussed approaches. We maximise our extensive links with local professionals and businesses providing talks, workshops and hands-on learning experiences. From role-playing careers, to growing their own business incorporating wealth management, we equip our pupils with a self-confidence and resourcefulness to develop character and prepare them to take their place as global leaders today, tomorrow and into the future.

Our PREP approach is unique in providing so many opportunities for our pupils to develop a **positive** and **resilient** mind set. They acquire strategies to overcome obstacles, we shape their attitude towards the importance of a strong work ethic and open their eyes to a world of possibilities.

We actively prepare our youngest pupils to be responsible citizens and think like independent life-long learners. Teaching the 21CES prepares them for their future workplace, and we believe important seeds of **aspirational ambition** are sown from the age of 4. For this reason, we embed opportunities for PREP pupils to make links between real-life situations and education.

Teaching the 21st century essential skills prepares pupils for their future workplace.



#### We foster an enterprising spirit with:

- A bespoke 'Enterprise and Entrepreneurship' Programme
- External links with banks such as HSBC and NatWest (MoneySense: Banking with Kids)
- Themed business, design and commercial project weeks
- Young Enterprise and Money Matters workshops
- Hands-on practical learning in real-life contexts
- Links to local professionals, businesses and charities
- Networking inside and outside of school with Westholme alumni
- A PREP 'think tank' for pupils to take ownership of new creative projects
- Digital pen-pals with schools from other countries
- Pupil-led international charity initiatives
- 21CES though entrepreneurial activities within the classroom
- Financial, technological and engineering challenges
- Our 'Philosophy for Children' Programme which prepares for global leadership

## RURAL EXPERIENCES

Our setting, in the heart of the beautiful Ribble Valley, is simply breathtaking.

Our pupils are extremely fortunate to be wholeheartedly empowered for life in such a beautiful setting. With picturesque views of the Lancashire hills and countryside surrounding our wonderful state-of-the-art PREP building, the fresh air and green surroundings are awe-inspiring and energising.

William's Wood is a purpose-built wooded adventure area fully utilised and played in every day. Our forest school provision is interwoven throughout the PREP curriculum as we passionately believe in what happens outside the classroom is just as important as inside. We maximise every pupil's holistic experience through a raft of **outdoor pursuits** such as orienteering, biking and cross country.

Our brand-new adventure trail, den building and woodland walks through our **stunning natural ravine**, are all available within the School's wonderful grounds. We also offer **forest school** as part of our weekly curriculum and after school clubs.



#### **Pupils embrace:**

- Purpose-built William's Wood
- Mud kitchen
- Outdoor classroom and story-telling circle
- **■** Forest School
- Den building
- Orienteering
- Space to breathe, learn and play
- Woodland walks and school pond experiences
- Adventure trails and ravine walks
- Extensive grounds and stunning views of the Lancashire hills

"The small class sizes have allowed me to flourish and I am so grateful for the personalised support I received from my teachers."

– Hannah, Old Westholmian











# EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

As part of a 4 - 18 School, everything is available to our very youngest pupils, and they are empowered in ways that are simply unavailable in other primary schools.



#### Surroundings that inspire and provide the best opportunities.

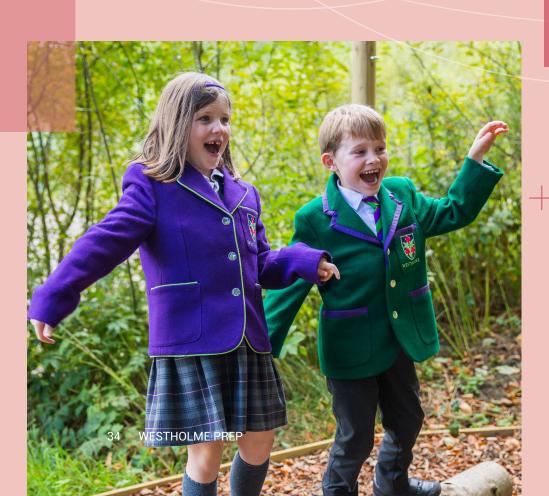
Our swimming pool, tennis courts and full-sized astro turf are literally on the doorstep of the PREP building. Drama, public speaking and performing in our **professional theatre** become second nature. Our recording studio, photography infinity wall, **Science laboratories**, 3D Computer Aided Design Technology and Food Preparation and Nutrition Rooms provide facilities and experiences like no other!

Studies carried out by Harvard University found significant declines in cognitive function when CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations were increased, which is common in traditional indoor spaces. We incorporated this research into our brand-new PREP building installing an innovative mono-draught, carbon-neutral ventilation system which reduces CO<sub>2</sub> levels all day and provides better air quality for all PREP pupils.

All young people love **great food** so PREP pupils eat a delicious home-cooked lunch every day. They choose from an extensive menu of healthy hot food, salad bar, soups and desserts. The Westholme **shortbread is legendary** – make sure you try some on your next visit!

#### **Pupils experience:**

- Specialist teachers across PREP in French, Music, Computing, Sports and Drama
- Experimenting in our impressive Science laboratories
- Regular performances in our amazing professional theatre
- Recording music in our new state-of-the-art recording studio
- Studio photography shoots utilising our purpose-built infinity wall
- Computer aided design with 3D printing
- Laser cutting
- Sublimination printing
- Pottery including use of a kiln
- Playing sports on our full-sized, flood-lit astro turf pitches and diving into the swimming pool
- Full-sized sports hall and undulating cross-country tracks
- Cooking and baking in our Food Preparation and Nutrition Room







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# DIFFERENCE IS WESTHOLINE

We're sure you will agree having read our unique EMPOWERED educational vision that Westholme PREP is really something else!

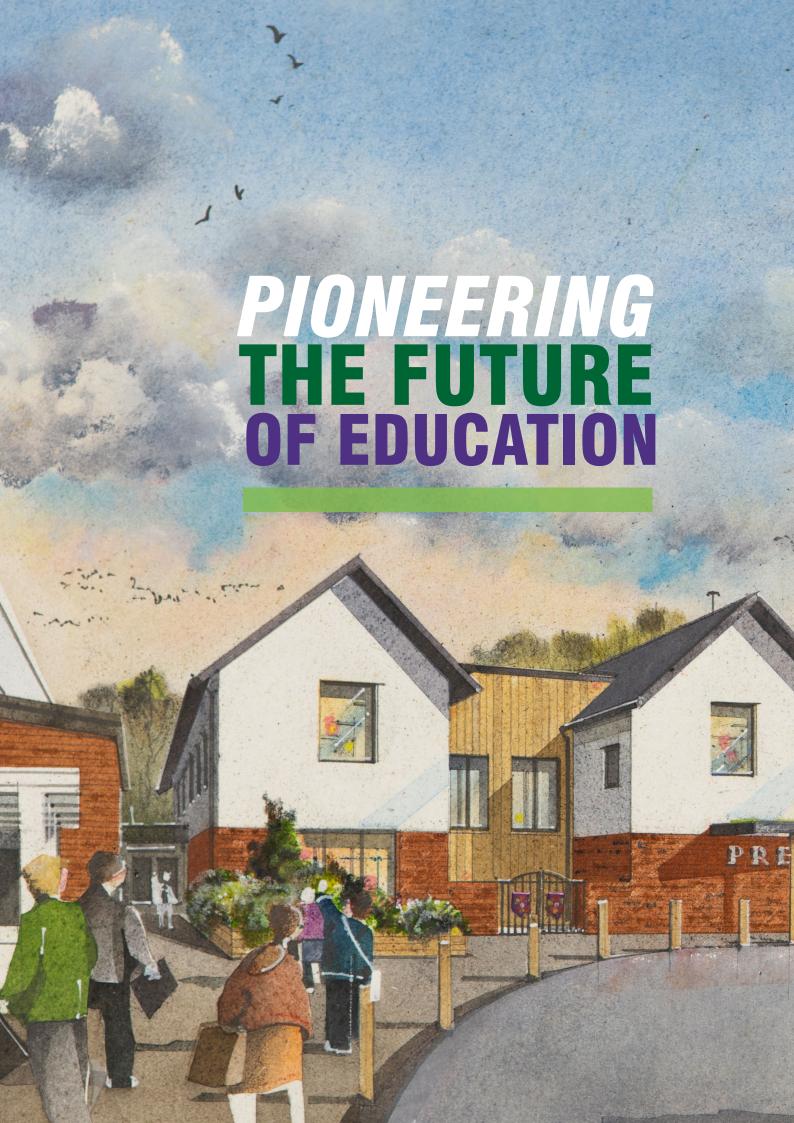
We hope you have enjoyed discovering how we enable our youngest pupils to thrive in an environment that is warm and happy and how our **extraordinary beginnings** provide a foundational approach that **maximises individual academic potential**.

We wholeheartedly empower our PREP pupils through our **pioneering educational philosophy** that uniquely incorporates the 21st century essential skills (21CES) into our daily provision. Our **communication promise** is focussed on developing close-knit relationships so parents and pupils become fully part of our Westholme family, with both feet fully in, to confidently optimise their exciting journey. Our **entrepreneurial enterprise** initiatives develop passionate, creative, innovative pupils ready to lead and succeed within our beautiful **rural setting** that is utterly awe-inspiring. The **exceptional resources and facilities** we have at Westholme, as part of our 4 – 18 School family, are fully available and utilised by PREP pupils to provide unrivalled opportunities every day for our youngest pupils.

Simply put, the difference is Westholme!

We very much look forward to welcoming your family into our wonderful PREP family very soon so you can experience for yourselves why there really is no PREP like Westholme!

Dr Richard Robson Principal







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