All Hallows Catholic High School Newsletter

16th May 2025



Dear Parents/Guardians,

There have been many significant events over the past two weeks. One of global importance—and particularly meaningful to us as a Catholic school—is the selection of our new leader, Pope Leo XIV. We pray that he will lead the Church in the years ahead, guided by the Holy Spirit in both his words and actions.

We have also been commemorating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Some staff chose to dress in 1940s style, and our cadets and scouts came to school in uniform. We held cake sales and sang songs reflective of the era. As a school, this served as a poignant reminder of the events that marked the end of the Second World War

This edition of the newsletter is full of stories of sporting participation and success, and our pupils have been enjoying the summer weather. We even have a Staff vs Year 11 rounders match taking place after school this evening.

Finally, a special mention must go to our Year 11 pupils, who began their GCSEs on Monday. They have worked incredibly hard, attending extra revision sessions, and now the time has come for them to give their best over the next four weeks. Thank you to all the parents and teachers supporting them—Year 11, we all wish you the very best of luck!

Yours faithfully,

Alison Cooper

Headteacher





Staff Vacancies

We are seeking dedicated and passionate individuals to join our team. Please click on the link below to view our current vacancies.

current vacancies. https://www.allhallows.lancs.sch.uk/school/information/vacancies/

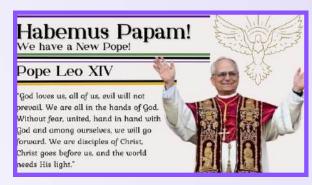
Pope Leo XIV

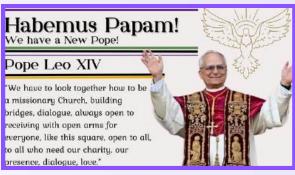
On Thursday 9th May, the universal Catholic Church welcomed Pope Leo XIV as successor to the late Pope Francis. He waved to the thousands of people gathered in St Peter's Square, after being elected as the new pontiff.

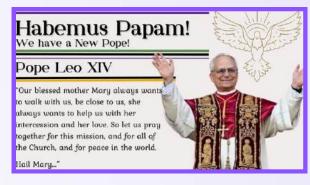
Crowds of faithful erupted into cheers as Robert Prevost, 69, appeared for the first time from the famous Vatican balcony. He becomes the first American to be elected to lead the Catholic Church.

He is a naturalised citizen of Peru who spent much of his life working as a missionary to the poor in the hills of Peru. He was made Archbishop there in 2023. He is seen as a reformer and chose the name Leo as a reference to Pope Leo XIII who promoted Catholic social justice for workers during the industrial revolution.

It is hoped the new Pope will build bridges among communities around the world. We keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers as he begins his papacy.







Year 11 GCSE Exams Underway Wishing You the Best of Luck!

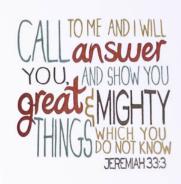
The Year 11 GCSE exams began this past Monday, and we are pleased to report that they are going very well so far. The students have demonstrated great focus and dedication, and we are confident they will continue to do their best throughout this important period. We want to remind all students to stay positive, keep up their hard work, and remember to bring all the necessary equipment for each exam. This is a significant milestone, and we're all proud of their efforts and perseverance. Good luck to everyone—keep going, and finish strong!

Dear Lord.

We take time today to pray for our incredible class of 2025 as they begin their GCSE exams, and their last chapter here with us at All Hallows. We hope that you can offer them guidance and support through this difficult examination period, and we ask that you grant them the ability to stay calm, focused, and confident throughout each of their exams. We pray that all their hard work pays off so that every one of them can achieve what you have created them to be and what they have worked so incredibly hard for.

Amen







Year 11 Leavers' Mass

Friday 9th May saw Year 11 pupils finish their normal timetable in school and begin their GCSE revision timetable, in anticipation of the start of their exams on Monday 12th May.

To mark this occasion, the Chaplaincy Team organised a Year 11 Leavers' Mass. Mass is always a special occasion at All Hallows as pupils are welcomed into our school community through Mass in Year 7, and end their time with us older, taller and wiser by celebrating Mass in Year 11.

Fr lan celebrated the Leavers' Mass, and the focus of the Gospel centred around the story of the Road to Emmaus. A fitting Gospel as Fr lan's homily reminded pupils that Jesus is with us in our journey through school and particularly the GCSE exam period. He explained that as we walk into our future choices, when we recognise Jesus is with us, it has transformative power.

Year 11 pupils read in the Mass and each form group offered a bidding prayer. The music in the Mass was chosen by Year 11, in particularly 'Build your Kingdom' and 'My Lighthouse'. These are firm favourites of the school and Mrs Colclough alongside the pupil choir brought these songs to life.

At the end of Mass pupils received a prayer card to keep with them as they continue their journey at All Hallows and beyond.

Good luck to all our Year 11's in their GCSE exams. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Year 8 Confirmation

On two beautifully sunny evenings, 68 pupils from Year 8 received the Sacrament of Confirmation over two services at Leyland St Mary's RC Church on Tuesday 6th May and Thursday 8th May. Priests from the family of parishes, including Fr Joe Bibby and Fr Ian McParland led the two services, which also included pupils from Leyland St Mary's receiving the Sacrament. It was the culmination of a period of preparation, where pupils spent time learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Saints who inspire them.

Bishop John Rawsthorne (previously Bishop of Hallam) administered the Sacrament by anointing the candidates with the oil of Chrism, bestowing the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon them. The candidates presented their Confirmation names to the Bishop along with the reasons for choosing their name.

Candidates were supported by their families and sponsors on what was a celebration of the candidates' decision to become full members of the Catholic Church and affirm their faith.

There was extra excitement on Thursday, particularly for the 'Leos' in the Church, as shortly before the Confirmation service, the news came through that there was white smoke in Rome and Pope Leo XIV had been elected as the new Pontiff.

After each service pupils and families were able to have photos with the Bishop and priests involved and there was an atmosphere of achievement and celebration.

Anyone in Year 8 who didn't receive the Sacrament of Confirmation can certainly receive it next year in Year 9.







Saint Vincent de Paul Retreat Day

Yesterday, fifty members of our All Hallows Youth SVP proudly participated in a meaningful SVP Retreat Day hosted at St. Teresa's Social Club. The day began with a heartfelt Mass at St. Teresa's Church, where the members engaged in a special spiritual celebration that set a reflective and uplifting tone for the day.

Following the Mass, the pupils took part in a variety of meaningful activities designed to deepen their commitment to the SVP mission and foster fellowship among members. These activities included engaging Prayer Stations, which provided moments of reflection and prayer, as well as the 'Dragon's Den' group activity, encouraging teamwork and creative ideas for supporting those in need.

As a special reward for their dedicated volunteering throughout the year—whether through the Food Bank, local charity work, or Metanoia support initiatives—the pupils enjoyed treats from the ice cream van, adding a fun and rewarding end to a rewarding day.

The event was a truly memorable occasion, marked by a warm and positive atmosphere. The exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm of all the pupils contributed significantly to the success of the day, making it a wonderful experience for everyone involved.



















On Thursday 8th May, the school proudly marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a series of heartfelt and memorable activities. Pupils wore their uniforms representing various cadet and Scout clubs to honour the occasion, and the entire school observed a respectful minute's silence at 12:00 to remember those who served. A vibrant bake sale was held, raising an impressive £150 for the Royal British Legion.

Adding to the atmosphere, staff fully embraced the spirit of the day by dressing in 1940s-style attire, helping to bring the era to life and spark conversations among students about wartime Britain. The day also featured stirring musical performances of popular wartime songs, led by Mrs Colclough alongside other members of staff and pupils, creating a moving and nostalgic tribute.

Thank you to averyong who contributed to this meaningful day of rememberses and calchyation!















Supporting Mental Wellbeing: All Hallows Joins Lancashire Mind Roadshow

This Mental Health Awareness Week (12th-18th May), All Hallows took part in the Lancashire Mind roadshow. Their mission was to spread wellbeing support across the county by visiting schools, community centres, and businesses.

During their visit, they offered treats, healthy snacks, and some lovely free gifts. The pupils took part in activities centered around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. These are evidence-based actions that can boost individuals' wellbeing when done regularly. The 5 Ways include:

Connect - Pupils were asked to select songs that make them feel good, and these were played throughout the visit.

Be Active – There were a range of fun mini-challenges, such as hula-hoop challenges and keep-me-up challenges.

Take Notice - As part of the launch of Lancashire's creative initiative, pupils were invited to contribute poetry, drawings, and more. They had the opportunity to get involved and take some time to reflect and reset.

Learn – There was a fun Lancashire-based quiz, allowing pupils to test their local knowledge and learn new things. Give – Pupils could explore a book of inspiring messages and uplifting quotes, and they were encouraged to add their own. Lancashire Mind also distributed pocket-sized support cards and shared lots of information about their services and support options. It was a fun activity for all, and the Lancashire Mind staff praised our students for their engagement and enthusiasm.













"Growing together in the spirit of Christ's love"

Much Ado About Ruby!

A huge congratulations to Ruby L (10 Margaret), who has achieved an extraordinary milestone by being selected to perform at the Poetry By Heart finals at the Globe Theatre this July. Chosen from thousands of students across the country, Ruby is one of only ten finalists in the prestigious Classic Poetry Selection category of which only two are selected from each region. This remarkable achievement follows her success last year, when she won the Liverpool Archdiocese Public Speaking Competition – a clear sign of her growing confidence and talent on stage.

Mrs Cairns, Second in English, said: "We're incredibly proud of Ruby – her passion for poetry and performance truly shines. She speaks with real emotion and understanding, and this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase her abilities on one of the world's most iconic stages."

Everyone at school wishes Ruby the very best of luck as she prepares for this unforgettable experience – we know she'll be brilliant!



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<u>UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Maths Challenge</u>

Talented young mathematicians from Year 7 are celebrating after achieving superb results in the prestigious UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Maths Challenge. The challenge is generally for students in Year 8 so our students really had to step up!

A total of 60 students took part in the national competition, which tests problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and mathematical thinking. The UKMT Maths Challenge is renowned for its rigorous questions and high standards, with thousands of students across the UK participating each year.

This year we have had unprecedented success, with over half the students earning an award.

21 students achieved a Bronze award which in itself is a significant achievement but special mentions go to Austin A, Noah B, Isabella K, Dhruv S, Emily B, Edie G and Ollie R for an outstanding Silver award. But it gets even better with Connor B, Alex AS, Corin D and Jasper L smashing it with a Gold. Jasper also got the best in school!

The highest-performing students were presented with their certificates in recognition of their hard work and mathematical talent.

Mr Briscoe, head of Maths, said: "We are incredibly proud of all the students who took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge.

"It is an incredibly difficult challenge and our students rose to the challenge, hopefully next year we can achieve even higher results" The school looks forward to continuing its participation in future challenges and inspiring a love for mathematics among its students.

<u>Celebrating Student Success</u> <u>Rhys Completes Youth Tennis Leadership Qualification</u>

We are absolutely delighted to congratulate Rhys R in Year 8, who has recently achieved a remarkable milestone by completing his Leadership Qualification as a Youth Tennis Leader through the prestigious Fred Perry Tennis Trust Championship.

This highly regarded programme is designed to inspire and equip the next generation of sports leaders, and Rhys's successful completion is a testament to his dedication, passion, and maturity beyond his years. Throughout the course, Rhys demonstrated an outstanding commitment to learning and developing the key skills required to lead both on and off the tennis court. From organising activities and assisting with coaching sessions to supporting younger players and contributing positively to the tennis community, he has proven himself to be a capable, confident, and enthusiastic young leader.

Rhys's achievement highlights not only his growing expertise in the sport but also his potential to make a meaningful impact in leadership roles within tennis and beyond. This qualification represents an exciting step forward in his journey as a role model and ambassador for youth sport. We are incredibly proud of Rhys and all the hard work, perseverance, and enthusiasm he has shown throughout this experience.

Well done, Rhys — we look forward to seeing what you achieve next!



<u>Year 7 Football Teams at the Rotary Tournament</u>





Our Year 7 football teams represented the school brilliantly at the recent Rotary Tournament, showcasing impressive effort, teamwork, and resilience throughout the entire day. Both teams played with determination and sportsmanship, making us all proud of their performance.

The boys' team put in a particularly strong showing, losing only one game during the group stages and narrowly missing out on a place in the quarter-finals. Their hard work and dedication were evident on the pitch. A special mention must go to Harry P, who was outstanding in goal and was deservedly named our Star of the Tournament for his superb performances and crucial saves. The girls' team also performed admirably, winning two of their matches, drawing one, and losing just one in a highly competitive group. Despite their best efforts, they were very unlucky not to progress further, but every player demonstrated commitment, skill, and great sportsmanship, reflecting well on the school.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in what was a fantastic day of football. Your effort and team spirit were truly commendable, and we're all proud of your achievements!

Under 13 Girls and Under 15 Boys Handball Teams





Congratulations to both the U13 girls and U15 boys handball teams for their outstanding performances at the North West round held in Liverpool on Thursday. The teams achieved a very respectable 3rd place out of all the schools in the North West, showcasing their skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition. Their impressive results and sportsmanship made the school incredibly proud, reflecting the hard work and dedication they have put into their training.

This achievement is a testament to their commitment and resilience, and they should be extremely proud of themselves for representing the school so brilliantly on a regional stage. Well done to all the players for their fantastic effort and positive attitude—your success inspires us all!

Year 7 Cricket Team



A huge well done to the Year 7 cricket team for their fantastic victory in their very first cricket fixture at All Hallows! The players demonstrated great skill, teamwork, and determination throughout the match, showing real promise and enthusiasm for the sport. Their effort on the field was truly impressive, and they played with confidence and sportsmanship, making us all proud.

Special congratulations go to Pablo H–J, who was named Bowler of the Day after delivering an outstanding performance, taking an impressive 4 wickets and helping to turn the game in our favor. Additionally, well done to Corin D, our Batting Player of the Day, who scored a solid 22 runs, providing a strong foundation for the team's success and demonstrating excellent technique and composure at the crease. This victory marks an exciting start for the team and a promising glimpse of what they can achieve with continued effort and dedication. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, resilience, and positive attitude throughout the match. Keep up the great work—here's to many more wins and memorable moments to come!



<u>Year 7 Netball Superstar</u> <u>Wins England U12 Grand Final!</u>

Congratulations to Issy K! In Year 7, Issy showcased incredible talent and dedication by competing in the England Netball U12 Grand Final representing her team, Oldham. The match took place on Sunday in Gloucester, and thanks to her hard work and teamwork, Oldham emerged as the overall winners of the tournament. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to Issy's skills, determination, and passion for netball. Well done, Issy — a true netball superstar in the making!





<u>Cup Glory for Thomas Mc and Myerscough</u> <u>After Dramatic Penalty Shootout</u>



A Huge Congratulations to Thomas Mc in Year 9! We're incredibly proud to share that Thomas Mc and his team, Myerscough, have won the prestigious Lancashire Cup! In a nail-biting final against the Blackburn Eagles, the teams were locked in a tense 0-0 draw throughout regular time and extra time. The match was a true test of resilience, teamwork, and determination.

With everything on the line, the game went to penalties — and it was there that Thomas and his teammates held their nerve. In a dramatic shootout, Myerscough emerged victorious with a 4–3 win, claiming the title in thrilling fashion.

This is a fantastic achievement for Thomas and his team, reflecting their hard work, dedication, and team spirit throughout the competition. Well done, Thomas — we're all incredibly proud of you!

Missy M Lancashire Cup Final

Congratulations to Missy M for her outstanding performance in the Lancashire Cup Final this past Sunday! She played a crucial role for her grassroots team, Myerscough Ul2s, helping them secure the championship in a hard-fought match. The team triumphed with a 1-0 victory, earning the title of Lancashire champions — a fantastic achievement for everyone involved.

Missy's dedication, skill, and teamwork were evident throughout the game, and her contribution was key to their success. This victory is a testament to her hard work and the effort she has put into her football journey so far. Well done, Missy! You should be incredibly proud of this incredible accomplishment. Keep striving and shining on the pitch!

<u>Penwortham St Teresa's Secures Double Victory</u> <u>with Cup Triumph</u>

Congratulations to Penwortham St Teresa's football team on winning the cup 2-1 last weekend! The match was thrilling, with Corin D scoring a fantastic header to make it 2-0. Despite conceding a penalty with just 10 minutes remaining, the team's solid defense held firm. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Harry P, Harry C, Luke M, Noah B, and Haris R, they secured a well-deserved victory. This impressive win completes their league and cup double—what a fantastic achievement!





Overcoming Challenges: Harry's Winning Goal After 11 Months of Resilience

Well done to Harry J, a Year 8 student, who made a remarkable impact by scoring the winning goal for his local club, helping them secure their place in the league after an incredible 11-month journey through treatment for leukaemia. His determination and resilience, both on and off the pitch, have been truly inspiring. Harry's achievement not only highlights his talent as a footballer but also reflects his strength and fighting spirit in overcoming such a challenging health battle. Everyone at the club and in the community are incredibly proud of his perseverance and success.



<u>Rising Star in Football: Emily's Journey from</u> <u>Grassroots to Liverpool's Academy</u>

Emily D, a Year 7 student, plays for her grassroots football team. In November, her team was invited to play at Liverpool's Academy against their U12s team. After impressively scoring all the goals for her team in that match, she was contacted by the club about joining them for a few training sessions. Having trained with Liverpool since Christmas, Emily has now been offered a place in their U14s Academy team.

Emily has worked incredibly hard at her football, and considering she has only been playing for three years, her progress is truly impressive. She has moved from Preston North End to Blackburn Rovers, and now to her beloved Liverpool FC — she should be very proud of her achievements so far.

As a passionate Liverpool fan, she was over the moon when she found out the news. Emily is excited to wear the Reds kit with great pride in the 2025/2026 season, and her journey is just beginning.

Celebrating Our Talented Performers







It was wonderful to see some of our incredibly talented students last Sunday at St. Teresa's Social Centre, where they were raising money and awareness in support of Derian House Children's Hospice. Derian House cares for more than 400 seriously ill babies, children, and young people across the North West, helping them make the most of every moment. Their dedication and efforts truly made the event special and impactful.

A special mention goes to the pupils from our school who performed with their dance club, PM Dance. Spencer T entertained the audience with his fantastic vocals, while Jacob F was one of the football shooting helpers from Penwortham St. Teresa's Football Club. Their enthusiasm, professionalism, and creativity impressed everyone in attendance, and they represented our school with pride. It was inspiring to see our students using their talents to support such a meaningful and important cause. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the positive impact they've made in the community.

Thank you to everyone who came along to show their support. Once again, congratulations to our performers for helping to make a difference and for representing our school so wonderfully.

Support the Next Generation of Innovators Sponsor an All Hallows VEX Robot!

All Hallows STEM Club is seeking sponsors for the 2025/2026 VEX Robotics season. Each robot sponsorship costs £125 and will directly support the growing number of students taking part in this exciting, hands-on STEM initiative at All Hallows. Due to the success and popularity of the VEX IQ Robotics Competition, our STEM Club (running on Monday evenings 3.05pm - 4.15pm) has grown rapidly in recent years — and this year we have seven robots needing sponsorship. That's seven teams of seven enthusiastic young engineers eager to design, build, and code their way through regional and national challenges.

We are appealing to local businesses and individuals who share our passion for science, technology, engineering, and maths. We need your help! This is a fantastic opportunity to invest in the future of innovation while supporting a thriving local school community.

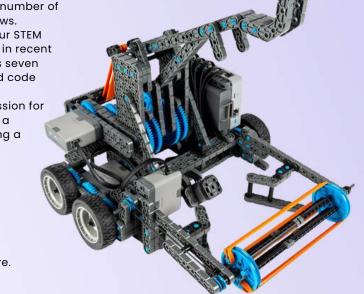
If you're not familiar with the VEX IQ program, take a look at this:

https://youtu.be/aa0B7kNHpg8?si=0-J_XzUsuLNxBg_E

Interested in sponsoring a robot?
Please contact Mr Jousiffe at:

Mdjo@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk

Together, we can help young minds push boundaries and build the future.









Reminder to Parents:

Please ensure that all students' uniforms and belongings are clearly marked with their name. This helps us to easily identify and return any items that may be misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school environment organized and ensuring that everyone's belongings stay safe.

Year 7 Cliff's Farm - Final Reminder

This is a final reminder that the consent forms for the upcoming Year 7 trip to Cliff's Farm in June were due on 9th May and are now overdue.

If you have not yet completed the online consent form, please do so as soon as possible. In addition, a separate risk acceptance form must be completed and returned to the Geography Department in order for your child to select their preferred activity. Please note that places for some activities are limited and cannot be guaranteed.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

<u>Year 8 Liverpool Field Trip Reminder</u>

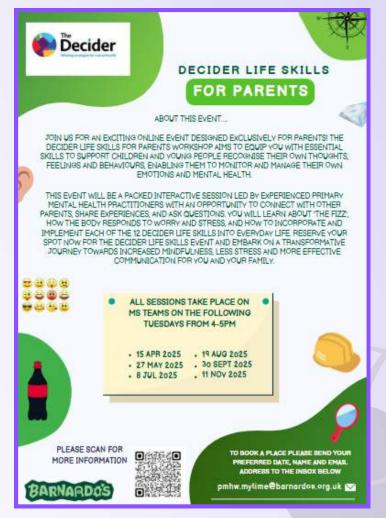
We would like to inform you that Year 8 students will be participating in a scheduled field trip to Liverpool on the 20th and 21st of May.

To facilitate this, please complete the required payment and consent forms through the link provided via ParentPay by the end of this week.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McDonnell.



f (in @COMPASSBLOOM



Schools Work to Restore Attendance to Pre-**COVID Levels Amidst Evidence of Long-Term Impact**

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, school attendance in the UK has struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels. Recent government studies underscore the long-term consequences of absenteeism, linking it not only to lower academic achievement but also to reduced future earnings and increased reliance on benefits.

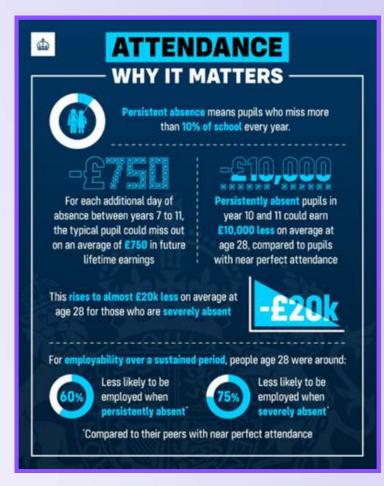
A 2025 Department for Education report found that each additional day of absence in secondary school is associated with a £750 decrease in future earnings. Moreover, students who are persistently absent are more likely to experience periods of unemployment or claim benefits by age 28. These findings highlight the significant impact of school attendance on long-term financial stability.

In response, All Hallows are implementing various strategies to improve attendance. These include targeted interventions for students with high absence rates, enhanced communication with parents, and referrals to family support services. The government has also increased fines for unauthorized absences and is considering the establishment of a national register for children not in school.

While challenges remain, these efforts aim to mitigate the long-term effects of absenteeism and ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.







PENWORTHAM TENNIS CLUB



Junior Play, Coaching and Team Tennis

Come and join our Junior Coaching programme, with beginner/improver, and performance sessions running throughout Spring/Summer/Autumn.

Junior tennis Team through Summer and Autumn, playing both Singles and Doubles.

Junior and Adult 1-to-1 coaching avaliable with our 2 Club Coaches.

Courts available for play all year round, just book and play as part of your membership (inc. Rackets, Balls, and Floodlights as required)

Junior membership is only £60 for a full year (£5 per month!) or only £35 if joining with an Adult (Adult 'hit with kids' membership £60, or full membership from £110)

So come along and join the growing Junior & Family Tennis scene at Penwortham Tennis Club!



Contact Sue/Phil Kitto (mob. 07415 905499, tel. 01772 622564, email phil.kitto@btopenworld.com) or drop by the Club Friday afternoon from 16:30 to chat to us and take a look at what's going on!

clubspark.lta.org.uk/PenworthamLawnTennisClub



Search 'Penwortham Tennis'