



# JUDGES VOTE IN FAVOUR OF *Priestley College*

It played out like a typical courtroom drama with both sides arguing their cases with passion and clarity.

However, when the judges reached their verdict there was only one winner – and that was Priestley College.

A judging panel of local lay magistrates watched as students from Priestley and Barrow Hall College pitted their wits against each other in a mock trial based around a fictional domestic violence case.

They agreed Priestley had performed better overall and awarded one of the star performer awards to the college's Tara Robinson, who is studying a BTEC in Law along with A-Levels in Psychology and Sociology. Tara played the role of a prosecution lawyer.

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**“It gave me a valuable insight into the preparation a lawyer must do for court as well as the experience of being an advocate in a real courtroom.”**

Tara Robinson, former pupil at The Heath

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“It enabled me to put myself in the shoes of a real lawyer and has confirmed my ambition to pursue a career in Law hopefully as a barrister. After Priestley my next goal is to progress onto a Law degree,” said Tara.

Students were given the scenario ahead of their court appearance so they could prepare fully. They were told there had been a common assault, which was to be tried as an ‘episode of domestic violence’.

Priestley and Barrow Hall each prepared a defence and a prosecution case with students taking on a variety of roles including lawyers, witnesses and defendants.

Priestley Law Tutor Christian Oliver said taking their arguments to the Warrington Combined Court helped students fully embrace their roles and give them the full court experience.

It is hoped the experience will help those on Priestley's Pre Law professional pathway to progress onto their chosen law related degrees and professions.

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“It definitely brought out the best in the students from both colleges. The magistrates commented that the overall standard was exceptionally high.”