

## PANATHLON CHALLENGE NORTH WEST SWIMMING GALA – ACCRINGTON ACADEMY SCHOOL



On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November, Freddie Terry, Xander Stonehouse and Thomas Middleton from our school, teamed up with pupils from another school (Samual Laycock), to represent the City of Manchester at the Panathlon Challenge North West Swimming Gala. The event (our second year of entering), was a great success, and once again our pupils had the most amazing, memorable experience, (and we didn't come last!).

The schools our pupils competed against were from all over the North west:- Moor Hey, Preston; Park School, Blackpool; Pendle View, Colne, Lancashire; Great Arley, Thornton-Cleveleys; Lansbury Bridge, St.Helens; and Merefield School, Southport.

The competition comprised of 10 races: **Race 1** - 25m freestyle (any stroke front or back) **Race 2** - 25m freestyle (swimmer two – any stroke front or back). **Race 3** – 25m backstroke. **Race 4** – 25m breaststroke. **Race 5** – 4x24m relay. **Race 6** – Treasure Hunt (4 swimmers per team) variety of equipment in the pool (both sinking and floating) team with the most items collected in 60 seconds. **Race 7** – 1xwidth (with floating device). **Race 8** – 1xwidth freestyle. **Race 9** – float the object relay. **Race 10** - Push and glide for distance. Our pupils had absolutely loads of fun competing in these races.

Panathlon Challenge is a splendid organisation, and their philosophy is a very inspiring one, “**...The Panathlon Challenge seeks to inspire young disabled people to use competitive sport and fair play as a means of social development...**” Our pupils certainly experienced a lot of ‘fair play’ at the event, and were certainly inspired by other pupils from different schools, which will undoubtedly continue to contribute to their social development. Well done boys, you did yourselves, and Delamere proud!!