

Emma Rooke - Class of 2014

Emma Rooke, 20, took over 'The Cow Shed' on Liverpool Road in Penwortham in May and has been successful in her application for a hot food licence as she looks to extend it.

But she said none of it would be possible without Penwortham Priory Academy Food Technology teacher Miss Lewis-Lavender who helped her and her five sisters find their culinary skills.

Emma won various awards at Priory, including coming third in the UK in the Rotary Chef competition.

Her sisters Hannah, Helen, Kate, Lucy and Jane also showed they could turn their hand to cookery skills, taking part in a variety of competitions throughout their time at Priory.

Young brother Ben is still at the school but, while he helps out at the Cow Shed, his focus is on sport.

"Shelley is the reason I am where I am," said Emma. "It's been my dream to have my own café, I went to catering college in Cheshire, and worked at Lang's Bakery and at Marks and Spencer's but I always wanted to run my own place.

"Shelley had a massive influence on us all. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have got into cooking and be where I am.

"My sisters also took part in various cookery competitions in their time at Priory and Kate is in Jersey and makes the ice-cream which we sell at The Cow Shed.



"It is a family affair as Helen is helping me, Jane has just finished at Priory this year and worked during the summer and Ben works after-school and at weekends so everyone is helping out."

Miss Lewis-Lavender said: "I am so proud of Emma. I did an advanced patisserie course with their mum at Preston's College around 20-years ago and she passed on her knowledge from this to them.

"I encouraged them to carry on with their cooking skills and they have all dabbled in different things but tended to come back to food."

Emma was invited to return to Priory for the Open Evening last night, with her sister Jane, where she was one of the judges for the cake competition organised by Miss Lewis-Lavender. During the event Emma and Jane also worked with the pupils demonstrating cake decorating techniques.

