



An All-through Co-operative School  
Carton Avenue East, Wembley HA9 8NA  
**Head: Mr Matthew Lantos**

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March 2014

Dear Families

Spring is finally here and I am sure you and your children are looking forward to a well-earned rest over the school holiday. As I am sure many families are aware, last February one of our children, Prince Isaiah-Abban, died suddenly in tragic circumstances. In February 2014, the Lower School held a remembrance assembly to commemorate the 1st Anniversary of his passing. All children, staff and families wore blue ribbons to the assembly which was the centrepiece of the commemoration: 'Happy Prince Day.' The assembly ended with the release of blue balloons.

### **End of Spring Term arrangements**

The Spring Term finishes on Friday 4 April 2014. There will be a phased departure for Years 7-11 up to 12 noon. Lunch will be available in the dining hall at break time for those students who would like it.

### **Start of Summer term arrangements**

The school is closed for the Easter holidays from Monday 7 April to Monday 21 April 2014 inclusive and for staff training on Tuesday 22 April 2014. Students will return to school for normal lessons on **Wednesday 23 April 2014** and should arrive in school by **8.35am** ready for registration at the usual time of **8.40am**. Please ensure your child is in school on time with the correct uniform and equipment so that lessons can commence with the minimum of disruption.

### **School Website**

The Upper School now has a new website, separate from that of the Lower School. Please visit at [www.preston-manor.com](http://www.preston-manor.com). If you have any suggestions that you would like to make on the new website, then please email [d.graham@preston-manor.com](mailto:d.graham@preston-manor.com).

### **Year 11 Easter Revision Classes**

Preston Manor staff have organised an extensive revision programme for Year 11 students over the Easter period. Once again, our committed staff have demonstrated their willingness to do that little bit extra in order to give your child every possible chance of success this summer. I would ask that families make themselves familiar with the Easter revision schedule and that you continue to support your child during this most crucial time. I take this opportunity to thank the Year 11 teaching staff for their generous commitment, and ask that your child shows their appreciation to staff by taking this opportunity and embracing it fully.

The Easter revision timetable has been given to all students and is available on the school website. For any queries or clarification, please contact Mr Wallman (Director of Student Development for Year 11).





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### **Public Examination Information**

All students in Years 11, 12 and 13 have received information on rules and regulations that must be followed during the public exams. This information includes a copy of their examination timetable. A final exam timetable will be issued at the beginning of the Summer Term. Please familiarise yourselves with the contents of this information in order to support your child through this important time.

### **Year 11 and 13 Leaving Arrangements**

Full details of these arrangements will be provided in the summer term. For both year groups we will be aiming to ensure students have access to their subject teachers in lesson time, wherever possible, right up to their examinations in each subject. We believe that this, coupled with a programme of independent study undertaken in students' own time, will give them the best possible chance of success in these vital public exams

### **University Applications**

Year 13 students have now made their university applications. The vast majority of our students have already received conditional offers of places and many of them have offers from all five choices. Four students have been offered places to study Medicine. A number of other students who have applied for other specialist courses are still waiting for decisions from their chosen universities.

### **Oxbridge success**

This year, two of our Year 13 students have made successful applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Charith Perera has been offered a place at Hertford College, Oxford to read Bio-Chemistry while Zain Kapadia will be reading Mathematics at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. This is the thirteenth year running that at least two students from our Sixth Form have gained places at Oxford and Cambridge universities in subjects including Medicine, Law, English, Chemistry, Economics, PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics) and Natural Sciences.

Congratulations to all our students for these great achievements.

### **Equipment and Student Planners**

As part of our commitment to develop them as independent learners, all students are expected to come to school each day with the necessary equipment to take an active part in their lessons. As well as essential equipment such as a pen, pencil and ruler, students should have their planner and a reading book with them at all times. Student planners are a vital means of communication between home and school and should be checked and signed by parents once a week. They should also be used for any routine communication between home and school.

### **Home Learning**

Home Learning activities are set on a regular basis at Preston Manor and should be recorded by all students in their planner. Home Learning gives individuals the opportunity to develop their skills as independent learners. In addition, Home Learning is provided for students to practise applying the skills they have learned in lessons. Without this practice, students do not progress and reach their potential. Therefore we ask that you monitor that Home Learning is set and recorded in your child's planner. If there are any queries or issues



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regarding Home Learning, please communicate this with form tutors through the Student Planner in the first instance. We appreciate your support in ensuring the best progress for your son or daughter.

### **School Uniform**

The Preston Manor uniform is an important part of the culture and ethos of our school. High standards of dress are expected at all times and students must come to school every day in neat, clean uniform as an indication that they take pride in belonging to the Preston Manor School community. Whenever the school uniform is worn, it must be complete and not mixed with non-uniform clothing.

In the Autumn Term we used some flexibility for families who were confused about the rules for school shoes but asked staff to insist **that all rules were followed from January 2014.**

School shoes must be plain black leather or leather look (no canvas or shiny patent materials). Kicker shoes are permitted as long as they are black and do not have contrasting stitching, laces or soles. **No boots** (including Kicker boots) are allowed.

A summary of expectations is provided elsewhere on our website; please check this before making any purchases over the holidays.

Please can I ask for your support in ensuring your child is dressed properly by not sending your child to school with a note to cover items of missing clothing/ footwear for any period of time beyond **one day. Any period of time beyond one day will not be authorised.**

### **PE Newsletter**

Please see the Spring Term PE newsletter on the website in the newsletters section for news and updates on the school's sporting achievements.

### **Parent Association**

The Parent Association is a valued forum for parents/carers to share initiatives and discuss concerns with invited and key members of the school community. Importantly, the Parent Association works to both engage as well as inform our parents/carers. Please use the following link if you would like to send a message to the Parent Association, or would like to raise issues that you think would be useful to discuss at our next meeting.  
[ParentCouncil@pmanor.brent.sch.uk](mailto:ParentCouncil@pmanor.brent.sch.uk)

### **Entitlement to Free School Meals**

We are keen to ensure that all students receive the support to which they are entitled and are having nutritious food at lunchtime. Full details of who is entitled to apply and where you can access the forms are available in reception or from our website. In addition the school receives the Pupil Premium element of its funding according to the number of students eligible for FSM.

### **Alumni Association**



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As part of our vision that Preston Manor School is supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community that helps it to do more for its students, we have begun to work alongside Future First, an organisation expert in setting up a formal Alumni Associations. We already have over 400 former students or 'Old Manorians' signed up, some of whom left the school in the 1940s, others as recent as 2013. Our aim is to reach the one thousand mark by the end of the summer term.

If you attended this school when you were a student then please sign up! It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, we still hope you will consider to be part of this exciting project. 'Old Manorians' will receive termly updates from the school and we hope to run a number of events in the future.

**If you are a former student or member of staff, then please sign up today at the link below:**

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-search>

You can also sign up at link from main school website page – see tab for 'Old Manorians'.

**Students who will be leaving at the end of this academic year (2013-2014) can also sign up at:**

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/student-search>

If you have any further queries or ideas on how the Alumni Association can develop in the future, then please contact Daniel Graham, Deputy Headteacher, at [d.graham@preston-manor.com](mailto:d.graham@preston-manor.com)

### **Travel Ambassadors**

Fifteen students from across years 8 - 12 have been trained by Transport for London and the London Transport Museum Education Unit to become Youth Travel Ambassadors. They will be working with London Transport and take an active role in addressing transport and travel issues which affect them and their community. The students presented to representatives from Transport for London and Brent Local Authority on the 1 April at the Brent Civic Centre and were successful in winning £300 to implement several ideas that they presented on the day.

### **Parking outside school**

Families are reminded that for health and safety reasons and a lack of available space there is no parking provided on the school site at the beginning and end of the school day, unless by prior arrangement. I encourage all Upper School students to walk, cycle or use public transport when travelling to or from school and ask that if parents do choose to use their cars they show consideration for our neighbours and respect the yellow zigzag lines and residents driveways.



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Residents in Hollycroft Avenue have asked that students are dropped off at the main entrance as their road is so narrow. A reminder that the back gate into Hollycroft Avenue closed at the end of the day.



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## **Spring Term Enrichment/ Trip and Visits**

### **Lower School**

- Yr 2 Trip to London Zoo
- Yr 2 Trip to Fire Brigade Museum
- Yr 2, 3, 4 Trip to The National Gallery

### **Upper School**

- Yr 7 - 9 Trip to KPMG
- Yr 7 - 9 Trip to the BT Centre
- Yr 7 - 9 Trip to Kingsbury High School - Debate
- Yr 7 -10 Trip to London School of Economics
- Yr 7 - 13 Ski Trip to Andorra
- Yr 7 - 13 Trip to Jewish Free School
- Yr 8 - 12 Institute of Education
- Yr 9 - 10 Trip to Saddlers Wells Theatre
- Yr 9 - 10 Trip to New Loom
- Yr 9 - 12 Trip Etc Venues, Presentation at Teachers and Leaders Conference
- Yr 10 - Trip to Avonmouth House
- Yr 10 - Trip to Real Business Challenge to compete in London Regional Finals
- Yr 10 - Residential Geography Field Trip
- Yr 10 - 13 Trip to Sky Academy
- Yr 10 - 13 Trip to Tate Modern
- Yr 11 - Trip to the Excel Centre - Big Bang Fair
- Yr 12 - Residential Geography Field Trip
- Yr 12 - Trip to Epping Forest Field Centre
- Yr 12 and 13 - Trip to The Maltings Arts Theatre
- Yr 12 and 13 - Royal College of Art
- Yr 13 - Trip to Mount Vernon Hospital

I am sure you will join me in thanking both students and staff for an excellent term's work and once again I would like to thank you for your continued help and support. I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and restful break and look forward to seeing your children refreshed and ready to learn on Wednesday 23 April.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Lantos  
Head