



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

I am writing to wish you a very happy holiday and New Year for 2017. May you and your family be safe, healthy and joyous throughout the festive season!

At the end of a very busy and successful term, I would like to thank the students for their hard work and achievements so far this year. Once again, we have many success stories to share and good news items to celebrate together. I would also like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to excellence, as well as parents and carers for your continued support of Preston Manor School and our students.

I am also very pleased to give you some updates about the school. We have had a very productive term including the following: introducing the English National Opera to our whole school community; viewing some absolutely amazing Dance performances by our own Preston Manor Dance Company; winning the girls netball competition in Brent; visiting Cambridge University by some of our selected students in year 10 and 11; taking over Brent Council for a day by some of our own student council; raising over £5,000 for various charities by our student body; being successful in the Young Brent: Future of Business Programme; and supporting a BBC documentary on the impact of social media on teenagers *including some of our sixth formers giving up their mobile phones for a full week!* **Please read more in our 'Good News Items' attached or our *End of Term Newsletter*.**

All students were asked to embrace challenge this year and already this term we are able to see more resilience in lessons. Feedback demonstrates that students are responding with more confidence to *challenge*. Please continue to support them at home, encouraging them to face challenge and see it as a learning opportunity. We have had the highest of expectations this term, wanting all students to be proud to display *positive behaviour* and *caring for others* in our community. Our '*Caught Doing the Right Thing*' programme has had a very positive impact in this area and very good feedback from students.

The last day of this term is Wednesday 21 December. As traditional at this time of year we will have had achievement assemblies for all our students and the students





will finish school at approximately 12.15pm. I have reminded all students about some **safety issues**. Please ensure they do go straight home and do not 'hang around' public places in Wembley. Other school closures may lead to large groups of children congregating in Brent. I also reminded them about walking home or around Wembley in the holidays safely.

Start of Spring term arrangements

Students will return to school for normal lessons on **Wednesday 4 January 2017** and should arrive in school **before 8.35am** ready for registration at the usual time of **8.40 am**. 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.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued help and support. I hope you and your family have a restful break and enjoy this holiday period. I look forward to seeing your children refreshed and ready to learn in January.

Yours sincerely

Beth Kobel
Headteacher



I would also like to draw your attention to the End of Term Newsletter for this term which can be found on our website at the following link:
<http://www.preston-manor.com/page/?title=End+of+Term+Newsletter&pid=103>

Other Newsworthy events:

Excelling in Learning

In September we launched embracing *challenge* in Preston Manor's **ACE Teaching Identity** with all staff. (Autonomy, Challenge, Effective feedback). These are the 3 key aspects of teaching and learning we prioritise - developing students' ability to *take more ownership* of their learning, to *embrace challenge* and to *respond to teacher's feedback*. I believe strongly that all children should enjoy learning, be actively engaged and have high expectations of what they can achieve- always challenging themselves to realise their personal best.

Our learning identity continues to be effective at developing student autonomy. At Key Stage 3, we now report to parents on the *four learning dispositions* so that progress in these areas can be tracked and parents know how to support their child to be a better learner.

Performing Arts Faculty/English National Opera Takeover Day

During the school day from between 8:40am to 4:00pm a series of workshops and performances were delivered to students in the hall by the **English National Opera**. This started with Year 7 and 5, moving through targeted Year 8 and 'opted for' Year 9 Music and Drama students. After break workshops continued for Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music and Drama students. The day finished with the school's orchestra accompanying the characters of Don Giovanni and Zerlina in an arrangement by Mr Crawley for the English National Opera of the duet 'La ci Darem'. This will be performed again in schools in the boroughs of Lambeth and Hackney during this academic year. **'Pop Up' Performances:** Despite the rain early in the day Opera performances were seen at break and lunch outside the platinum block, the huts and in science as students queued for their lunch.

Dance: During the day Ms Gratton's Key Stage 3 Dance Company created and performed original choreography to an extract of Bizet's 'The Pearl Fishers' during the day.

Key Statistics and Observations:

- *Visiting the school throughout the day where 28 professional performers from The English National Opera's current production of Mozart's 'Don Giovanni'.*
- *Professional quality live music was performed to students in Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5.*
- *Takeover Day reached 580 students in the hall during the day as well as the school community as a whole during break and lunch.*
- *The ENO commented that Preston Manor students were attentive, courteous and creative throughout the day.*
- *The ENO commented that they were made to feel particularly welcome at the start of the day by the 6th formers and 6th form team in assembly.*
- *VIP guests from The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brent Music Hub and the Nudge Foundation as well as the ENO who observed the orchestral rehearsal and performance during period 5 where singularly impressed by the standard of orchestral playing from the students when accompanying the professional singers.*



Apart from minimal cover costs for Faculty of Performing Arts staff the event was free of charge to the school.

Brilliant Club

On Friday 14th October four Year 11 students and six Yr 10 students went to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge to take part in a graduation programme for their Brilliant Club course. The Brilliant Club delivers academic enrichment programmes works and is aimed at more able students from a variety of backgrounds who maybe under-represented at University and encourage them to apply for university after their A-Levels. It is the college which Stephen Hawking attended and the students were privileged to have a tour of the college and its surroundings which included seeing the college library, student halls and the common room as well as the door that led to the office Stephen Hawkings. The students enjoyed a three course lunch in the dining hall of the college in between Information and guidance session and the final graduation ceremony. All the students passed the course and received certificates for their assignments and their commitment to the course with two of our year 11's getting an extra commendation certificate for their work.

Upper School Awards Evening

On Tuesday 13 December we held our fifth annual Awards Evening, an event celebrating the achievement and progress of students from Years 7 to 13. Our Guest Speaker this year who presented the Special Awards was Anna Sella, an Associate Solicitor at International Law firm Lewis Silk in LLP. Several former students also joined us to receive their shields and trophies, and we had dance and music to entertain us from our Performing Arts faculty. The evening was hosted by our new Head Girl Vaishali Raghvani and Head Boy Kushal Chudasama. Congratulations to all the award winners!

Sixth Form

As ever it has been an incredibly busy term in Sixth Form. Already we have worked with the BBC in making a documentary focusing on the impact that social media has on teenagers, with some students trying to live without their mobile phones for a week! The project involved special guest appearances from Dev from Radio 1 and Mollie King from The Saturdays. The second Sixth Form Charity Week also proved to be a great success with a number of activities organised by the Sixth Form. The total money raised topped £4000 for which is a fantastic achievement from our students. Over forty sixth formers participated in 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' at the end of November which focused on the important issue of road safety. The event was organised by Brent and Harrow Council and was well received by the students. Sixth Formers have also been working within the community, with a number of students volunteering at Birchwood Care Home as well as our traditional Christmas Party at Brook House Care Home.

Sixth Form have also had a variety of guest speakers including the NCS, but the performance from the English National Opera will take some beating this year! Head Boy Kushal Chudasama won the October Jack Petchey award and will be spending his prize money on a camera for Sixth Form. Students with an interest in going into medicine attended a mock medicine interview event, with two senior consultants coming into Sixth Form to conduct mock medicine interviews with three Year 13 medicine applicants. Sixth Form students have been



applying for a wide range of summer schools and enrichments projects to be completed this year. Students interested in a career in education have been working with staff and students from the lower school.

Yr 9 Poetry Slam!

The Poetry Slam was a tremendous success. Four students were selected from each side of the cohort to compete against one another. The winning 'Slam' poets produced some truly exceptional work and performed their poems with confidence and flair. Two of the winners had memorised their poems by heart and it was a real credit to the school and to their teachers to witness the obvious care they had taken when writing their poems and thinking about how best to perform them.

Maths Competitions

Over the past few weeks, Preston Manor students have taken part in two UKMT Maths Challenges: Five students entered the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, and 100 AS and A-Level Mathematics students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge. All five of the girls entered for the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls gained marks in the extremely challenging paper, showing resilience and commitment throughout. We await the results of the Senior Maths Challenge. Key Stage 3 and 4 students will be entering the Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenge papers, and we have recently entered a team for the UKMT Senior Team Challenge, which takes place later this term.

Young Brent: Future of Business programme

Thirteen Year 10 students were selected to participate in the Young Brent: Future of Business programme, the Dragon's Den style business programme, piloted by National Careers Service and Ultra Ltd. The event took place over three separate days and included:

- *'The introductory' session in which the students were taught how to approach an employer, how to speak during an interview and how to present themselves.*
- *'The Pre Session', where the students received a lesson on pitching ideas, examples of pitching and were given the opportunity to practice themselves.*
- *The 'Careers Day' was the final day of the programme. The four groups had to show their team working and communication skills, their resilience and confidence to deliver a pitch on an original idea to the 'Dragons'.*

The winning team will have a choice to either do their work experience at The Kilburn's Trust or a recruitment company. All students who took part received a certificate from the National Careers Service and the London Ambitions Careers Offers, which is supported by London Council, London Enterprise Panel and the Mayor of London. The school has also received a certificate.

Shattering Stereotypes Project

Preston Manor will be taking part in the 'Shattering Stereotypes' gender balance pilot project. The new project that is being piloted by Royal Holloway in partnership with the South East Physics Network (SEPnet). The project looks at how to tackle the problem of gender stereotyping across schools. The 'Shattering Stereotypes' project will deliver a year-long programme of activities to 400 Year 8 students across the South East throughout the 2016/17



academic year, that will include Preston Manor School Year 8 Students. Dr Sarah Hatton Preston Manor's SEPnet Outreach Officer, will deliver three activities across the year with our Year 12 physics, maths and science students. The core programme will include three activities delivered once a term. These include:

- *A Year 12 training session, Year 8 focus groups and an introductory workshop which introduces the idea of gender stereotyping and how it affects students and their interest in STEM careers.*
- *A Careers Evening for students and their parents where we encourage them to look at careers beyond what would be expected of them due to their gender.*
- *An Extended Project where the students can explore the idea of gender-stereotyping in their schools and family life.*

The Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge

Phoebe Otukoya (Year 11) and Reem Al-Shaheen (Year 9) represented Preston Manor School at this year's takeover event which took place on 18 November. Young people from around the borough took over the running of Brent Council for a day. During the course of the day they had the opportunity to meet and work with many Brent employees and to come up with creative solutions to some of the most challenging issues facing the borough.

Physical Education and Sport

This term has been very successful for our sports team, including our girls Netball Team winning the Brent Championships! Please see our end of term Newsletter for more details of all the matches.

Girls Rugby Taster Day

A few of our PE students were lucky enough to attend a Rugby Taster day led by the Rugby Football Union. With it being a huge success we will be adding a Girls Rugby club very soon- Watch this space!

Years 10 and 11 - GCSEPod and other technologies

Please encourage your child to use GCSEPod and other technologies (e.g. Firefly, Google Classroom etc) to revise and deepen their learning of what they are studying at GCSE. GCSEPod is an award winning product focused on creating high quality audio visual mobile learning, mapped to the main GCSE (UK and international) exam boards, and is proven to raise GCSE attainment. Podcasts are available across 20 popular GCSE subjects.

This year's Whole School Council has been announced

This year's representatives are: Alexandru Prodan and Ocean Renaud (year 7), Zain Mikhles and Holle Emmanuel (Year 8), Shay James Gayle and Reem Al-Shaheen (Year 9), Sophie Hachem and Tigma Barfiwala (Year 10), Jerrell Kelman-Jones, Amara Khan, Said Ali and Phoebe Otukoya (Year 11), Rajvi Patel and Haroun Bilal-Ali (Year 12) and Parth Halai and Mica Herid (Year 13).

Visit to Institute of the Americas at UCL



Year 13 Politics students were warmly welcomed to a reception and lecture by Professor Iwan Morgan of UCL. The focus of the evening was the 2016 Presidential Election in America.

Jeans for Genes Day

Students and staff marked this day by wearing jeans with their regular school uniform to bring attention to genetic disorders and research. The school raised £1,046 for this charity which has sent a letter and certificate expressing their gratitude.

Alumni Association

Our Alumni Association continues to grow – now nearly at 1,100 members. This Association has been a rich source of speakers and guest visitors for Careers Days and other events which take place at the school. A number of work experience placements have also been offered by Alumni members.

REMINDERS;

Attendance, Punctuality and Registration

All students should arrive in school **before 8.35am** ready for registration. Please ensure your child is in school on time with the correct uniform and equipment.

The school has a dedicated absence line and if your child is absent for any reason or has to leave school to attend an appointment please call on **0208 385 4042** and leave a message. Please do not call the main switchboard. If your child has a dental appointment during the school day, please ensure that they bring an appointment card so that they can be allowed to leave school. However, we ask that you make these appointments outside of the school day.

Parents are reminded that the school should be informed promptly of any absence known in advance. **Holidays must not be arranged during term time.** Requests for emergency absences during term time should only be made in exceptional circumstances and should be made using a *Request for Exceptional Leave of Absence during Term Time* form available in reception **at least four weeks in advance.**

Emergency Contact Numbers

It is a legal requirement for parents to inform the school of any changes to their home address, telephone number or of any change in circumstances which the school should know about. Please complete the attached form and return it to the General Office as soon as possible with any changes to your contact details.

School Website

The Upper School website address is **www.preston-manor.com**

E-Safety

We would like to draw your attention to the E-Safety section in the Parents' and Student areas of the school website. This area of the website is updated regularly in response to the fast moving world of technology. New to this area of the website are the Digital Universe



Guides on a number of online safety topics. There is also a new resource titled 'A Parent's Guide to Dealing with 'Sexting'', which is an increasing national problem. We highly recommend that you view these items.

In addition, there are now e-safety guides titled 'Keeping Up With Children' in Bengali, Hindi and Urdu which can be found on this area of the website. Lastly, we draw your attention to the presentation titled 'Living With Technology'. This can be used within the home to run a 'family workshop' on online safety.

Please also note that students in Year 7 have been given little booklets produced by CEOP which provides good advice on online safety. Please ask them to show this to you.

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. As well as reinforcing and deepening learning which has taken place at school, 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. Please check your child's planner every day or refer to Show My Homework to help support your child meet home learning deadlines. All parents/carers and students have been provided with usernames and passwords. If you wish to find out more about this product, there is a 'Show My Homework – A Parent's Introduction' video that can be viewed from the Parent's Area of the website.

If there are any queries or issues 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. We fully expect families to support the school in these high expectations.

Please can I ask for your support in ensuring your child is dressed properly by not sending them 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.*

A summary of uniform expectations is provided below. *(Please check this before making any purchases over the holidays.)*

For all students

- 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*) of any description, no canvas or patent leather shoes.
- top buttons must be fastened and shirts must be tucked in
- ties should be knotted conventionally and worn to the waist
- navy blue blazers with the school badge must be worn at all times
- outdoor coats must be navy blue or black and have no logos, patterns or markings (*hoods should be kept down whilst on the school site and must not conceal any part of the face*)
- a plain black or blue simple woollen hat may be worn in outside spaces in cold weather at the discretion of senior staff
- hair must be worn in an appropriate style that would not undermine the ethos or discipline of the school (*eg no markings cut into the hair or eyebrows, brightly dyed hair or any other extreme of fashion*)
- jewellery is restricted to one pair of small, plain stud earrings and a watch (*no nose or other facial piercings of any kind*)
- make-up or nail varnish may not be worn

For girls

- navy blue or black knee length or longer school skirt, or navy blue or black tailored school trousers (*no jeans, 'skinny-fit' trousers or leggings*)
- plain navy blue or black religious headscarf (no other headwear of any kind is permitted and head scarves must not conceal any part of the face)

For boys

- dark grey or black school trousers

PE Reminders

Please remind your son/daughter to had in any valuables to their PE teacher at the start of the lesson (jewellery, keys, oyster cards). Students are not allowed back into the changing room once it has been locked

Everyone starts a new half term in January-One forgotten/incorrect kit= 15 mins, any time again during the half term =C3 60 min detention.

Remember: Blue or black tracksuit bottoms-Grey bottoms/leggings are not permitted in lessons!

Remember: Gum shields for Rugby starting after half term!

Mobile phones

Mobile phones must be switched off and kept out of site when on the school site. Personal stereos, ear-pieces and MP3 or MP4 players are not appropriate in a school setting and are



banned from the Preston Manor site. The school cannot accept responsibility for any such items that are lost on site. Use of mobile phones to make calls or send texts during the school day will continue to be treated as serious breaches of the behaviour policy. Staff will continue to confiscate these items and will arrange for them to be collected by parents rather than returned to students themselves. Parents should contact the school in advance to arrange a time to collect items from their child's Director of Student Development as items will **not be returned without an appointment**. The school appreciates the support of parents/carers in upholding the mobile phone policy.

Behaviour in School and the Wider Community

The vast majority of our students exhibit excellent and courteous behaviour at all times and are a credit to their families. The school has high expectations of the way that students behave in the local community and we expect them to be good citizens at all times.

In particular students:

- *must go straight home at the end of the day unless they are taking part in an organised school activity supervised by a member of staff*
- *must not congregate by the school gates after 3.20pm and if they need to meet younger siblings they should wait in the playground by the Art and Design Block*
- *must not arrange to meet friends who do not attend Preston Manor under any circumstances*
- *must not behave in an anti-social or inconsiderate way near local bus stops and shops, particularly in Preston Road*
- *must not hang around McDonalds at Wembley Park which has banned students from visiting their restaurant after school, unless they are accompanied by their parents/guardians.*

Due to the potential risk to the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community, as well as possible damage to the school's reputation, any incidents when students fail to heed these instructions will be dealt with as a very serious matter. Students who behave in this way will place themselves at risk of fixed term or possibly permanent exclusion from Preston Manor.

Offensive Weapons

Please support the school by emphasising to your children that research demonstrates that carrying a weapon makes young people more vulnerable to attack rather than providing security. Section 1 of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 provides that "an offensive weapon is **any article made or adapted** for use for causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for such use by him or by some other person". This can include carrying any sharp objects such as a broken compass or sharpener blade (outside of a secure pencil case) as these can also be viewed as a weapon when not used for their intended purpose. I would like to remind Families that our school behaviour policy is very clear on the most serious sanction for an offensive weapon.

SPRING TERM 2017	
INSET day	Tuesday 3 January 2017
Term starts	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Half Term	Monday 13 February to Friday 17 February 2017
Term Ends	Friday 31 March 2017
Easter Holidays	Monday 3 April 2017 to Monday 17 April 2017
SUMMER TERM 2017	
INSET day	Tuesday 18 April 2017
Term starts	Wednesday 19 April 2017
May Day	Monday 1 May 2017 – SCHOOL CLOSED
Half Term	Monday 29 May to Friday 2 June 2017
Term finishes	Friday 21 July 2017