

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and that you managed some peace, rest and relaxation in these challenging times.

It has been absolutely fantastic to open our doors once again to our students and get the term started. Yesterday morning, I met many of our new year 7 parents as our students joined us on their first day. There was a huge degree of excitement as well as a little nervousness - although the nerves were mostly from our parents! They had a great first day at Preston Manor and it was nice to see those smiles even bigger at the end of the day.

Yesterday also saw the return of our Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 students and our Lower School was certainly full of life. At the end of the day I spent some time with Mr Atkinson meeting our parents as they collected their children. Again, it was so good to see so many students with such positivity and everyone so happy to be back in school once again. I know I speak for all of our staff across our whole school when I say that having our students back in the classroom, learning and making that exceptional progress we strive for, is something that we have been looking forward to.

I want to confirm finish times at the schools as there was a little confusion yesterday. Our Key Stage 1 students finish their school day at 3pm. All of our other students in Key Stage 2, 3, 4 & 5 all finish at 3.20pm. If you are collecting your child after school, can I please just ask that you are mindful of our residents and please park safely if you are driving.

Next week will see the return of all of our students back to school as well as welcoming our newest members - the reception class. It was only last year that my youngest child started reception and his education journey - and the first day at school pictures for reception as he clambered into his uniform for the first time were fantastic

At the Upper School, we have made some slight amendments to how the school starts the day. We ask that all students are on site for 8.35am as 8.40am is now **period 1** and **not** tutor time. Tutor time has been moved to slightly later in the morning at the end of period 2. This means that if your son/daughter is late for school, they will be missing valuable learning time and being in school ready to learn for the first lesson is extremely important. We are also expecting full school uniform to be worn by all year groups.

As I know you are aware, the guidance from the Department for Education is that all students should have two Lateral Flow Device tests upon their return, and we have an extensive programme underway already to ensure that our school community remains safe. Staff are also continuing to test bi-weekly so that we can continue without any interruption to learning. We will also be asking all staff and students at the Upper School to continue to wear face coverings whilst inside the school building.



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We have a few events for parents approaching and I wanted to let you know in advance. Confirmation of start times for these events will be sent directly to parents in due course.

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| • Year 7 | Meet the Tutor Evening | Thursday 9th September (in person) |
| • Year 11 | Year 11 Welcome Evening | Tuesday 14 September (virtual) |
| • Year 12 | Year 12 Welcome Evening | Thursday 16th September (virtual) |
| • Year 13 | Year 13 Welcome Evening | Wednesday 22nd September (virtual) |
| • Year 10 | Year 10 Welcome Evening | Wednesday 6th October (virtual) |

On Thursday 23rd September we will also be holding our annual Year 6 Open Evening where we welcome prospective students and parents to our school. More information about this will be sent out in the coming days, but it is a showcase event for our school community that I am very much looking forward to. To allow for preparations for this evening, the school will close slightly earlier on that day and start a little later on Friday 24th September at 9.40am.

I will continue to write to you next week with further updates and news about how our first full week of school has gone. Whatever your plans are for the weekend, I hope you have a restful one.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Denial
Executive Headteacher

