



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Parent/Carer,

After a very busy few weeks, half-term is finally upon us. I am incredibly pleased with the way our school community has returned to 'normal' full time education and some of the work of our young people has been outstanding. It has also been really good to welcome visitors back into school this term and the feedback we have received has been what a warm, friendly and welcoming place Preston Manor is.

Last week at the Upper School, we were visited by a touring theatre company who deliver relevant and important performances on subjects that affect young people in our society. Our Year 8s watched a performance called 'Chelsea's Story' which explored the topics of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and consent. Our Year 9s watched a performance called 'Unacceptable'. This performance really looked at sexism and the choice of language that is sometimes used which is derogatory and offensive. I was lucky enough to have watched both performances and see the impact that they had on our students. Helping our young people understand more about wider issues is something that is extremely important and something that helps our students in their wider development, beyond the classroom.

Our Year 6 D.I.V.A.s attended their 'Raising Aspirations' at the Upper School recently with our Careers Lead and D.I.V.A coordinator Mrs Nyakeru. Our year 6 D.I.V.A.s first discussed how self-aware they are and where they felt they might need support. During the session the D.I.V.A.s learnt new terminology used to identify jobs and careers and discussed what this terminology meant and why it is important to know and understand it. In groups they researched job sectors, occupations as well as the skills and qualifications needed to gain access to them. They worked extremely hard in the sessions and Mrs Lannaman-Williams was very proud and said that they were the best versions of themselves. Really inspirational and motivating work from all of them!

As I am sure you are aware, there has been much in the news this week about the increase in positive cases of COVID across the country. There has been no change in Government guidance as yet and Preston Manor will continue to follow the guidance that is currently published. Should there be any change after half term, we will of course let you know immediately. However, we do want to stress the importance of continued testing over the half term break as well as ensuring that your son/daughter has a face covering/mask at the Upper School. Our aim is to stay safe and maintain normal routines with face to face education. I am sure that by working together that this is something we will be able to achieve. Your continued support is always valued.

It is hard to believe that when we return to school after half term, we will be in November. On a final note this half term, I will leave you with our 'thought of the day theme' and that *change starts with us*. Life doesn't allow us to go back and fix what we have done wrong in the past, but it does allow for us to live each day better than our last.

Wishing you all a very peaceful and relaxing half term.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Denial
Executive Headteacher

