

12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been another great week at our schools this week and certainly a very busy one with lots happening and students working hard.

I want to start this week's newsletter by mentioning our upcoming Diwali event. We know 2021 has been an eventful year for many reasons, however here at Preston Manor we have not given up keeping our community spirit up, after our successful Ramadan Series, Black History Month, and Rosh Hashanah celebrations, we continued to share our passion to celebrate our multicultural school community.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, we are happy to host our first Annual Diwali Fair, this will be one of many community celebrations that reflect Preston Manor's brand as an all-through school by delivering an event collaborated by both the Lower and Upper schools from our BAME enrichment programme. This will be a ticket-only event, therefore, make sure you do not miss out on the chance to celebrate the festival of light with our school community, there will be music, fireworks, Indian-inspired street food, and dance performances. We are looking forward to this immensely exciting event.

This week also had two evenings for our parents. On Tuesday, Mr Atkinson and Mrs Siddique held an extremely valuable information evening for our Lower School parents with up to date information about what our School is working on and how our young people are being supported. We will continue to hold these meetings termly. It was fabulous to see so many of our parents join the Zoom call and I hope that many more can join us on the next one. Last night was our annual Year 11 Parents' Evening and again, it was great to hear how many parents met with their child's teacher to discuss learning and progress.

Very soon our Year 11 will be taking their Post 16 Examinations in readiness for the next step of their academic careers. It is scary to think that in **21 school weeks**, both our year 11 and year 13 students will be sitting their formal exams in the summer examination season. It will be refreshing to return to some kind of normal by having exams once again, and giving our students the very best opportunities for success. A follow on note from this is that this **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November**, we will be holding our **Sixth Form Open Evening** and we look forward to welcoming our Year 11 students and parents and discussing courses for the coming year.

Yesterday at 11am, the School held a minute's silence in memory of all those that lost their lives in conflict. Many poppies were worn with pride around our schools and the Upper School had a Citizenship tutor period that reflected on this and some of the history and symbolism of the poppy. We also learnt about the 'Unknown Soldier' - a soldier who was buried in an unmarked grave and was returned to England to be buried at Westminster Abbey. This was to symbolise all those that had died for their country, but



whose place of death was not known, or whose body remained unidentified. A very moving story from 1920.

I would also like to remind parents as per the published calendar and my recent communications, that our **Schools will be closed this Friday (19th November)** and the following **Monday (22nd November)**. School resumes as normal for all of our students at 8.40am on Tuesday 23rd November.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing weekend.

Yours faithfully

**Mr R. Denial**  
*Executive Headteacher*