



An All-through Co-operative School  
Carlton Avenue East, Wembley HA9 8NA  
**Executive Head: Mr Russell Denial**  
T: 020 8385 4040 E: info@preston-manor.com  
www.preston-manor.com

4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Next Friday is the end of this half term. I know that some Local Authorities have slightly different half terms, but our school will close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February and re-open on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February for all students as normal. There are no slightly earlier finishes at the end of a half term and school will finish at normal times at both sites.

Like many schools and colleges, we have been struggling with absences for staff and students due to COVID. I know that this has meant that some lessons have been covered by supply teachers and some communications have been slower than what we would normally expect, but I wanted to say thank you for your patience and support as we work through the winter months and keeping Preston Manor School as safe as possible.

Over the past 7 weeks at lunchtimes and after school, 3 of our students - Khushi in year 13, Alex in year 12 and Chris in year 11 have been working really hard to prepare a 5 minute speech for the *Historical Association's Great Debate* regional heats which were earlier in the week. Chris presented the speech and did a fantastic job! He answered the judges' questions incredibly well and put up a really strong game against sixth formers from 9 other schools - mainly colleges, private schools and highly selective state schools. The question was quite niche too - "*The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II has seen global and widespread changes including in: societal infrastructure, industry, rural life, the environment and ideas. Which changes of the last 70 years have affected your local area the most?*" - He spoke eloquently about immigration in Brent and the positives and negatives of it. He was highly commended and the judges praised him on his research and empathy and his excellent historical skills, and - he won!! An absolutely fabulous achievement. We have the national finals at Windsor Castle on March 26<sup>th</sup>, where our three students will be given a tour of the castle and the debate will take place in one of the state rooms! Another great example of our students achieving excellence through ambition.

As a reminder to our Year 9 parents - on Thursday of next week we have our GCSE options event where students and parents can take time to talk to our amazing subject specialists at the Upper School. The presentations for the evening will be remote and available on our website, but we are welcoming families into school to make sure that face to face conversations can take place. (Please ensure you sign up via the google form that was contained within the invite letter). Choosing GCSE subjects to study over the next two years is a really important time in anyone's school career and a range of staff will be there to help work through these difficult, but very exciting, decisions.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully

**RUSSELL DENIAL**  
Executive Headteacher

