

11th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your families have had a good week and are all safe and well.

It has been a very busy and productive week at school and it has been good to see many of you starting to follow us on twitter and keeping up to date with our stories, success and news.

The mathematics department is delighted to share the fantastic results of our year 9s and 10s in their UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute multiple-choice Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, the precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think!

Dwayne Essah-Essel has again secured a Gold certificate along with Wesley Raposo from year 9. They both have been qualified to participate in the next round of challenges. We are also very excited to tell you that this year, we have secured 2 Gold, 7 Silver, and 18 Bronze certificates. An amazing achievement all round - well done!

On Tuesday this week at the Upper School, the year 8 girls participated in the 'challenging perception of women's work' careers event in celebration of International Women's Day. We had a number of guests talking and working with our Year 8 girls and the students listened to talks by Sargeant Cartmen who spoke about BAME women in the police force, Ms James, a business owner who spoke about the courage to be your own boss and believing in yourself.

The students also had the pleasure of speaking to our keynote speaker, Jacqueline Hinds, an emotional intelligence specialist and successful business owner. Students worked on and developed skills such as information gathering, interpersonal, teamwork and presentation skills. Our Year 8 girls certainly left the activity extremely motivated.

Also on Tuesday at the Lower School, we had a fantastic turnout at the parents' information evening where we spoke about how we assess the children in all subjects in the Lower School, and how we support and track children's social and emotional development. The next parents' information evening will be on **Tuesday 3rd May at 6:00pm**. We look forward to seeing many parents joining us on the zoom call then.

School uniform is a very important part of being at Preston Manor School and it shows that we belong to a community that has a shared identity and shared values. We should be proud of our community and show this in the way that we adhere to the uniform policy of our school. Please can parents ensure that students arrive at school in the correct school uniform, and bring with them the correct PE kit on days when they have PE.

Many of our students have an excellent punctuality and attendance record - even when we take COVID and tube strikes into account. I recognise and appreciate all that our parents have done to support their children so that they can be in school. We are now in the phase of "living with COVID", and it is now important for us to review the way we support our children so that they are able to remain in school and limit time away from the classroom and face to face learning. As a school we have always had high expectations regarding attendance and punctuality. We have an expectation



that whole school attendance and individual attendance should be at least 96%. The Department for Education considers anything less than 90% as persistent absence and falling below this figure would trigger intervention from the school and Local Authority. If any family needs additional support, please do get in contact with us and we will do all we can to help.

On a final note this week and in recognition and celebration of International Women's Day, it is hard to believe that it wasn't until the Equal franchise Act of 1928, that women over the age of 21 were allowed to vote and get the same voting rights as men. We are a multicultural and diverse community and the core of all we do at our school is centred around equality.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

RUSSELL DENIAL
Executive Headteacher