

29th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all have had a good week so far and are looking forward to the Bank Holiday weekend. Please remember that both schools start at the usual time when we return on Tuesday 3rd May. I, along with a number of other colleagues can't believe that the month of May is already upon us!

The Mathematics Department at the Upper School is proud once again to share the fantastic achievements of our students in the February half term challenge 2022.

Mathematical Education on Merseyside, University of Liverpool, has been running Challenge and Senior Challenge take-home Maths competitions in February half term since the late 1970s. Together, these competitions attract about 2,000 entries annually, with Challenge aimed at Years 7 and 8, and Senior Challenge aimed at Years 9 and 10.

This year Preston Manor students got an opportunity to participate during the February half term. Our 129 students have participated with more than 2000 entries and we are pleased to inform you that for the Senior Challenge, Latheesna Jesunesan from 9T has achieved a certificate of merit and she has been invited to an evening of mathematical recreation. For Year 7 and 8, Maryam Yaqoobi from 7E got the best in school certificate. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating them on this fantastic achievement.

Last week I wrote to you about some of the career opportunities that our Year 6 were going to be experiencing this week in our Year 6 Suited and Booted event. Our students had a lesson on interviews and how to best present yourself. They were then interviewed by our amazing Year 12 students who looked absolutely fantastic and even got great feedback from the Year 6 students. It was a really positive event and another example of how our all-through provision can have amazing benefits on all of our students. This is being followed in two weeks' time by another careers event. Building confidence, skills development and exploring different careers are key elements of the D.I.V.A. programme. The Department of Work and Pensions will be visiting our school and working with our Year 9 D.I.V.A.s on Friday 13th May. They will also be participating in a suited and bootied event, career talks and employability workshops throughout the day. These are truly amazing experiences and I am sure our students will have a fantastic time.

Throughout the day today, our staff will be working on developing the school's vision and values and developing our school culture. Since my arrival in September, I have wanted to create a shared vision and a shared identity at our schools. Having core values that underpin a vision is an essential part of a school to ensure that every member of our school community works together. Our work over the coming weeks and months will have a focus on developing *ambition*. We want our students to be ambitious for their futures and have high aspirations for themselves. We also want our students to have *responsibility* to lead in their own learning and commit to their studies and have a *responsibility* to develop their own leadership skills. Driving our *ambition* and developing *responsibility* ensures that each individual achieves *excellence* at the end of every key stage. We want our students to leave their learning journey with us with



excellent values, virtue, integrity and high academic and personal outcomes. Ambition, Responsibility, Excellence. This very nicely underpins who we are - we *ARE* Preston Manor School.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Russell Denial', is written in a cursive style.

RUSSELL DENIAL
Executive Headteacher