

7th October 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have a good few weeks since I last wrote to you. It has been an incredibly busy few weeks at our school with Open Evenings, Open mornings, various welcome evenings for the parents of our Upper School students as well as interviews for a Deputy Headteacher at the Upper School.

Our open day and evening events went extremely well and we were joined by many families to have a look around our fantastic school. It was really nice to welcome so many people after being under restrictions over the last few years and to be able to open our doors once again for the open mornings was a real pleasure. As well as meeting so many year 6 students and their families, a highlight for me personally was when a parent asked how they could change their choice on the secondary school application form following their visit around the school on an open morning! Seeing our school in full swing had an impact on a number of people and we will be welcoming them all back in the near future as new year 7 pupils.

It doesn't stop there however as on Thursday 3rd November will be having our Reception 2023 intake open evening and then shortly after on the 17th November, we will be holding our 6th form open evening. More details will be following, but please save those dates! Reception Open Day dates are now on our website and there is an online form on our website that visitors can sign up for: <https://www.preston-manor.com/page/?title=Open+Days&pid=724>

Next week, we will be holding our first Parent Partnership meeting on Wednesday 12th at 6pm. The link for this meeting will be sent out shortly to our families and it is an opportunity to hear what has been going on at the school as well as recent developments and updates. The event will be led by Mr Ward, Assistant headteacher Upper School, with contributions from a number of key staff.

One of the most significant changes and direction that we have been working on, is looking at and developing our vision and values and what it means to be a 'Preston Manor Student'. **Ambition, Responsibility and Excellence** is now in every classroom and the clear message that we **ARE** Preston Manor School. Although we are early on our journey with our school vision and values, I was delighted to see that our Ofsted inspection team mentioned that we have high expectations for all pupils from reception through to Year 13 and that our students are *ambitious* and keen to learn. An absolutely delightful and positive comment made about the young people in our schools. It is also clear that our students talked a lot about the community that we are and the amazing International Culture Day last July. In fact, I keep getting asked when the next one is! Our next celebration in our community event will be in early November where we will be enjoying the festivities of Diwali. More information on this will be following in the coming week or two.

I would like to remind you all that next Friday, 14th October is a whole staff training day where the school will be closed to students. School resumes as normal on Monday 17th October. Also, please don't forget that we break for half term on the following Friday 21st October. There is no early closure on that day and school will run as normal with normal closure times.

As a thought for the weekend and in support of our school, please take the time to discuss what has been learnt this week and ask your children when they have been ambitious in their learning, when have they taken responsibility for themselves - or supported other students, and also where they have achieved excellence.

Have a good weekend everyone

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Denial', with a stylized flourish at the end.

R Denial
Executive Headteacher