

5th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all had a good bank holiday weekend last week and are looking forward to the next one. The events of the weekend ahead are very much a once in a lifetime experience for many people, to witness the coronation of our Monarch, King Charles III, and I know that many people are looking forward to it.

We must turn our attention this week to the public examination season which starts on Tuesday 9th May, for our Year 6. I have to say that they have worked so hard over the last few months in lessons and in their booster sessions and we all know that this will pay dividends in their individual outcomes. It is really important that our Year 6 students are on time for school over the next week as each morning will be a SATs test, and don't forget that our students can come in a little earlier and get themselves ready. Currently, the predictions for our young people are excellent and they will be some of the best that our students in Year 6 have achieved.

Last week, Mr Atkinson and I had the wonderful pleasure of listening to some of our students read in our Lower School. We read with reception students all the way through to Year 6. It was great to see how students' progress with their reading and how your son/daughter learns throughout their years with us. Two of my own children are still at primary school age and it really emphasised to me the importance of reading with an adult every day. I love to read with my children and reading is the key to unlocking everything. Please do take that time - just 5 minutes a day - to read with your child, talk about what has read, and help them in developing this incredibly important skill. Please fill in the reading record too so we can see how they are progressing. The students that read every day, develop every day in reading, are the students that do achieve the highest grades in their exams in Year 11 and 13.

As our Year 6 students are getting ready for their exams, we must also mention our Year 11 and Year 13 students who start their exams in a little over a week's time. The work, the preparation and revision will all start to pay off. We know that being faced with exam after exam can be incredibly daunting so make sure that as parents, you know which exam your son/daughter is doing every day and talk to them how they feel about what has happened and what is ahead. One of my other children is also sitting their GCSE exams this year - so I know how you feel! It can be stressful and even overwhelming for some people and having someone to talk to will always help.

Whichever year your son or daughter is in, who is taking exams, please remember that we will support everyone in the best way possible. We 'ARE' Preston Manor School and we will be ambitious in our pursuit of excellence for everyone.

It has been a little while since I updated you all on the progress we have made since our fire at the Upper School. Our main reception will stay by the entrance to the main gates for the remainder of the year, but we are pleased to say that work to begin on the extensive repair in the main corridor will be starting shortly, but we will not be back to normal until September 2023. Much of our administrative areas have been restored but there is lots of work ahead!

On a final note, please take that extra minute or two over the weekend to ask how your son or daughter is doing as they head into *their* exam season. Also, when you get the chance, encourage your children to read!

Have a lovely 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