

16th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all have had a good week and are enjoying the glorious sunshine of the recent week.

I am pleased to say that the formal summer examination season is drawing to a close with only a few more exams left for our year 11 and 13. Some students will finish their last exams today. I have been very proud of how our students have conducted themselves in the exam season which has been going on now for over five weeks - starting with our year 6 students in early May. When the exams finish, the wait begins until we get our students' results in August. A Level results are 17th August, GCSE results are 24th August and our Year 6 results will be with us before the end of term.

As we approach the end of term, work has begun preparing for our September start and a continued focus for next academic year will be attendance. I have written previously about the importance of high attendance and how excellent attendance correlates directly to student achievement. The example I always use is achieving 90% in an exam or a test is fantastic, but having 90% attendance means you miss one school day every two weeks.

This would mean missing 19 school days every school year. If you had 90% attendance from reception all the way through to Year 13, it means you would miss 266 school days in your educational career. This is **one full** school year and a further 76 days of the next year. We are always happy to help in any way we can in supporting families but I cannot stress the importance of being in school every day. Over recent years, there has been a huge loss of face to face learning due to the pandemic and it is important that we work together in supporting our young people.

I want to provide you with a brief update on the repairs to the Upper School following our fire in January. We are delighted to say that work on the repairs to our main corridor and our reception area will be starting very soon. We are hoping that we may be back to 'normal' by September. In the meantime, our Upper School reception area will remain in its temporary position just inside the main gates. If all visitors could please continue to report to our temporary location for the remainder of the academic year, that would be extremely helpful.

On a final note this week, we want to send our congratulations to our ex-student Reena Gudka who has been awarded the **British Empire Medal** as part of the New Year's Honours List for services to Civil Servants impacted by eating disorders. Reena was an outstanding student who left Preston Manor VI Form in 2011. She has returned to our VI Form on numerous occasions over the last 12 years to share her experiences with our VI Form students.

Reena's British Empire medal was awarded as a result of her innovative work on eating disorders within the workplace. She co-founded the first Civil Service Eating Disorders Network in 2021 to support civil servants affected directly and indirectly by eating disorders, disordered eating, and negative body image. The network provides monthly peer support sessions, 1-2-1 conversations, awareness raising events, and guides on what eating disorders are, how to get support and how to make the workplace more inclusive. Initially focussed on one department, the network now supports Civil Servants across 38 Government departments, agencies and public bodies.

We are very proud to count Reena as one of our Alumni and look forward to welcoming her back into VI Form on July 6th when, along with a number of other alumni students, when she will be talking to our Year 12s.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

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

R Denial
Executive Headteacher