

29 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I want to start this week's newsletter with a special plea and ask for your help in reducing the congestion at the end of the school day at both our Upper and Lower school sites. Many cars are now being parked illegally and causing dangerous situations for our students who are walking to and from home and school. This is causing anxiety and upset for our students as well as our residents and I must ask you to make alternative arrangements wherever possible to reduce the risk of injury to anyone. A significant worry was that earlier in the year, an ambulance on an emergency visit could not pass through Carlton Avenue East, as it was delayed by the unnecessary congestion on our school road. We continue to work with our local council in the hope that in the near future, traffic calming measures can be put in place.

Last week we welcomed prospective Year 7 students and their families to the Upper School in our annual Open Evening. They got to see our students perform a piece from their Oliver performance as well as an outstanding rendition of Debussy's '*Clair de Lune*' by Zain Rauf in Year 11. Visitors were able to talk to Preston Manor students and our specialist teachers throughout the evening. It was also good to see so many of our current year 6 students visiting the 'other half' of our school. We followed this up earlier in the week with our Open Mornings. These were incredibly busy and we had fantastic feedback from our guests. The popularity of the Open Morning has meant that we have planned a further morning for parents and students to visit. The date is Monday, 9th October @ 9.10am so please do get in contact if you would like to see our Upper School in action on a normal school day. Further information is available via our website.

Next week is Dyslexia Awareness Week. We know that each person with dyslexia experiences it in ways unique to them. Each will have their own set of strengths and challenges and tread their own path through life. We want to celebrate the diversity of the dyslexic community and the rich variety of lived experiences of dyslexia. **From 2nd to 8th October 2023**, we will be celebrating individuals with dyslexia from all backgrounds and walks of life. We will enjoy learning about individual journeys with dyslexia and discovering the diversity of experience in our community. Having dyslexia can bring its challenges but it also shapes experience and perspective and makes you **Uniquely You**. We want to inspire everyone to value and appreciate individuals with dyslexia.

Since our return to school four weeks ago, Mr Atkinson, Mr Phillips and myself have been incredibly impressed with the vast majority of our students. The commitment to their work has been exceptional and we will make sure that this continues. It would be good for our parents to have a quick check of equipment to make sure that our students have all of the correct equipment that they need. Being prepared for school is essential for our students' success.

I want to add a reminder that on Friday 13th October, both schools will be closed for staff training. We will return to normal on Monday 16th October which is our last week before half term starts - the last day of this half term is Friday 20th October.

Wishing you all a restful weekend

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Denial', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr R Denial

**Executive Headteacher**