

01.03.2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have all had a good week so far and haven't been too badly affected by the terrible rain as well as the continued roadworks on Forty Avenue.

I wrote to you all earlier in the week about the consultation to make Carlton Avenue East a 'School's Street' in conjunction with our Local Authority. The details of the drop in meeting were in that letter but as a reminder, we will be joined by two colleagues from Brent Council who will be able to answer questions about the consultation process. It is clear that congestion is a real issue with illegal parking - especially at the end of the day - at both our schools. Any opinions should be shared on Monday 25th March between 4.30pm and 6pm in the Upper School main hall.

Over the next few weeks, the Upper School had planned a Year 10 and a Year 12 Parents Evenings on the 14th and 21st March respectively. We have decided to postpone these events as Ramadan will be starting on the 11th March. Having face to face appointments (which we feel is essential) would be difficult for some of our families and the parent evenings would interrupt family preparations. These two evenings will take place later in the year towards June which will be after both year groups have sat internal examinations. Dates will be confirmed with you in due course.

On the 13th May, our Year 6, Year 11 and Year 13 students will begin their exams. This is now only 38 school days away and our amazing year 6 DIVAs, as part of their 'Independence' unit, have been creating their own personalised revision timetables in readiness for their SATS exams. They discussed with Mrs Lannaman-William's the ideal amount of time to study and how to break this down into manageable chunks. Absolutely fantastic work and it marks another step in their journey towards independence and academic excellence. The progress all of Year 6 are making towards their exams is really pleasing to see.

School attendance has been in the news this week with the Government's decision to increase fines for unauthorised absence from £60 to £80. I know that this increase may cause some of our parents a degree of anxiety, but we always want to work with our parents to support attendance in school. If there are any issues that you feel the school needs to be aware of, please do contact us so that we can work together. Attendance at Preston Manor School remains good and above national averages, but sadly, it has not yet quite returned to pre-pandemic levels. Being in school and learning is our priority for everyone, missing one school day every two weeks would mean that a young person would miss nearly four weeks of school per year with an attendance figure of 90%. If a young person had 90% attendance for their entire academic career, they would miss **over one and third years of school** in their academic careers. A very scary statistic.

Next week will be an exciting week for the Lower School with Careers Week, which starts with a launch assembly on Monday attended by some esteemed guests, who will be talking about their own careers. Both Upper and Lower School will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday by dressing up as characters from books.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully



Mr. R A Denial
Executive Headteacher