

PRESTON MANOR SCHOOL

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07.03.2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had an incredibly busy week at our school this week. It has been a week full of opportunities, events and activities.

This week marked National Careers Week and there have been some fantastic events at both our Upper and Lower Schools. On Monday, we had Year 5 Careers Day which was supported by our Year 12 students. On Tuesday we had our 'Suited and Booted' Year 6 day who were again supported by our Year 12 students. Wednesday saw our Year 10 'Suited and Booted' Day where our students were supported, interviewed and worked with colleagues from *Making the Leap* and *BNP Paribas*. Thursday then had two events: Firstly, our Year 8 students had a Workshop on Challenging Perceptions of Women's Work, in collaboration with Quintain, GW Highways Limited, and many other fantastic partners and our Year 12 enjoyed a day's work experience at Preston Manor School! It was a great week of career exploration and opportunity. A huge thank you to Ms Nyakeru and Ms Teves for leading us through such a busy week.

I began my week with an assembly with our Year 11 students. Like our other exam years, we are now fast approaching the examination season. It is so important that all of our students take up the offer of support and intervention to help them achieve their goals. For a Year 11 student, a school career lasts very close to 2261 days starting in Reception - and working your way to the end of Year 11. When I spoke on Monday, there were only 35.5 school days left until the first GCSE exam on the 8th May. At the end of today, there will only be 30.5 school days left until exams start. My point was simple - taking the time you have spent in school over the last twelve years, there is now only a tiny amount of time left - so let us seize every opportunity that comes our way. Year 6 and Year 13 will have 32.5 days to go...

On the theme of upcoming exams, I want to also add a note about a few of our year 7 students. Eight of our Year 7 students are working and supporting some of our Year 6 students in the Year 6 Tutoring Programme. These students will spend some time each week at the Lower School in the build up to the SATS exams helping and working without Year 6! They were absolutely fantastic and they really enjoyed themselves too.

Yesterday was the second 'Drop Down day' at our Upper School where all year groups had a bespoke programme for the day that focused on *Ambition*, *Responsibility* and *Excellence*. The students had a great day with some of our Year 10 students taking a trip into London, some students working through an online escape room as well as Masterclasses in English and Maths for our Year 11 students! It is such a valuable day for our young people working beyond the classroom and raising aspirations through our personal development programme. It is a new feature this year that we will be continuing with in the years to come.

On a final note, this week, I want to give a special mention to our cast of *Macbeth* who performed at the Shakespeare festival at the Artsdepot Theatre in Finchley on Wednesday evening. The feedback from everyone was to say how fantastic our students were and what a great performance they did. Lady Macbeth stayed in character and travelled to, and from, the venue, in full costume! Now that is 'method acting' at its best.

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Mr R A Denial
Executive Headteacher