

25th May 2023

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Executive Principal

Dear Parent / Carer,

This half term has flown by! Staff have continued to work tirelessly to provide the best provision for students both inside and outside of the classroom. It is wonderful to hear students talking about enjoying lessons and the great time they've had on recent school trips.

Please find below this half term's updates.

Year 11

We are all tremendously proud of our Year 11 cohort. They remain so focused on their studies and exams. Day after day, they exhibit resilience, determination and integrity. Their behaviour during the GCSE examinations that have taken place so far is exemplary.

We continue to run morning booster sessions for students which are well attended. Students have access to free breakfast items and targeted morning booster sessions. We also have a silent study area for those who prefer to revise independently.

I know that you will join me in wishing them every success for the remaining GCSE examinations.

2023/24 Year 7 Cohort

Our Year 7 transition work is well underway; you will recall from previous communications that we are oversubscribed again for next academic year. The transition team are liaising with our feeder primary schools to ensure that we have a full profile of each new Year 7 student who will be joining us in September.

We are also in the process of planning our Transition Day and Transition Evening for our new cohort and their families, both of which will take place on Wednesday, 5th July 2023.

Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) Youth Panel

Students in Years 9 and 10 recently took part in workshops with IOPC Youth Panel and Leaders Unlocked around improving the Police complaints system. Students' views were both interesting and insightful. I hope that their opinions and suggestions help shape future police training and policing. Applications are now open to apply for the IOPC Youth Panel. They are looking for students to have a key role in helping support, challenge and inform the work of the Police and IOPC. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to have

their voices heard. The deadline for applications is 2nd June 2023. If you require any further information, please refer to the recent ClassCharts announcement or contact Mrs Baykal (Assistant Principal – Key Stage 3 Lead) via cbaykal@prescotschool.org.uk

School Council

We would like to formally thank our two Prefects who have chaired School Council meetings this year. They have been confident, effective and motivating leaders and we wish them every success in their exams and their futures. We are excited to see the appointment of our new Prefects who soon step up to take on this important responsibility in school.

School Council members have chosen the Lee Cooper Foundation as their termly charity to fundraise for. All our students have benefitted from the Lee Cooper Foundation delivering assemblies about what they do and how they help young people in the local community.

External link to further information here: <https://theleecooperfoundation.co.uk/>

Work Experience

Next half term, all Year 10 students will be taking part in a week's work experience. This is an excellent opportunity for students to find out more about themselves, find out what inspires them, discover their strengths and further plan for their future career aspirations. As they go through school, students 'sketch a picture' of what they want to do in the future in their minds. Work Experience provides the opportunity to 'colour that picture in.'

Working alongside employers and gaining first-hand experience will help to expand their knowledge of the world of work and enhance students' skills in order to prepare for Year 11, college and apprenticeships. Good Luck to all of the Year 10 students taking part!

Teaching and Learning Update

In addition to planning and teaching lessons, many of our staff undertake professional development in their own time to ensure that they are up to date with educational research, pedagogy and leadership strategies.

We currently have 7 staff who have completed or are completing a master's degree in education and 22 staff who have completed or are working on National Professional Qualifications linked to aspects of teaching. These include Literacy, Behaviour and Culture, Leadership and Leading Teaching. Many of our Teaching Assistants are working towards the Level 3 Teaching Assistant Qualification too.

We are fortunate to have so many staff committed to improving education, not only for our current students, but also for the many students who have made The Prescott School their first-choice next year.

Attendance

We know that being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Time and time again, research shows that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best examination results.

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for students to learn and reach their potential. School also provides extra-curricular activities to help students learn about themselves and develop and use their skills and knowledge in different ways.

Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child in who is absent for three days over a half term misses 15 lessons which equates to 15 hours of learning in total.

Please continue to support our drive to further improve attendance by ensuring your child attends every day unless ill.

Punctuality

As we move towards the next academic year, I wanted to inform you of a change to our current punctuality escalation system.

Being on time for school and every lesson is not only crucial to maximise learning but also an expectation in the world of work.

As you're aware, students must be on site by 8.35am each morning. From September, students who are late will receive an unauthorised absence mark, this will directly impact on their attendance figure and is likely to lead to penalty notices and prosecution.

We understand that on rare occasions, a bus breaks down or there is a family emergency which can lead to a student being late to school. Rest assured, a one-off occasion will not lead to the next steps described above. However, persistent lateness is likely to.

If you would like to talk to someone in school about your child's attendance or punctuality, please contact us on via attendance@prescottschool.org.uk

Assessments

From the week beginning 5th June 2023, students in Years 7 to 10 will complete end of year GL assessments. These assessments are done online and take approximately 40 minutes to complete. All students have sat these tests before so are familiar with the format and know that they are nothing to worry about. They are not expected to revise for these assessments. However, they are a formal assessment and should be treated as such.

The GL tests are nationally standardised assessments which enable us to compare the progress of our students with others across the country. The results will enable us to better understand the strengths and areas for development of each child for us to best support them to make progress. The results of these assessments will be reported to you in due course.

Should you have any questions about these assessments, please contact Mr Conway Williams (Assistant Headteacher for Raising Standards) via jconwaywilliams@prescotschool.org.uk.

Year group	Assessments to be taken
7	Progress Test English, Progress Test Maths, Reading age assessment
8	Progress Test English, Progress Test Maths, Reading age assessment
9	Progress Test English, Progress Test Maths, Progress Test Science, Reading age assessment
10	Reading age assessment

Remaining Parent / Carer Evenings

Year Group	Date	Time
7	Thursday, 22 nd June 2022	4 – 6pm

2023/2024 Term Dates

For your information, 2024/2024 term dates can be found visiting this link <https://www.prescotschool.org.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=27> or by visiting the school website.

Half term six will commence on Monday, 5th June. Students are to be on site, as usual by 8.35am.

May I thank you for your continued support. I appreciate all that you do to help further improve life at The Prescot School.

I hope that students enjoy their half term break and that the sun shines for the duration!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs G Cousineau
Head of School