

25th October 2023

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As the end of the first half term approaches, I write to update you on key points from the last eight weeks. There have been so many wonderful things going on, they won't all be captured here but will appear in our end of term newsletter in December.

Personal Development Activities

Our assembly programme so far this term has included a range of presenters including our own staff as well as visitors, such as the Anthony Walker Foundation (hate crime and racism), our Safer Schools Police Officer (Halloween and Bonfire Night safety), our Change Grow Live support worker (substance misuse support and awareness). Two of our own students have also been very courageous; they have stood in front of Year 7 to Year 10 students and presented information relating to the national Debate Mate club our school participates in.

Year 7 students have embarked on their 'Make it Matter' journey. 'Make it Matter' is an in-school programme with each session taking place once a week during form time. The purpose of it is to help our students further develop good character. Year 7 have summarised it as teaching them about "being a good person, about caring and respect." Year 8 said "It's about real-life issues that are important, about good personality traits that people should have." A big thanks to all our staff who develop the resources for these sessions and to our form tutors for facilitating each week.

Year 7 Newsletter

In September we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort into the school. The students have settled well into secondary school life and have participated in lots of activities and events. Please take a look at their Autumn term newsletter.

<https://www.prescotschool.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=396&type=pdf>

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our activities for Term 1 are up and running! So far this term, 677 students have attended clubs with Science, Basketball, Netball, Gym and Football currently taking the lead as the most popular. Please do encourage your children to attend extra-curricular activities. They really do support the holistic development of our students and are a great way for them to make new friends. Details of what is running during Term 1 can be found here: [The Prescott School - Enrichment](#)

OUR VISION

WE WILL ENSURE ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR
ACADEMIC POTENTIAL, DEVELOP HOLISTICALLY AND
GO ON TO LEAD HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL LIVES.

Assessments

Students will be embarking on our first set of assessments next half term.

Year 11

From Monday, 6th November 2023, Year 11 will begin a series of GCSE Mock exams. This experience allows students and staff to ascertain current knowledge levels. In addition, students become familiar with the systems and routines which will take place for their 'real' examinations in the summer term of 2024.

Year 11 students have been provided with a personal exam timetable with their individual seat numbers on. Please encourage your child to revise for each exam and to speak to staff if they have any queries or concerns.

Years 7 to 10

All students will have an assessment for each subject that they study, most of the assessments will take place within their classrooms except for maths and English which will take place in the exam hall. In preparation for this, Year 7 will have a walk through once the exam hall is set up to give them an experience of the formal exam procedures so that any worries are alleviated. Please encourage your child to revise using the Subject Knowledge Organisers for each exam and remind them to speak to their teachers or form tutors if they have any queries or concerns.

Attendance

We would like to congratulate all those students who have maintained or improved their attendance to 96% or above. Attendance has a direct impact on attainment. Typically, the higher the percentage of sessions missed across the key stage, the lower the likely level of attainment at the end of KS4. Pupils with no absences are 1.5 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs grades 5-9. We want all students to achieve and fulfil their potential and therefore continue to have a relentless drive on ensuring students attend school as much as they possibly can.

A reminder that the attendance competition still runs on a termly basis. Students with no unauthorised absences receive tokens each week and are in with a chance of winning £200 Liverpool One Vouchers, £200 towards a bike or a 50" TV. There are also rewards trips running each term for students with good attendance, punctuality and good behaviour.

Teaching and Learning

We have had many parents/carers and visitors in school since September and received lots of lovely comments about the quality of teaching and learning in our classrooms. A big thank you to all who have taken the time to contact us with such positive feedback.

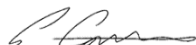
Over the summer we completed the building works on our new IT suite and students are enjoying their computing lessons in three brand new IT classrooms. This is a fantastic facility for the school and helps build the skills students will need for future success.

Reading

This half term we have launched our new reading strategy across school. All our students now read twice a week during form time. Students have been reading extracts of texts in preparation for novel studies starting after half term. In addition, a large number of students have been participating in one-to-one and small group reading interventions which support them to continue to increase their reading ages and build confidence in all curriculum areas.

I sign off by wishing students, families and staff a safe, enjoyable and restful half term. Half term two commences on Monday 6th November 2023 at 08:35am. School opens at 8am as usual.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs G Cousineau
Head of School