

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023



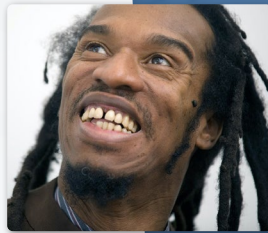
THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

People will always need people by Benjamin Zephaniah

People need people,
To walk to
To talk to
To cry and rely on,
People will always need people.
To love and to miss
To hug and to kiss,
It's useful to have other people.
To whom to moan
If you're all alone,
It's so hard to share
When no one is there.
There's not much to do
When there's no one but you.
People will always need people.

To please
To tease
To put you at ease,
People will always need people.
To make life appealing
And give life some meaning,
It's useful to have other people.
If you need a change
To whom will you turn.
If you need a lesson
From whom will you learn.
If you need to play
You'll know why I say
People will always need people.

As girlfriends
As boyfriends
From Bombay
To Ostend,
People will always need people-
To have friendly fights with
And share tasty bites with,
It's useful to have other people.
People live in families
Gangs, posses and packs,
It seems we need company
Before we relax,
So stop making enemies
And let's face the facts,
People will always need people,
Yes
People will always need people.



WELCOME TO THE PRESCOT SCHOOL'S WINTER NEWSLETTER 23

As we come to the end of our first term of this academic year, you will see from the content in this newsletter that it's been an action-packed fifteen weeks!

Creeping closer to Christmas often puts increasing pressures on families to 'buy things' and 'do things.'

Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'People will always need people' acts as a poignant reminder at this time of year that what truly matters is that people can connect with others, feel cared for and loved.

With best wishes for the festive season.

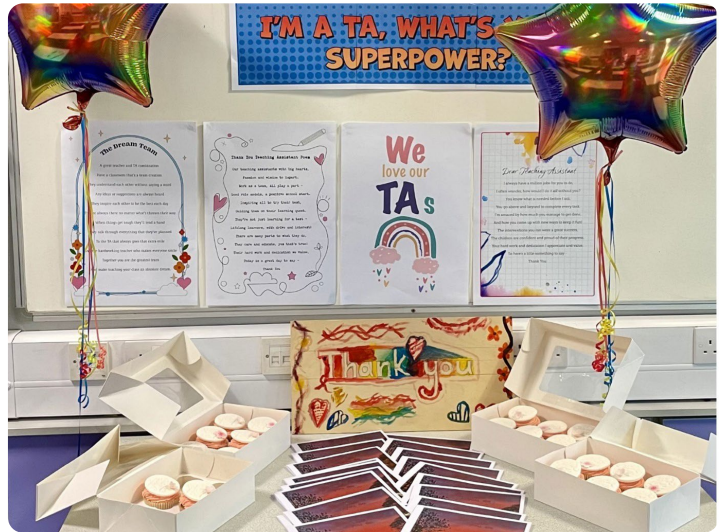
Mrs G Cousineau

NATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS DAY

On the 29th of September, we celebrated National Teaching Assistants Day. We took the opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work and support TAs provide to the students in school every day. We shared numerous positive comments from both staff and students with our amazing team.

To further show our gratitude, the Teaching Assistants enjoyed cakes and each received a card filled with positive comments, serving as a reminder of how much we value and appreciate everything they do in school.

Our Teaching Assistants play an essential role in encouraging our students to be ambitious, act with integrity and appreciate all that school and the wider community have to offer. This ensures they leave school with not only academic skills but also with the life skills needed to become good citizens of the world.



PRESCOT STAFF 'WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS AMBITIOUS GOALS' SAYS OFSTED



Ofsted visited Prescott just before the summer holidays for a monitoring visit, following our last full graded inspection in September 2021.

As part of their visit, inspectors reported that 'across all areas, you have devised appropriate strategies and well-focused plans. These are successfully helping all leaders and staff to work together towards the same ambitious goals.'

The report continued 'you have increased the number of staff to reduce and better manage their workload. You have allocated appropriate dedicated time for staff to work on key priorities. You and other leaders provide effective opportunities for staff to keep you informed of their training needs.'

In other feedback, 'subject leaders and teachers have been supported well to improve their curriculum thinking' leading to 'pupils feel that teachers introduce and explain ideas that help them to know and remember more.'

Inspectors also noted that, in relation to SEND, 'staff have been supported to better understand the different types of pupils' needs and to develop

practical approaches to supporting these pupils in lessons' and pupils have noticed that teachers are getting better at providing support to individuals through different explanations, modelling or breaking down the activities that pupils do.'

Improvements to expectations and systems to promote better behaviour were also highlighted, meaning that 'As a result, staff believe that pupils are much calmer and are developing increasingly positive attitudes to school. Pupils agree. Staff's higher expectations are helping more pupils to behave well and to show respect to others.'

We were also pleased to have our work on careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) for Years 7 to 9 praised, with the report stating 'Pupils appreciate the greater number of opportunities that they are getting to explore their next steps in education or employment through subject lessons and wider whole-school events.'

Mrs Cousineau, Head of School, said: **"This is a fantastic report that acknowledges all the hard work undertaken by our dedicated team is having a marked impact upon the learning outcomes for our students."**

"We will continue on our journey to excellence with unflagging enthusiasm, pace and purpose, celebrating the important milestones we are reaching along the way and continuing to demonstrate to Ofsted that we have what it takes to provide the very best for our school and our community."

ENGLISH

Year 8 students have been working hard this term analysing Gothic tropes in Christopher Edge's *Twelve Minutes to Midnight*. They have been using their knowledge to create their own stories:

The fog enveloped the city, wrapping it in a blanket. Big Ben strikes midnight; the dismal, forlorn, mournful people scurry fearfully from the streets. With no remorse, the fog stalks the empty streets, there is only a flicker of gaslights. When the fog descends, when the streets are deserted, when all the lights are off, then the city comes alive with the spirits of the night. Except for one lone figure shrouded in the darkness...

Menacing...

Evil...

Malevolent...

Beware!

Maisie (Year 8)

When the sky goes dark, when the street lights turn on, then the mournful phantoms of the night descend. Like an interrogating light, the moon shines with a purpose to blind and dispel the evil from the city. Gazing down from Big Ben, undeterred, a crow perches mournfully. As the

moonlight is enveloped by fog and cloud, the city is shrouded in darkness.

Zack (Year 8)

To complement their studies of Gothicism, Miss Gillon's Year 8 class took part in a Gothic workshop at Shakespeare North to look at Shakespeare and gothic tropes. During the session, Emily Parr (lead educational practitioner at the theatre) performed a version of *Macbeth*. The students were then given the opportunity to act out scenes from *Hamlet* in a similar format. The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all; the students were again complimented on their positive attitude to learning by staff at Shakespeare North.

Shakespeare's First Folio

This is not the only visit to Shakespeare North this term. On 7th November, a group of Year 7 students were given the amazing opportunity to preview the First Shakespeare Folio at Shakespeare North as part of the partnership we have with the theatre.

This exclusive opportunity allowed the students to preview the rare First Folio and participate in a workshop specifically designed to support knowledge and understanding of Shakespeare's works. Miss Whewell was extremely proud of the students who took part in the workshop with theatre staff commenting, 'the students were an asset to the school.' Well done Year 7!

Debate Mate 2023-24

This term marks the launch of Debate Mate 2023/24, a programme of extracurricular debate workshops aimed at increasing speaking and listening attainment and improving a range of higher-order thinking skills and non-cognitive abilities such as confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

A special mention goes to Ade, Year 8, and Patrick, Year 11, who promoted the club by speaking in assembly. Students who have enrolled in the club visited Liverpool John Moores University, where they met with Debate Ambassadors and gained insights into the exciting opportunities ahead. This elite group will lead our school in competitions against other schools at both regional and national levels. Debate challenges are scheduled throughout the academic year, and we hope they will secure a trophy or two!

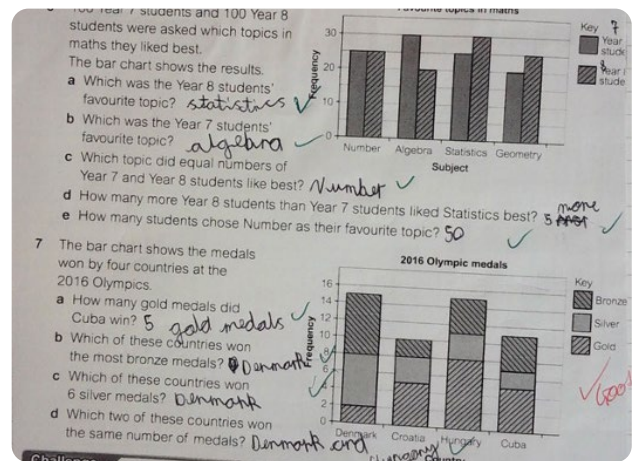


MATHS

In Year 7, the students began the academic year by settling in exceptionally well. The initiation of the learning journey included a baseline assessment to identify areas of strength and areas for development for both the year group and individual classes.

Progressing forward, they engaged with the Key Stage 3 curriculum, starting with Number Skills, followed by Analysing and Displaying Data.

The Number Skills unit focuses on developing and solidifying the learning they acquired in primary school, ensuring a strong foundation for the academic year ahead. The students then directed their attention to Analysing and Displaying Data,



building on their prior knowledge of averages but in more complicated contexts such as grouped data and problem solving.

In the second half of the Autumn term, Year 7 students embarked on a journey to deepen their understanding of algebra and its application in problem-solving using formulas.

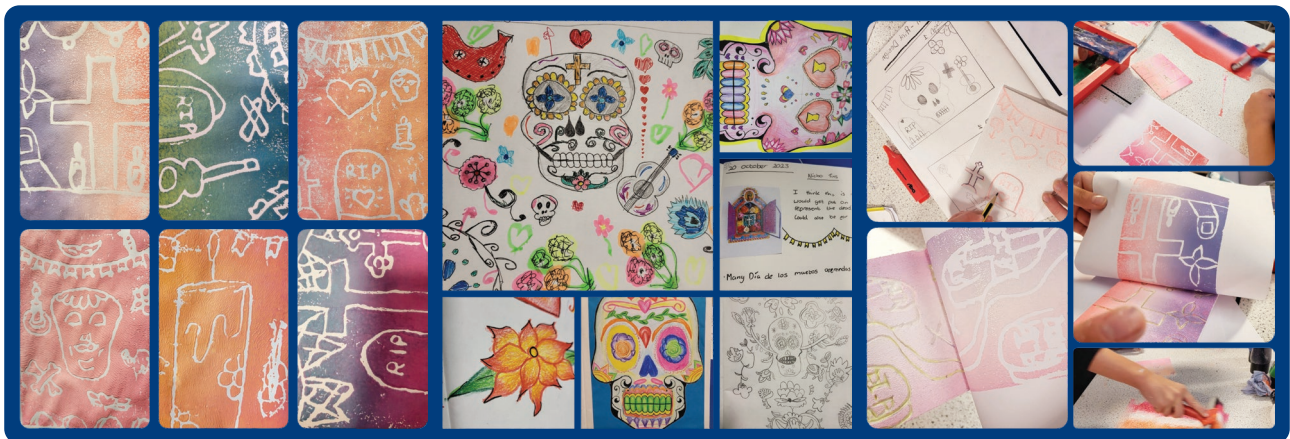
ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

Year 8 students have been investigating other cultures and celebrations.

They have developed their skills based on the research of the Mexican festival, Day of the Dead. The students have learnt about traditions,

how different cultures celebrate different occasions and cultural representation and iconography.

The project is based mostly on the artistic elements of colour and pattern. The students have developed skills in graphics and been introduced to printing processes and techniques.



MFL

Year 9 students have worked well in MFL this term and continue to progress in their language studies.

Continuing their studies, students have focused on phonics, contributing to improved fluency and confidence in speaking.

In French, the topics of healthy living, health problems, fitness and sport have been explored. In Spanish, they have focused on the topics of work and keeping in shape. Students completed assessments in November and their effort in these exams was encouraging. The results from this assessment were positive, boding well for the future and further language study.

PE & DANCE

PE Curriculum

Our students have spent the Autumn term taking part in sports such as football, netball, hockey, basketball and fitness. All students have engaged extremely well and are making good progress in their knowledge, understanding and performance in each sport. We look forward to our students showcasing their talents during our assessment period where they will engage in full context games of each sport. In the spring term we will begin new sports for students such as rugby, table tennis and trampolining.

Sporting highlights

The Prescot School has had a lot of fixtures during the Autumn term.

Year 8 Boy's Football team went the furthest in the ESFA National Cup, departing in the third round. The Year 9 Boys Basketball team continue their unbeaten run after winning against Kirkby in a friendly. Our girls' teams have taken part in fixtures and competitions across Knowsley in Football and Netball. Well done to all who took part!

We have clubs running for all; Netball, Football, Fitness and Basketball Students - Come along and get involved! After the Christmas break our extra-curricular offering will change to new sports such as rugby and table tennis.

MUSIC

Our Year 8 students have been busy developing their keyboard skills and knowledge of blues music.

They have learnt to play the 12 bar blues chord sequence and are learning to improvise over the top, creating riffs using the 'blues scale'.



HUMANITIES

In Humanities, Year 11 students have made a wonderful start to their final year at The Prescot School.

History

In History, students are exploring the study of Germany in the aftermath of WWI, understanding how and why Hitler rose to power.

Geography

In Geography, students have been engaging with topics since September, including revisiting fieldwork skills and studying subjects on development, UK challenges, and water resources. They will shortly be completing an urban field work study visit to Liverpool.

Mock exams and revision sessions

The recent mock exams have taken place, and students' behaviour and effort during these exams were very positive. We hope Humanities students will continue to work to the best of their ability moving forward.

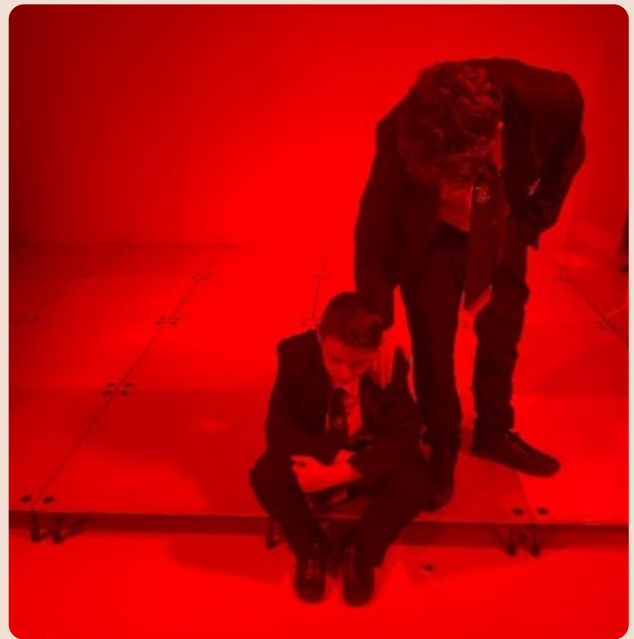
Both subjects offer revision sessions after school to support students and fill any gaps in knowledge. These sessions are well attended, and we encourage everyone to join us.

DRAMA

Year 9 Drama

This half term in Drama, the focus has been on performing monologues and duologues.

This approach provides students with the freedom to script and perform their own personal pieces, allowing them to create unique characters. Confidence in performing has been steadily growing, with students enjoying spontaneous improvisation and hot seating activities. The culmination of these efforts will be a final performance featuring their original work. Performing solo requires great confidence, and the Year 9 students are embracing the challenge, impressing staff with their maturity and talent.



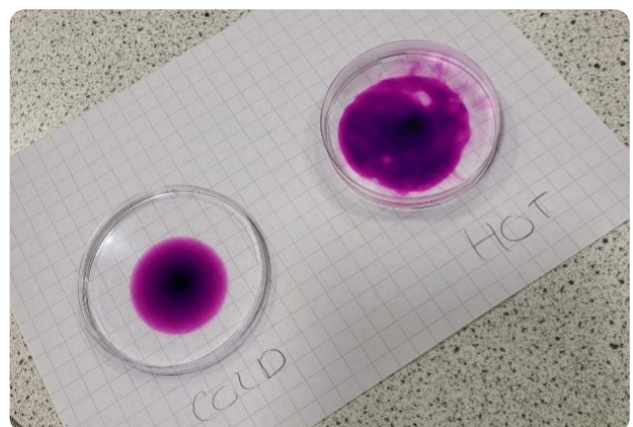
SCIENCE

It's been a term of exciting scientific exploration at The Prescott School!

Year 7 students have been exploring particles and some students used skittles to investigate whether food colourings diffuse quicker in cold or hot water. We related this to E numbers used in food production and discussed how some sweets and foods have a lot of different chemicals added to them.

Meanwhile, the budding scientists in Year 8 had their own fiery experiment while studying digestion and chemical reactions. The students learnt about the formation of compounds and made observations on the physical changes that take place during a chemical reaction.

Year 9 students have created some fantastic pieces of work, exploring how Florence Nightingale



played a pivotal role in shaping the public health system we have today. They specifically focused on how her contributions led to the establishment of the National Health Service.

Year 10 students have been studying diffusion, connecting back to previous learning. They conducted experiments using potassium permanganate crystals to observe the effect of temperature on diffusion rate.

CATERING

Students have been showcasing their practical achievements in the Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering.

The photos illustrate the impressive work of the last group, as they demonstrated a high level of skill and accuracy in preparing a two-course meal for a bistro.



The assignment's focus was on serving children and retired adults.

The excellent results of the practical exam highlight the skills mastered throughout the course.

PUPIL PREMIUM

School receives extra funding called '**Pupil Premium**' for every child who is registered as 'free school meals'.

We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer. You may wish to review how we use this additional funding by reading our pupil premium statement on our website.

This means that even if you do not want to use your child's free school meal entitlement, you should still apply.

How do we use Pupil Premium Funding?

Pupil Premium Funding benefits every child in school, but specifically those whose families are eligible. Within school this year we have used some of our funding to:

- Provide specialist intervention.
- Reduce the cost of reward trips.

- Ensure children in every year group have had access to events at the Shakespeare North Playhouse.
- Employ two school-based counsellors.



Check if you are eligible for Pupil Premium here: Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Earps Assistant Principal Inclusion and Safeguarding on eearps@prescotschool.org.uk

BTEC ENTERPRISE

In our BTEC Enterprise course Year 10 students have been exploring local enterprises in the area and the entrepreneurs who own them.

They have looked at what skills and characteristics are needed to make a business successful and how they can attract and retain customers.

Currently, they are looking at how external factors can affect a small business by conducting a PEST analysis. They will also be looking at the internal factors using a SWOT analysis.

ICT

In Computer Science, our Year 10 students have been learning about hardware, software and

storage, and how they play an important role in system architecture.

Students have looked at the Von Neumann model to demonstrate the way in which the Central Processing Unit, the Arithmetic

and Logic Unit and the Control Unit interact with each other inside a computer. Additionally, they have also been looking at various methods of data storage and how data is represented using binary and hexadecimal.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

It's really important to maintain good attendance and punctuality as missing school now means missing out on an important stage in life where many vital skills are developed, along with academic learning.

Why should you attend school?

1. Knowledge is Power

School provides the basic foundation of knowledge imparted to a child. It gives a chance for children to acquire knowledge across various fields of education, such as people, literature, history, mathematics, and numerous other subjects. In obtaining knowledge, a person is in a better position to help other people.

2. A Ladder to College

It is harder to get a place in college unless you complete your education in school.

We offer careers guidance, work experience and visits to make the transition into the next phase of your life so much easier and if you are not in school, you will miss out on these.

3. Overall Development

Gone are the days when school meant just learning the events given in a history chapter or solving tough mathematical problems or reciting poems! Nowadays, school has become the first stepping stone in the life of a child, wherein they learnt a lot more than just rote learning. Developing hobbies, refining

them, learning basic etiquette, getting skilled at multi-tasking and developing social skills are some of the many life skills that a school equips a child with.

We promote punctuality in school so students are set up for the day ahead and can routinely get up on time for future jobs. We urge you to encourage your child is on site by 8.30am.

If you are unsure of whether to send your child in or not if they are unwell, please refer to the NHS guidelines Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk).

PUNCTUALITY

If any of these sound familiar then it's time to fix your timekeeping!

"sorry I woke up late and then walked too slow"

"I didn't want to get out of bed this morning"

"I missed the train/ bus so decided to walk slowly"

"My school uniform hadn't dried last night"

5 MINUTES LATE PER DAY
Adds up to 3 days lost school time!

10 minutes = 6.5 school days per year

15 minutes = 10 days lost per school year

20 minutes = 13 lost school days per year

30 minutes = 19 lost school days per year

CAREERS

CEIAG Autumn Term

The autumn term is one of new beginnings and new challenges for all year groups in the Careers Department.

Our Year 7 students were introduced to our careers hub and met Mrs. Robinson, our Careers Advisor, during assemblies and form time.

Students in Years 8 and 9 have started meeting with Mrs. Robinson to discuss their career ideas and ambitions.

Our Year 9 students have begun to discuss their GCSE option choices both with Mrs. Robinson and their form tutors to begin getting to grips with some very big decisions.

Preparations for Work Experience are in the planning stages for our Year 10 students, who have been assigned the initial task of finding their own placements for the upcoming work experience week next summer.



If you believe you can assist us by providing a work experience placement or have a contact willing to participate in our Careers Convention on February 8th, please reach out to Mrs. Robinson at jrobinson@prescotschool.org.uk.

Year 11 students are busy applying for post-16 placements in colleges, training and apprenticeships. We are fully committed to supporting students every step of the way. They have attended presentations from multiple providers and have successfully navigated through their interviews here at school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

School Council Corner by Alfie Singleton and Anais Wood

School Council is a great way to have your say. Chairing the meetings is an honour, because it helps students to talk about how they feel about the school. As prefects, we decided that we want to commit to helping the school and students. It is great talking to the School Council because they could be the prefects of the future.



School ambassadors, two from every form, meet in their year teams every half term, giving students the opportunity to raise and discuss issues and ideas that can improve aspects of school life. Two of these ambassadors in each year group are elected on the School Council. They bring issues and ideas with them and feedback to their year teams. We encourage all students to have a say and they have all made a positive impact.

The School Council has made many positive changes to school life. These include a bigger and improved assembly screen, more serving pods for lunch, more variety in school meals, hygienic toilet pass lanyards, water cartons and deciding the chosen termly charities for school to raise funds for.

Throughout this term, the junior leadership team has made an outstanding impact on our school community. At the start of the year, prefects started their prefect duties. Many prefects acted as guides at school open evenings, welcoming children and parents to the school. Meet the form Year 7 parent / carer evening was also hosted by the prefects, directing parents to various form teachers and answering questions.

HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARDS



September 27th – Ali, Year 7

Ali is always extremely polite and respectful. He consistently completes all the homework set at the school. Well done, Ali!



October 19th – Leighton, Year 8

Leighton has made a positive change in his attitude towards school since returning from the summer break. He has been working hard in all his subjects and has accumulated 88 positives. Fantastic effort, Leighton!



October 20th – Joe, Year 9

Joe has been embodying school values by actively participating in every lesson. He continues to show ambition through his extra learning on Century Tech. Congratulations, Joe!



October 26th – Freddie, Year 11

Freddie always demonstrates ambition by working hard in every single lesson and has completed all modules on Century Tech for A Christmas Carol. Despite often finding English difficult, he remains resilient and does not give up easily. Great job, Freddie!



November 8th – Elisa, Year 7

Elisa is putting outstanding effort into Netball Club, serving as a role model to her peers. She always brings a smile and a fantastic attitude. She also has the most positive class chart points in all of Year 7. Brilliant work, Elisa!



November 24th – Ethan, Year 9

Ethan is a lovely, well-mannered, enthusiastic and hard-working young man. His artwork is fantastic, and he demonstrates such dedication to this subject with independent work at home. Amazing work, Ethan!

PRESCOT ALUMNI

On the 16th of November, we had the privilege of welcoming our Year 11 Leavers back for their awards evening.

During the night, we were ecstatic that so many of them were willing to sign up to become part of our school alumni. We look forward to hearing about all the wonderful things they experience and to welcoming them back to school to share their stories.

If you are a past student (even way back from Prescott Comprehensive or Higher Side!) and would also be willing to join our alumni, we would love to hear from you. Please Contact Mrs. Haigh at chaigh@prescotschool.org.uk.

YEAR 11 UPDATE

Year 11 students have made a great start to the 23/24 academic year. In September, they had their final school photograph taken, marking a memorable moment as the last of their 12 school pictures.

The students have been actively preparing for life beyond school contemplating their paths to their “dream job.” They’ve been applying to colleges, attending numerous college/alternative provider talks and engaging in one-to-one meetings with the school’s Careers Advisor, Mrs. Robinson.

This term, the students participated in their first set of mock exams for the year. Two weeks of daily exams can be challenging, but the students showcased admirable dedication with good attendance and a positive attitude. Their conduct during these exams was impeccable, putting them on a strong path to be prepared for their GCSE exams next summer.

Year 11 Prefects

The school has a great team of prefects who are a credit to the school. They have taken on various responsibility roles this term, serving as student tour guides for open evening, parents evening ambassadors and supporting and setting up rewards evening for the previous Year 11 students.



Two of the prefects have chaired the student council meetings, led by the year ambassadors and discussed future changes for the school. Kristina and Anais, in particular, took time out of their weekend to attend Prescot Church, with Kristina delivering a beautifully read piece and both students laying a remembrance wreath onto the memorial. The prefects are gearing up to take on more roles and responsibilities, including supporting other year groups in form time, organising the prom and representing the school at various events.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Fire Cadet Games success for Connor

This past summer, on International Youth Day, Saturday August 12th, Connor from 11JFL proudly represented Merseyside and St. Helens in the Fire Cadet Games 2023.

Connor and his team competed against more than 170 fire cadets from across the UK and finished in first place.

A massive congratulations to Connor and the entire team! We are all incredibly proud of his outstanding performance, he has truly excelled and is a great representative of his family and The Prescot School.



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