



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

As we approach the end of such an unusual term, I would like to thank all our parents and carers who have engaged so well with us in order to ensure their children's learning continues despite not physically being at school. It is so important that we strive to work together throughout this period of 'school closure', to ensure that our students' learning develops and our online learning community grows. I hope that families have managed to establish some good routines that they are following daily around learning, regular exercise, opportunities to talk and enjoy each other's company, as well as establishing early nights with plenty of sleep. All children thrive when routines are set and followed. It helps to provide them with feelings of security and stability in their lives, especially at a time when so much has changed from their usual school routine. In fact, these good routines will help us all cope with the changes and challenges we are facing.

At the end of a term, I normally wish you a restful break and a good holiday if you are travelling. As we are all following the government guidance, we will not be leaving our homes. Whilst we want students and families to spend time relaxing a little, we also recognise that many of you will not want your children to stop the good learning routines you have already established. Therefore, many of our teachers have tried to set 'learning challenges' and projects to experience over the 'holiday period'. Where possible, we have tried to include learning experiences that could be fun for the whole family with plenty of resources on our website for you to 'challenge' your learning together

<https://www.preston-manor.com/page/?title=Fun+Learning+Ideas+this+Easter&pid=564>

As always, I would encourage you to read together and we have also included website links that provide fantastic free books to read.

<https://www.preston-manor.com/page/?title=Links+to+Reading+Resources&pid=567>

We realise there has been a lot of anxiety around the cancellation of public exams. Later today, Year 11 and Year 13 students will be sent a letter from Ofqual with more details on the cancellation of exams and how they will receive final grades. Hopefully, this letter will help to clarify any questions you or the students have had. We have all been disappointed that the exams won't take place, but are working together to ensure it doesn't affect the students' learning or outcomes for next steps.

Despite the challenges we are currently facing together, I would like to take this opportunity as I always do to recognise and celebrate some of the success we have had this term.

We are delighted that, yet again, a large number of our Year 13 students have received a wide range of excellent offers for university study next year. All (136) of our cohort have submitted applications with 83 of the students having received all of the decisions and 21 have unconditional offers. One student has gained a place at Oxford University to study Physics, while the other Oxbridge applicants have all received good offers from Russell

Group universities including Imperial and UCL. Three of the five Medicine applicants have had interviews and two have received more than one offer. Year 13 students are also sent regular information about Apprenticeship schemes and a small number are also considering these as an alternative to university.

In January, Preston Manor School was re-awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a period of three years. The external assessor said that Preston Manor had strong leadership for the LPPA in both the Lower and Upper School. Both LPPA Coordinators have a real passion for what they do. Their presentation highlighted just how much progress has been made since the school was first awarded the LPPA in 2015. The assessor specifically mentioned that the school actively listens to parents and makes changes where necessary, for example, the school found that parents were not all able to attend events at the time specified so these events are now held more than once. This has led to an increase in the numbers of parents who have attended. Parents are now starting to get more involved in discussions about relevant policies when they come up for review.

During the spring term the Faculty of Performing Arts was as busy as ever. Miss Robinson's dancers won a local competition in Harrow with participants being awarded medals, certificates and a trophy. At national level they beat other Brent dance groups from a range of different schools to represent the borough in the London Youth Games. The Music Academy produced its annual Spring Concert in February which featured the usual eclectic mix of solo, small group and larger ensemble items. Students from both the upper school and lower school participated alongside students from the wider community. The orchestra performed the well-known jazz dance fusion piece 'Libertango'.

The Health and Social Care Year 12 group visited the local care home and organised an event for Valentine's day. They sang, did arts and crafts, read poems and engaged with the residents. It was a proud moment to see how empathetic our students can be! The students were very enthusiastic about the visit. The Year 10 and 11 D.I.V.A's had a workshop on developing their presentation skills. Mercy Ojelade from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama University of London supported the students to understand their voices, body language and surroundings. The Year 10 and Year 11 feedback was very positive.

*We celebrated our annual BBC and STARS launch with special guest, Hepburn Harrison Graham. Preston Manor School also hosted the annual UKMT Team Maths Challenge in March and enjoyed a fantastic celebration of reading on World Book Day. **(Please do read more of our achievements in the end of term newsletter).***

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to known scam alerts. Unfortunately periods of instability, such as during the coronavirus pandemic, bring an increased risk of fraud. Fraudsters will actively exploit these difficult times and will target vulnerable areas for financial gain. The Department for Education has been informed that some parents in the United Kingdom have received an email stating the following: *'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, **please send your bank details** and we'll make sure you're supported'*. We can confirm that this is a **scam email and is not official**. We urge parents that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately. It is good practice not to give out your bank details to an unknown source.

I would just like to say how proud I am that our school community has come together so well in this time of need and in the best interests of our children. We have all had to adjust rather quickly to a new way of living, being and learning together in a 'remote' world. Whether it is the incredibly hardworking staff who have come together to form a remote school, the parents and carers who are working with and supporting their children so well at home, or the children themselves, for the hard work and effort that they are putting into their learning - *each of you* deserve a huge thank you for *everything you are doing*.

Please keep up this tremendous effort as we continue in these very different times. There are fantastic learning challenges for the whole family to enjoy on our website and good book reviews for family reads. Let's not let our standards of hard work dip or our spirits be dampened, despite the length of time that we may be apart.

Yours sincerely



Beth Kobel
Headteacher