

# THE PRESCOT SCHOOL

## TERMLY NEWSLETTER

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Welcome to our End of Term Newsletter. As you can see it has been a really busy term. I hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting activities and celebrating with us our successes this term.

Why not follow us on twitter @prescotschool to find out what your child is doing in school.

We have also included some future upcoming events which I hope you will find useful.

Please can I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019.

**Mrs A L Kennedy**  
Head of School



### White Witches Poem (from MATE's Willo the Wisp and the Fire Sprite)

Mystical fire burning bright, guide us with your flaming light  
North South East and West, help our travellers on their quest  
Fire burn and cauldron bubble, make it clear, we're in a muddle  
Orange flame. Blue-silver mist, reveal the hideout of the Wisp

A flicker, a whisper, a flash of bright light  
A sparkle, a tinder, reveal him this night,  
A swizzle, a twizzle, a twinkle, a zing  
That mischievous wisp is a troublesome thing

We won't be discouraged, White Witches don't rest  
We'll check out the forest, each tree stump, each nest  
So wizards don't worry, and dwarfs don't you fret  
No mystical creature has beaten us yet!

### Willowbrook Hospice

Willowbrook Hospice are looking for volunteers to help in their charity shops across St Helens and Knowsley. Volunteering can be hugely beneficial, as well as being a great support to the hospice. It helps to develop people's skills and provides them with experience within a retail environment. It also helps build confidence and encourages meeting new people in the community to combat loneliness. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Ian Turnbull (volunteer coordinator) at Willowbrook Hospice: [iant@willowbrookhospice.org.uk](mailto:iant@willowbrookhospice.org.uk).

### Forthcoming Dates for your diary:

- Year 9 Parents Evening: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Year 10 Parents Evening: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019
- Careers Convention : 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019
- Year 8 Options/Parents Evening: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019
- Year 7 Parents Evening: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019
- Student Reward Trip : 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019
- School will close on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 12 noon and reopen at 8.40am on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

### Parent Governor

We are currently advertising for a Parent Governor to join The Prescott School. If you would like to find out more, please contact the school. Closing date for nominations

### Attendance Matters

At The Prescott School we expect all students to have minimum of 97% attendance. This is the minimum figure at which your child achieves to the best of their ability. Low attendance can have a huge effect on final grades throughout school, leading to a loss of at least one grade for every 10% drop in attendance when it comes to GCSEs. Being late just 10 mins per day equates to 50 minutes per week which is over 31 hours per year. Good attendance is also important in building relationships and friendships in school. It means students do not feel stressed that they are behind on work. Employers and colleges greatly value good attendance and punctuality and getting into the routine of learning at school each day is a good grounding and sets up habits which will last for life and increase the future opportunities for your child. We understand that sometimes students do have to take time off school for illness but ask that Parents/Carers do not allow their child to miss school for minor ailments such as a cold or headache. We always require a telephone call to school and a follow up absence note which explains the reasons for the absence. In cases where attendance falls below 95% we will also require medical evidence before we will authorise the absence. We have this term employed a school based Family Liaison Officer, who has been conducting home visits to pupils whose attendance falls below 95%, this has proved very successful enabling us to make appointments to discuss poor attendance in school with parents or to implement support where it is needed

### Holidays in Term Time

The school will not authorise holidays taken by students in term time. It is no longer at the school's discretion to grant holidays and we will follow Local Authority guidelines, which do not count holidays as authorised absence. There are ample school holidays throughout the year (these can be found on the website) and we cannot condone parents/carers jeopardising their child's chances at good achievement. We hope parents/carers will support us in this.

The school needs to be informed by letter if parents are planning to remove their child from school for a holiday so the registers can be completed with the correct coding. This will appear as a G

### Annual Awards Evening

Congratulations to students from "The Class of 2018" who recently returned to school to collect their GCSE certificates and individual awards during our annual Awards Evening. Good luck to you all in the future.



### Junior Leadership Team

The Prescott School Junior Leadership team recently hosted a lunchtime briefing with their peers from The Heath School. Students from both schools are looking forward to working together in the future.



### Duke of Edinburgh Award



Congratulations to 27 students who were awarded their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at our recent Prize Evening. The resilience and commitment shown

by these young people is something everyone should be very proud of. At present there are 12 young people who are enrolled on the Silver Award. In October this group completed their qualifying expedition in Yorkshire Dales in some challenging conditions but they persevered and some even commented; 'I've really enjoyed myself'. We are looking to get a new Bronze group started early 2019.

## Subject Roundup

### Art/Textiles/Photography

Congratulations to Mya Lloyd who won a Christmas Card competition organised by Prescot Church. The winning Christmas Card will be distributed to homes across Prescot.



Well done to Yr11 textiles students who have been awarded their Arts Award for completing the Royal Shakespeare Company's Shakespeare

Challenge.

Well done to Yr9 photography students who have recently received their Bronze Arts Award from Trinity College, London.



MATE Productions produced a spectacular walkabout fairy-tale production of Willo the Wisp and the Fire Sprite around the parks and gardens of Merseyside this autumn. A group of our year 7 students were involved in the making of Toadstool Props as part of an Arts Award program. Well done to the following students: Tom Clarke, Adam Davies, Maddison



O'Brien, Frankie Phillips Langley, Ella Davies, Liam Johnstone, Tom Preston, Sophie Francis, Kyran Frith, Asherose Hughes, Libby Lewis, George Siddle, Sanjay Shanmaganathan, Lewis Smith, Ruby Diable, Tiffany Kelly.

### Catering & Hospitality

Students in Year 10 and 11 attended an American dining experience at Riverside College in Widnes. They sampled a range of food produced by the college's catering students. The day finished with a tour of the catering department and a talk by the Head Chef. The students had an enjoyable and informative visit.



### Drama

Drama is a very popular subject at The Prescot School. We work closely with MATE productions and many of our year 7 pupils took part in poetry workshops to celebrate the recent outdoor production of

'Willo the Wisp and the Fire Sprite'. The Art Department helped out by building fantastic toadstools for the gnomes. 2 of our pupils, Federico Bertamini and Maia Ellis, had parts in the production and audiences were very impressed with their acting.

### University Visits

Students from Year 9 and 10 most able cohort enjoyed a day in the life of a student at University of Liverpool. This provided them with a taster of what lies ahead in the future.

Students from Year 11 most able cohort took part in taster sessions in A level maths and A level further maths at University of Liverpool. We look forward to working with the University in the New Year with Years 9 and 10.

Students in Year 11 recently enjoyed a residential at Lancaster University. This was a positive experience and gave the students an insight into life at University, with many looking to go on to university in the future.

Students in Year 9 got the chance to experience life as an A-level student at Cronton College. During their visit they took part in a variety of lessons including: cryptology and programming.

## Subject Roundup



### History

In October two year 10 pupils, Charlie Cox and Dylan Harding – Murphy attended a trip to the Battlefields in France and Belgium. Whilst there the Boys attended Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery where there are 11,000 war graves. Then it was on to the

Passchendaele Museum and reconstructed trenches and the Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate. The boys also got to see how the Germans commemorate their war dead after visiting a German cemetery and had sessions in the evening from the British Army focusing on the kit of a soldier then and now. The boys also got to spend the day at the Somme, checking out preserved trenches, battle sites and different Commonwealth war grave sites, hearing interesting and emotional stories to bring the battlefields to life. A great time was had by all involved.



### Music

Well done to year 11 music group who have worked hard planning and putting on a concert for Year 7 students as part of their BTEC course. The

concerts were a great success and the Year 7 audience had a great time and commented: "It was really good how the students dedicated their time for a good performance", "Loved watching a proper band" and "I liked their confidence and courage".



### Numeracy

Students in Year 7 have competed in the first Knowsley numeracy competition. Students were asked to do a vari-



ety of tasks and did the school proud **Netball** Congratulations to Year 8 Netball Team who have retained their title as Knowsley Champions winning 3 out of 3 games. They will now take part in the Merseyside games competing against schools from outside Knowsley.

### No More Knives Campaign

A number of students and staff have taken part in a recent "Sing Off Challenge" to perform "Stand by Me" as part of the Merseyside No More Knives Campaign. Both students and staff were visibly moved to take part in the challenge.

### 'Pathway Project' (Year 8 to Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver)

The project moves into its second year working with pupils from Year 8 and passing them onto the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. The project's ethos is to provide opportunity and experience to support pupils in moving through the School. I am pleased to report that



Merseyside Police, The

James Greenop Foundation and Prescot School Trustees have all committed to annual funding to roll out the scheme in years to come.

The last 18 months has seen the pupils work with British Cycling BMX stars, take part in residential visits to Tan Y Graig, mountain biking in Wales and a trip to a Free running academy. One of the highlights was a recent trip to the 'Knife Angel' at Liverpool Cathedral.



I am pleased to announce that the Headteacher has agreed to support a mountain biking trip to Austria in 2021 when the pupils complete their GCSEs and Duke of Edinburgh awards.

Well done to all involved. PC Will.