

21st October 2021

Knowsley Park Lane, Prescot
Merseyside L34 3NB

T: 0151 477 8680
E: info@prescotschool.org.uk

www.prescotschool.org.uk

Mrs G Cousineau BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH
Head of School

Mr J Jardine BSc (Hons), QTS, NPQH
Executive Principal

Dear Parent / Carer,

As we come to the end of the first half term, I wanted to write to update you regarding progress made during the first seven weeks of the academic year and to provide you with important updates.

I thank you for your continued support. It is humbling when staff contact me to pass on your positive messages. By supporting our systems and processes, you help our school and community to thrive.

Students have continued to embrace our new systems and have spoken to me about the additional benefits this has had on their learning. I see so many of our students living out our values of ambition, integrity and appreciation each and every day. There is an ever-increasing number of students who approach me to ask how I am and how my day has been so far. This is truly wonderful. We believe young people who live out our values will go on to lead happy and successful lives.

Staff have worked tirelessly during this first half term. The Prescott School and the wider community is so lucky to have such a large body of staff who go over and above every single day to ensure that students get the best quality provision and I thank them for their unwavering commitment.

Ofsted Inspection

The school was inspected on Tuesday 19th October 2021 and Wednesday 20th October 2021. We expect the outcome of this inspection to be published in approximately five weeks. May I take the opportunity again, to thank staff, students and parents / carers for their support during our inspection.

Transition to Year 7

I want to publicly commend Year 7 students for their transition to secondary school life. Despite two turbulent years at the end of their primary education, they have showed great resilience and positivity towards their start at The Prescott School. The messages of appreciation from Year 7 parents / carers as well as the chocolates delivered to reception bring smiles to our faces. Thank you!

Many Year 6 parents / carers who visited our recent Open Evening, contacted me and other members of staff to say how impressed they were by their confidence and warmth when they acted as tour guides and ambassadors. I also extend thanks to our feeder primary schools for their years of work with this cohort.

PE Kits

I am sorry to hear that there have been issues with purchasing school PE tops. There are now two shops which stock our uniform and PE items. They are: Top Form (10 Sinclair Way, Prescot. Tel: 0151 426 1813) and Lisa's School Wear (275 East Prescot Road, Tuebrook. Tel: 0151 259 8277)

Please contact the shop to check they have the item / size you require in stock, so that you do not have a wasted journey.

PE Kit Expectations

We have been informed that Lisa's School Wear currently has school PE tops in stock. We have also been informed that Top Form will have school PE tops in stock week commencing 1st November 2021.

Therefore, all students must be in full PE kit from Monday 8th November 2021 onwards. Should they not have the full kit as outlined in the uniform booklet, students are to wear full school uniform until they have the acceptable PE kit items.

The acceptable items are:

- School PE top
- School PE shorts or plain black leggings / plain black jogging bottoms (leggings are not allowed to have mesh sections or be made of 'waffle' material, both leggings and jogging bottoms must not have a logo bigger than 6cm)
- School PE socks or plain black socks
- Optional school PE fleece (students may wear their grey school jumper or blazer for warmth over their PE top should you not wish to purchase the school PE fleece. Students are not allowed to wear their own jumpers, half-zips, hoodies etc.)

I have spoken to all students about this in assemblies.

Attendance

You have received a letter regarding our attendance expectations and I'm grateful for the increase in attendance since the letter was received. We know that there is a direct link between those students who have higher attendance and the number of GCSEs/ qualifications achieved. We want all students to achieve their potential and being in every day lays solid foundations to realise this goal.

Punctuality

Unfortunately, our consequence system is not having the desired impact on improving the punctuality of those students who are persistently late. As a result, we will be moving to an approach which is more in line with local authority (LA) and national systems. We will be working with the LA to use formal family prosecutions for students who are persistently and excessively late. Rest assured, we appreciate that there are rare occasions where

students experience an unexpected delay and have a genuine reason for lateness that day. This procedure would not apply to incidents such as these.

Our morning form times deliver key information to our student body and our assemblies help students to learn how to be citizens with ambition, integrity and appreciation. We value punctuality as it is a key life skill. Thank you for your support with this aspect of school life.

Consequences

Advance notice that after half term, the school's SLT 1 hour detention which is currently held on a Friday, will be moved to a Wednesday evening.

Behaviour Policy

We will be reviewing our Behaviour Policy during half terms two and three of this academic year as scheduled. Mr Conway Williams (Senior Leader for Behaviour and Attendance) will be leading on this. We will contact you in due course for your views. This is likely to take the form of an electronic questionnaire for your convenience.

Medical Forms

If your child requires any type of medication or the use of a medical device during the school day, please ensure that you have completed the medical form which has been sent to you during half term one. If you require a new copy, please contact Mrs Earps (Senior Leader for Inclusion and Safeguarding) via telephone or eearps@prescotschool.org.uk

Buses

In an effort to support our students with any issues they face using public transport e.g. buses driving past them despite them waiting at the bus stop and the frequency of the buses that the majority of students use, I have contacted the Managing Director of Stagecoach Merseyside and the Area Director of Arriva to request their support. I await their response.

Canteen Updates

Our catering service is provided by an external provider. A new menu will be launching after half term which I hope will provide additional options for students, particularly those who are vegetarians. The menus have been sent out via a separate Classcharts attachment.

In addition, ten new dining table and stool sets have been ordered for expected delivery in November. This will create extra seating for 120 students. The pre-order machine and top up pay machines have been moved to an area which makes them much more accessible to students.

Year 11 GCSEs

You will be aware that the Government have stated that GCSE exams will be taking place in the summer of 2022. I have spoken to students about this during assemblies.

This three-minute video provides an overview of the plans and may be of interest to you.

(This has already been shown to students.) <https://www.tes.com/news/exams-2022-gcse-a-level-ofqual-exams>

We are determined to do all we can to support your child. In November, they will sit their first set of mock exams and students will then receive their first set of results for this academic year.

During half term three, (Jan/Feb 2022), we will be hosting an event for students where they will be taught specific revision techniques and we will provide them with resources to be able to do so independently. That same evening, parents / carers will be invited in to hear about the plans for GCSEs, what students have been taught and how to support your child with revision for their GCSEs.

I am sure you will agree that it has been a very busy half term. Much has been achieved and there is so much more that we are planning to do.

I wish students and staff a well-deserved, safe and restful half term and look forward to seeing them on Monday, 1st November 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Cousineau', written in a cursive style.

Mrs G Cousineau
Head of School