



Dear Families,

I wanted to write to you as we approach the Christmas holidays to thank you for all of your support for the school during this long term and update you on some of the significant events since September.

There has been an incredibly positive feel around the school, with students rising to the challenges we have set them in terms of aspiring to be great in everything that we do. The new Behaviour & Rewards policy has seen thousands more merits awarded than previously as we seek to ensure that we recognise students' achievements and the progress they make. I have enjoyed giving out many more 'Principal's Commendations' and signing plenty of certificates, which reflects the volume of success from students in every year and in every subject of the school. Our high expectations of behaviour and personal conduct have also seen improvements in the learning environment of each class, and despite being less tolerant of any type of disruption to learning we have seen the number of behaviour points remain largely the same as the same term last year. This, despite the fact that students now receive behaviour points for poor 'effort', are very pleasing and demonstrate the positive way in which students have embraced our drive to being great and have reacted in a way which will only serve to enhance their learning.

We have seen many opportunities for our students to engage with different activities across the term that truly reflect our strapline of *'Bringing Learning to Life & Life to Learning'*. A visit from two members of staff from No. 10 Middle School, Yueyang, China, a trip to Cambridge University for Year 10 & 11 students, a wonderful Global Entrepreneurship Week to celebrate our Business & Enterprise specialism and a new 'Forest School' initiative have all been highlights of the term. As a school we have also supported Anti-Bullying Week, paid our respects and led commemorations during our Armistice Assembly and raised money for many local, national and international charities. This sits alongside a huge raft of extra-curricular opportunities for students, which we are always looking to expand upon.

I have also been pleased with the way that we have looked to further engage with family members to share the success of our fantastic students and look at how we can further support their drive to greatness. The new format for our 'Academic Mentoring Day' saw us meet with 94% of families to have detailed learning conversations. Thank you for your support of this event. We also saw two firsts for Preston. Our 'Principal's Family Forum' saw all parents invited to come in and share ideas on how we can further improve communication between school and home, in order to support your child's learning. Thanks to those who attended and contributed. There is now a 'You Said – We Did' document on the website which takes in to account the ideas given and details the changes we have made, and will make, to further strengthen communication. I would encourage all family members to read this. There will be another opportunity to share ideas in the Spring Term.

One of the issues that arose was that of homework, and families being informed of what homework is set. To help this process we are moving to having all homework set shown on 'Moodle' from January 2016.

This will help you know what needs to be completed and by when. There is an attachment to this letter as a guide for you. On the topic of homework we will also be 'resetting' the Period 6 list, so that all students start again from zero homework logs. Students will only be eligible for Period 6 if they receive 5 homework logs, so we hope that the number of students this affects reduces next term.

December also saw our inaugural 'Family Learning Day' for Year 9. A huge thank you to the family members who came in to support the event and spend time in lessons with their children, working together to explore how best their learning can be supported. The feedback on the day was fantastic, and, as such, there will be a Family Learning Day for all other year groups over the course of the next two terms:

26th February 2016 – Year 11

20th April 2016 – Year 10

22nd May 2016 – Year 8

22nd June 2016 – Year 7

I am committed to school and home working together to keep strengthening the life chances and aspirations of our young people.

I would like to thank all of the staff who work at Preston School to give your child the best possible education. They work extremely hard and are very passionate about providing our young people with great lessons, opportunities and role-models. I would also like to thank the following staff, who have left the school this term, for all of their commitment and effort over their time here:

- Mr Andy Luce, teacher of PE & Year 7 AM
- Mr Brendan Canavan, Assistant Head of School for Music & Year 8 AM
- Ms Leonie Grana, Work Experience & Careers Co-ordinator
- Mr James Barnes, Teacher of Geography
- Mr Jasper Casey, Reprographics Assistant
- Mrs Mel Chadwick, second in charge of Science & Year 9 AM

We also wish Mrs Nicholas and Mrs Davis a happy maternity leave and look forward to seeing them again soon!

We have also had a change of Chair of Governors. I would like to thank Rich Feltham for his contribution, and I am very pleased that he is remaining on the governing body, but recognise his need to prioritise work commitments. Marta Baker has been a great addition to the governors since joining in the summer and I am delighted that she was elected chair this term. Along with the governing body, the staff and I will work tirelessly to continue to improve Preston School so that the lives of our students are further enriched.

I hope that you and your family have a wonderfully relaxing, enjoyable and safe Christmas break. We look forward to seeing you in 2016 and sharing more success for the young people of which we are so proud. School starts back on Monday 4th January 2016.

Yours sincerely



Gregg Morrison
Principal

Viewing Homework on Moodle


In order for you to access the Homework information you require a Parent Portal / Moodle account. If you do not have one or you are unable to log on with your previous credentials please contact PrestonVLE@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Below are instructions on how to use the Homework section on the Parent Portal.

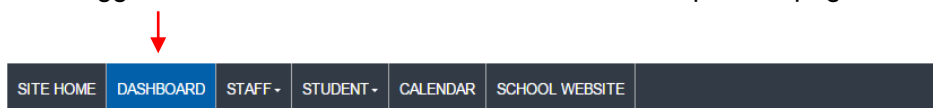
Log On

Please go to <https://www.prestonschoolvle.co.uk> or alternatively please go to our School website and click on the Parent Portal link at the top of the page.

- Please enter your details in the Login box.



- Once logged in, click on the **DASHBOARD** link at the top of the page.



Homework

The Homework section is located on the lefthand side of the page.

If you have more than one child at Preston, all of their names will show up in the Homework section.

- To view all Homework set, click on **view** next to **Parent**.
- A new window will appear with the list of Homeworks currently assigned to the chosen child.

HOMEWORK

Student

[view](#)

There is no new homework

Parent

[view](#)

Caitlin Pollard

Year 10 (Melissa Pollard)

Homework Example

Date Set: Friday, 4

December, 1:32 PM

Date Due: Wednesday, 9

December, 9:00 AM

Course	Title	Teacher	Due Date	Status	Grade
Moodle Training Area	Homework Example	Melissa Pollard	2015-12-09		
Moodle Training Area	Geography - The Water Cycle	Melissa Pollard	2015-12-14		

Please note Parents can't open the link to the assignment but can view the relevant information in terms of submission dates and assignment details. If there are links in details to external websites, parents can access these too.

- To view the information (details, dates etc) about a specific Homework, please click on the Title.
- The information will appear on a new page (see below).

Geography - The Water Cycle

Description
Test Assignment - students please ignore

Homework Task on the Water Cycle
1. Create a Powerpoint about the Water Cycle
2. You can add animations

Extension Task
Using the water cycle can you explain why global warming will change more than just the weather becoming hotter?

Student [view](#)
There is no new homework

Parent [view](#)
Caitlin Pollard

Year 10 (Melissa Pollard)
Homework Example
Date Set: Friday, 4 December, 1:32 PM
Date Due: Wednesday, 9 December, 9:00 AM

Year 10 (Melissa Pollard)
Geography - The Water Cycle
Date Set: Today, 2:03 PM
Date Due: Monday, 14 December, 9:00 AM

Status
(no attempts)

Grade

[Back to the assignment list](#)

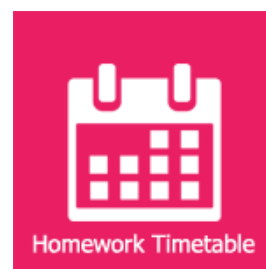
- In here you can see the Homework set and if your child has submitted anything yet.

Please note: Some Homeworks will not require online submissions.

Homework Timetable

Each year group has a Home Learning timetable that can be viewed on Moodle. This will show you what subject should be setting Homework for that day.

- Navigate to the Dashboard and click on the Homework Timetable icon →
- To view the Homework Timetables, please click on your chosen Year Group.



Year 7 Home Learning Timetable

Year 7		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday				
7BS	1	English	Drama	Geography	Science	Maths	French	DT		
	2	English	Life Studies	History	Science	Maths		DT		
7AL	1	English	Italian	History	Science	Maths	Geography	DT		
	2	English	Drama		Science	Life Studies	Maths		DT	
7AA	1	English			Science	History	Maths	Life Studies	DT	Spanish
	2	English		Drama	Science		Maths		DT	Geography
7NA	1	English		History	Science		Maths		DT	
	2	English	Drama	Spanish	Life Studies	Science	Maths	Geography	DT	
7MEC	1	English	DT	French	Science		Maths	Drama	Life Studies	Geography
	2	English			Science	DT	Maths			History
7NC	1	English	DT	Spanish	Science	Geography	Maths			Life Studies
	2	English		History	Science	DT	Maths		Drama	
7JG	1	English	DT	Drama	Life Studies	Science	Spanish	Maths		Geography
	2	English		History		Science	DT	Maths		

Notes: Drama will have a maximum of 3 pieces of homework in each term
 ICT will have one piece of homework at the mid-point of each unit of work

If you experience any issues with Moodle or would like some help navigating around the site, please contact PrestonVLE@educ.somerset.gov.uk and our Technicians will be happy to help.