



*Presdales  
School*

*Achievement  
for all*

# *Welcome to Presdales*

*Presdales is a wonderfully energetic school. The choices on offer make learning a truly inclusive experience.*



# *A History of Excellence*

Presdales is a six-form entry (previously five-form entry) all-ability school which became an Academy on 1st April 2012, for girls aged from eleven to eighteen. Boys are also welcomed into the Sixth Form.

We aim to provide an outstanding education that enables all students, regardless of their background and starting point, to achieve and surpass their academic potential. We are committed to the development of independent minded young people who have active and creative minds. We expect our students to acquire a sense of understanding and compassion for one another and to have the courage to act on their beliefs. We will equip our students with the skills and attributes to empower them to lead happy and successful lives, enabling them to make a meaningful contribution to our global society

Our core values, for all of our school community, are Ambition, Creativity, Equality, Integrity, Kindness and Resilience.

Presdales has been graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in the last four inspections. Student achievement is high, with 92% of girls achieving a grade 4 or higher in both English and Maths, and an attainment 8 score of 58. 53% of our students achieved the EBacc measure with a strong pass.

Our A Level results are equally impressive, with an average score of above 40 points per entry. We have an intensive extra-curricular programme which offers students a chance to develop their leadership and team building skills as well as numerous trips during the year.



This year we launched our new House system which comprises of six houses; Curie, Frank, Nightingale, Pankhurst, Parks and Windsor. We are very excited about the year ahead with all of the house events that have been planned.

In July 2018 we were one of only nine schools nationally who were designated as a Language Hub by the Department for Education. We are looking forward to this programme starting in spring 2019. This prospectus is designed to enable parents, carers and their children to gain an insight into our school:

- To find out what we stand for
- To discover what we can offer students who attend Presdales

The printed word, however, can never fully capture the spirit and feel of a school and it is for this reason that I warmly welcome and encourage prospective parents and carers and their children to come and visit us.

**Matthew Warren**  
Headteacher



# Visions and Values

## *Achievement for all*



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## Values

### **Creativity**

Seek inspiration  
Use your imagination  
Be innovative  
Take risks

### **Resilience**

Take ownership of your own learning  
Believe in yourself  
Demonstrate courage in adversity  
Never give up

### **Integrity**

Be honest  
Be trustworthy  
Show loyalty to others  
Do the right thing

### **Equality**

Be inclusive  
Respect yourself and others  
Celebrate diversity  
Understand rights and act on responsibilities

### **Ambition**

Set personal goals  
Aim high  
Have a 'can do' attitude  
Be committed to all that you do

### **Kindness**

Friendship: treat others as you expect to be treated  
Show empathy to others  
Be a team player  
Seek ways to support your community

## Objectives

To ensure:

- The highest achievement for all students
- Inspirational teaching that supports and stretches all learners
- Quality pastoral care that nurtures and develops each child
- Effective leadership and management that enables continual school improvement
- The Resources and Environment to optimise student learning



## *Admission & Induction Procedures*

As an Academy, Presdales follows the admissions criteria for single-sex schools within the Local Authority which are published annually. There are 1,121 students in the school, including a Sixth Form of 254.

Following the admission procedure, parents and carers of girls who obtain places here are sent details of arrangements for them and their daughters to come into school during the summer term before they start in September. Each girl is given an opportunity to spend a day in school sampling classes and meeting staff who will be directly concerned for her welfare when she starts here, as the seeds of future success are often sown during the early stages of a girl's career.

The day spent in school invariably allays any fears she may have about transferring to secondary school, and also serves to put parents' and carers' minds at rest about how she will settle in in September. In addition, parents and carers are invited to an evening when they can receive information about the running of the school and meet staff. This evening is an important opportunity to get to know us and one which it is hoped all will want to attend.



## *The Sixth Form*

The Sixth Form is a very important stage in students' academic development. We hope the majority of parents and carers will share our view that formal secondary education should span seven years rather than five.

The vast majority of students leaving the Sixth Form proceed to higher education or suitable training courses, where happily they demonstrate a considerable degree of success.

# A Challenging Curriculum

Our curricular provision exceeds the basic requirements of the National Curriculum by offering increased opportunities to all girls, as shown below.

## Years 7 to 9

All students follow a common curriculum at Key Stage 3. Subjects studied in each year are: Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science. In addition, all students take a second Modern Foreign Language (MFL) in each year, with a choice of German, Italian, Russian or Spanish.

## Years 10 and 11

At Key Stage 4, all students study GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Combined Sciences (or the three separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics), either Geography or History and a GCSE Short Course qualification in Religious Studies B (Philosophy and/or Applied Ethics).

All but a few selected students study a MFL (choosing from: French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish), and then select up to three subjects from: a second MFL, a second humanity (Geography or History), Art & Design, Business, Computing, Design & Technology (Graphics or Textiles), Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, Physical Education or Sociology. We also offer a BTEC in Health and Social Care.

## Years 12 and 13

All Sixth Formers follow two year courses which lead to A level in Year 13. There is a wide choice of courses available. For further information please see the separate Sixth Form Prospectus.

*All information about the curriculum we offer is correct at the time of going to press. The exact curriculum offer may vary each year.*





### **Homework**

All girls are expected to undertake homework which averages an hour each night in Year 7 rising to two and a half hours by Year 11. A homework timetable is given to every girl at the start of each year so that she and her parents/carers know which subjects are set each night. Parents are asked to ensure that suitable provision is made at home so that the work can be done effectively.

### **Organisation of Teaching Groups**

In each year at Key Stage 3, students are taught in one of six mixed ability teaching groups for all subjects, apart from Mathematics and MFL. These teaching groups are put together using information received from primary schools, including their national Key Stage 2 tests. Each student's progress is carefully monitored. In Year 7 students are set for Mathematics and their second MFL. In Year 8, students are set for French, whilst in Year 9, students are additionally set for Science and English lessons. At Key Stage 4, the core academic subjects and MFLs are taught in sets across the year.

### **Special Educational Needs**

Provision for those with a special educational need is usually made through differentiated teaching materials and classroom management strategies. Where appropriate, additional support is given to girls requiring help with literacy and numeracy. This may be in the form of extra classes at lunchtime or being disapplied from other subjects for a fixed period of time.

### **The Exceptionally Able**

Exceptionally able girls are identified at an early stage. Provision is made within each teaching group, through quality differentiation where the students are stretched and challenged accordingly. Students are set in particular subjects early on in their school careers.

### **Accessibility Plan**

The school welcomes those with disabilities. Every effort is made to enable students to access all areas of the curriculum. Lifts and ramps have been installed wherever possible to allow access to all ground floor areas.





*“Everyone was so welcoming when  
I started and I felt at home.”*

Year 7 Student

# The Wider Curriculum

## Individual Music Lessons

Girls have the opportunity to learn a wide variety of musical instruments. Parents and carers are able to request lessons for their daughter at the information evening held in the summer term. Girls are encouraged to join a wide variety of lunchtime music groups and ensembles according to their level of musical interests and abilities.

## Assembly

The school day starts with either an assembly or a form time activity. Once a week year groups meet for a year assembly, which often involves contributions by the girls themselves.

## Religious Education

Presdales is non-denominational, and Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus. Parents and carers who do not wish their daughter to attend these classes or assemblies are asked to write to the Headteacher.

## House System

There are many House events for students to participate in throughout the course of the year. There are six Houses;

**Curie** **Frank** **Nightingale** **Pankhurst** **Parks** **Windsor**

## Personal, Social and Health Education

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is delivered to all students in each year of the school as part of their wider curriculum. In Years 7 and 8, students have timetabled lessons in their teaching groups, whilst in Year 9, it is taught on a combination of one day on an 'off timetable' basis and during RE lessons. In each of Years 10 to 13, PSHE is delivered on one day 'off timetable' each term as part of a carefully planned programme.



# Support & Guidance

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is considered very important and a variety of support strategies are available if needed. Girls are placed in a form group on entering the school which is of mixed ability and contains friendship groups made in primary school. Each girl's welfare is the special responsibility of her form tutor who may refer any problem to the Head of Year. The Heads of Year are responsible to Senior Staff for the overall pastoral care of their group.

## Safeguarding

Presdales School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We ensure that consistent and effective safeguarding procedures and policies are in place.

## Uniform

All girls in Years 7–11 are expected to wear our school uniform. All items can be purchased from Stevensons and Kids Connection. The PE kit alone is also available from Henry Tilley.

## Discipline

Girls are expected to show consideration for others and to behave in an appropriate manner at all times. The school's Code of Conduct encompasses the minimum requirements for the orderly running of a large community and is used in conjunction with school's Behaviour for Learning policy.

## Reports and Parents' Consultation Meetings

Considerable importance is attached to monitoring student's academic progress throughout their time at Presdales, with each year group being assessed against targets in each subject studied at three different times during the academic year. On each occasion, the results of these assessments are reported to parents and carers, with annual consultation meetings providing an opportunity for verbal feedback to be given by a student's teachers directly to parents and carers. In addition, contact can be made at other times during the year if a student's progress is giving cause for concern.





# *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Students have the opportunity to participate in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities both in and out of school.

Our extra-curricular programme operates both at lunchtime and after school. Clubs and activities vary from year to year and appeal to a wide range of interests.

We have an annual school play involving large numbers of students, recent productions include *Made in Dagenham* and *Grimm Tales*. There are visits to the theatre and musicals regularly arranged.

As they move through the school students are encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and World Challenge Expeditions, which develop independence and team building skills.

Years 12 have the opportunity to take part in the National Mock Trial competitions which encourage a high standard of public speaking.

Sixth Formers take part in the Young Enterprise Scheme and events such as the Model United Nations.

Students are encouraged to be aware of the problems of those less fortunate than themselves and to involve themselves in community service. Fund raising for charitable organisations is a regular part of school life and students participate in a wide range of popular activities to raise money for the school charity of the year which is chosen by the students themselves.

Departments organise regular trips to support students in their learning, and there are study visits and exchange visits abroad for students learning MFL.





*“Everyone here at Presdales is a team and we show this by working together in school and when out on trips.”*



## Sport

Presdales PE department offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for all levels, those that want to participate for fun and for those pupils who want to try and play for the school teams. Extra-curricular clubs are offered in Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Dance, Football, Gymnastics, Handball, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Sportshall, Swimming, Trampoline, Tennis and Volleyball. Students from all years are encouraged to participate in sport to enable them to discover their talents, improve their physical fitness, and help them establish an active lifestyle for the future. Regular fixtures are held against other schools during the week, including in the local county leagues. There is an invitation only 'Gifted and Talented' training club for those that excel in sport to try and improve their fitness levels.

## Music

In addition to the individual music tuition offered, there are three choirs, a school orchestra, a concert band, a variety of ensembles and a rock and pop school. Regular concerts are held throughout the year, in which both individual girls and larger groups take part and an additional opportunity to perform in school is given at morning assemblies.

A distinctive feature of the school's music department is its commitment to take music beyond the school community. The choirs have performed at prestigious venues such as the Barbican and Saffron Hall and our Little Big Band often performs at local events such as the Dickensian Evening and Standon Open Gardens.

*“As I’m approaching the end of Year 7, I can look back and see what an extraordinary year it has been.”*



Presdales School Hoe Lane Ware Hertfordshire SG12 9NX Telephone 01920 462210 Email [admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk)