



Presdales School

Achievement
for all

Welcome to Presdales

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



Welcome to Presdales

'Achievement for all'

Presdales is a six-form entry school for girls aged eleven to eighteen. We welcome boys in the sixth form.

We understand that choosing the right school for your daughter is an important decision. We firmly believe that Presdales can offer your daughter an outstanding education, where all girls are nurtured, support and challenged.

Our core values of Ambition, Creativity, Equality, Integrity, Kindness and Resilience run through all that we do, enabling us to support the development of your daughter into a confident, happy, articulate and all-rounded young woman who is ready to take an equal place in the workplace and society.

At Presdales, we value effort and a 'can-do' attitude, where the students are willing to give anything a try. We want our girls to face challenges, so they can learn how to come through them successfully.

We are proud of the strong academic outcomes that are achieved year on year. We set high expectations of our girls, regardless of their academic starting points, but do so in an environment where they are supported by quality teaching and sensitive pastoral care.



It is of equal importance to us that our girls have fulfilling opportunities outside of the classroom. We offer an extensive extra-curricular programme where students can develop their leadership and team building skills, but also where they can just have fun.

In September 2018, we launched our new House system which comprises of six houses that were all named by our students; Curie, Frank, Nightingale, Pankhurst, Parks and Windsor. All of the girls and staff join a house and can participate in events with other year groups culminating in the presentation of the house cup at the end of the year.

This prospectus is designed to give parents, carers and their children a brief flavour of who we are and what we stand for. 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 here at Presdales.

Matthew Warren
Headteacher





Visions and Values

Achievement for all



Presdales School aims 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 women who have active and creative minds. We expect our students to acquire a sense of understanding and compassion for one another and to have 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.

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

Values

Ambition

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

Integrity

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

Creativity

Seek inspiration
Use your imagination
Be Innovative
Take risks

Kindness

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

Equality

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

Resilience

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

A young woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white school shirt, is smiling and looking at a computer screen. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom. In the background, another student with glasses is partially visible, also looking at a computer. The lighting is warm and focused on the students.

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 over 1,100 students in the school, including a Sixth Form of around 250 students yearly.

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.



The Curriculum Vision

At Presdales School, we aim to provide a curriculum which:

- Is as rich, inspiring and broad as possible with well designed, inclusive and carefully sequenced content.
- Provides students with opportunities to take their curriculum beyond the classroom to develop their love of learning, build their independence and expand their creativity.
- Enables students to build on prior learning, deepen the knowledge essential for each subject and enhance their skills
- Raises students aspirations and equips them with the knowledge, skills and ambition to flourish in their future careers.
- Will support all students to develop the character and resilience to face the constantly changing world in which we live.
- Fosters the development of students' character, personal development, health and wellbeing preparing them to make a valuable and responsible contribution to society.

The Curriculum Plan

Years 7 to 9

We have a very broad KS3 Curriculum covering 15 subjects meeting all the national curriculum requirements.

- All students study: Art, Computing, Design & Technology, Drama, English, French, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education and Science. In Year 7 students also commence study of a second Modern Foreign Language (MFL), chosen from German, Italian, Russian and Spanish.
- In each year at KS3, students are taught in mixed ability teaching groups for all subjects, apart from Mathematics and MFL (except lessons in Year 7). In Year 9 students are in sets for Science lessons.
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) is delivered in teaching groups in Years 7 and 8. In Year 9, PSHE will be taught on a combination of one day on an 'off timetable' basis and during 10 RE lessons. Citizenship is delivered across the curriculum at KS3.





Years 10 and 11

Students begin to specialise to provide them with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they will choose to study to GCSE level.

- At KS4 all students study GCSEs in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Combined Double Science (Trilogy), or the three separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics); either Geography or History and a GCSE Short Course qualification in Religious Studies (Philosophy and/or Applied Ethics).
- All but a few selected students study an MFL and then select up to three subjects from: a second MFL (choosing from: French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish), a second humanity (Geography, History), Art & Design, Business, Computing, Design & Technology (Graphics or Textiles), Drama, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, Physical Education, Sociology or Health and Social Care.
- In addition students have lessons in PE, with PSHE taught on five single days on an 'off timetable' basis over the Key Stage. Citizenship is delivered across the curriculum at KS4.

Sixth Form

- All students follow two year courses which lead to A level in Year 13. Students will normally choose three A level subjects to study from: English Literature, English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, French, German, Spanish, Russian, Italian, History, Geography, Government & Politics, Economics, Travel and Tourism, Business, Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology, Sociology, Art & Design, Photography, Music, Drama, Film Studies, Design & Technology and Physical Education and Sports Studies.
- GCSE qualifications in Mathematics and English are available for those students who have not attained a grade 4 in either of those subjects.
- All sixth formers follow courses in careers and physical education, whilst many also choose to take a Sports Leadership qualification and/or an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to supplement their academic studies.
- The curriculum is reviewed and evaluated annually to ensure it reflects the needs of our cohort of students and to keep in step with cultural and technological changes and educational developments.

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



"Everyone was so welcoming when I started and I felt at home."

Year 7 Student

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. Each girl's welfare is the responsibility of her form tutor who may refer any problem to the Head of Year. The Heads of Year are supported by a team of Senior Staff.

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 Tilly.

Discipline

Girls are expected to show consideration for others and to behave in an appropriate manner at all times in line with the school's Behaviour for Learning policy.

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.

House assemblies are delivered by Sixth Former House Leaders once every half term.

Reports and Parents' Consultation Meetings

Considerable importance is attached to monitoring students' 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. In addition, contact may 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 regularly have school plays involving large numbers of students. Recent school productions have included *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.

Year 12 has 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. Fundraising 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, Trampolining, 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

Girls have the opportunity to learn a wide variety of musical instruments. 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."



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