



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

19th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

It was a pleasure to see a small number of Year 12 students return to school on Monday, a week ahead of plan. I will be sending out the timetable for Year 12 lessons in school (starting 29/6) early next week. We look forward to welcoming a group of Year 10s from Monday. Thank you for the feedback about the Year 10 Academic tutoring sessions, which have been well received by students and parents. Staff have found it useful to have those one to one conversations.

Year 9 and 11 students are producing fantastic bridging work. A number of departments are confident that the students will be further advanced when they return to start their GCSE and A Level courses than students in previous years due to the work they are completing now.

Thank you to those students who took part in the STEM challenge, organised by Mrs Warburton. The winners were G Archer (Y7), A Norris (Y8) and E Richardson (Y9) – well done to all three girls. Examples of their work can be found on the school website [here](#). The next challenge is now available for students to access if they so wish, 'The Solar Tower Challenge'. Details can be found on the students Google Classroom.

BYOD ('Bring Your Own Device')

Over the past few months we have had to move forward and embrace the benefits that technology gives in delivering a comprehensive curriculum. All subjects now use Google Classroom, Drive and some are using Google sites. Work is being set, handed in and marked online. The future is uncertain and we do not know what the next academic year will bring in terms of full time schooling due to COVID-19. It is our hope that we will start in September with all students back. Regardless, we feel now is the time to explore whether every student having a device they can use in school is the next obvious step. I would be interested to hear your views on this, and would ask that you complete the survey below. We are conscious of the cost at this time for many parents, and would seek to support those families who need it the most where we can.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTWGdJP0YmYSAnicI58WwNXVi06gny7Weyazmfa92cYSGewQ/viwwform>

Please complete a separate survey for each child you have at Presdales, as this will give us more detailed information by year group. As many responses as possible from parents would be appreciated.

Year 11/13 internal exams September 2020 and Mock examinations

There is still a national debate about how the GCSE and A Level qualifications will be affected in 2021. Will they reduce the content? Will the grade boundaries be lowered? Will teachers be asked to give the grades as this year? We know that this uncertainty only adds to the anxiety that the students will be feeling and we will share information with students and parents as soon as it is made available.

The internal exams that we will be conducting in lessons from September will primarily serve the purpose of identifying gaps in students' knowledge enabling effective and targeted support to be put in place. However, predicted and UCAS grades are always given using a range of evidence from an extended period of time and the outcomes from any assessments, homework and classwork set throughout the year will be part of that evidence base. If teachers are asked to do the same as this year and give Centre Assessed Grades, then all forms of assessment are going to be very important. I appreciate that students may have to use some time over the summer to revise if they wish to do well. All subjects will advise students before the end of this term what content they need to revise.

For the past few years, Year 11 and Year 13 mocks have taken place before Christmas, allowing the students to take a break. Due to the assessments in September, we do not feel that there will be enough teaching time to allow students to make progress if we assess them again before Christmas. Therefore, for next year only, the mocks will have to move to after the Christmas break.

Support if you can

Alice Rothwell King (Y9) and her grandmother are running a campaign to help raise funding for a small hydrotherapy pool for Alice's mum. An article has been printed in this week's Hertfordshire Mercury (<https://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/news/hertfordshire-news/hertfordshire-mum-who-been-lockdown-4224045>) telling her story. The link to the GoFundMe campaign is <https://gf.me/u/x6ufb8>. Thank you for any support you are able to give.

Quarantine

We do not know if the current quarantine guidelines will be in place by the end of the summer holidays. I know some will have holidays that are booked and have not yet been cancelled so you may still be going on holiday. I would ask that anyone booking a late holiday is mindful of the quarantine guidelines, as we would not be able to allow any student into school who is in quarantine.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a pleasant weekend

Regards
Matt Warren
Headteacher