



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I trust that you and your children have had a good week.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the following students who have been successful in their application to become part of the senior student team at Presdales School. This year, the application process was largely remote, including the interviews that were held earlier this week. Well done to all of them.

**Head Girl** - Francesca Holmes

**Deputy Head Girl** - Amelia Middleton

**Heads of House:**

Parks - Ayesha Unadkat

Windsor - Molly Hobson

Frank - Libby Wade

Nightingale - Esme Hagger

Pankhurst - Talitha Hookway

Curie - Harriet Curzon

**Senior Students:**

Jess Childs

Lola Chandisingh

Sophie Pratt

Elizabeth Appleford

Alaina Nwosa

Amelie Cooper

As you will be aware, the Department for Education has published guidance for a phased return to school for some students from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. The guidance asks us to “provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students, with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality.”

Since lockdown, I believe that we have provided a comprehensive and balanced curriculum for all of our students. They have been challenged and supported extensively and we have shown an understanding that every household is working in different ways. We have delivered regular face to face support through google meets in most subjects for a significant number of students, and the frequency of these are increasing, and will continue to do so.

It is clear from speaking to other Headteachers that there is no set plan that every school is following, more that they are providing what is needed for their students based on what they have already been receiving since lockdown began. Due to the constantly changing nature of the situation we are in, forward planning has been a challenge. A number of schools went out early with their plans for a phased return and have now had to retract them. Our plan is fluid and may change depending on the national picture at any time over the coming weeks. We will also assess what has gone well with our plan and extend it before the end of term if appropriate to do so.

Following discussions with our staff and board of trustees we have agreed on the following plan:

*(Year 10 and Year 12 parents will receive a supplementary letter on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June outlining our plans in more detail, but I felt all parents would want to see an overview)*

### **RAG data (Red, Amber, Green) against a set of three questions**

- This has been collected and will be sent out to all parents in every year group from next week onwards. It is a snapshot of how your children have been doing over the past few months. Heads of Year will be contacting parents where the data suggests students are not working to their capacity, with an acknowledgement that there may be a valid reason for this.

### **Year 10**

- Remote lessons will continue to be set
- Using the RAG data, a cohort of students has been identified where a higher level of intervention is required. These students will be invited into school from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Monday to Thursday for three hours per day. They will be supervised to complete the work that all Year 10 students have been set. They will also receive consolidation lessons in core subjects
- We are in the process of setting up an academic tutoring programme which will enable all parents and students to remotely meet with each of their teachers for a 15-minute meeting. They will be able to discuss the work that has been completed so far, including any gaps in knowledge.
- Every student will receive one google meet per subject per week as a minimum, with most receiving more

### **Year 12**

- Remote lessons will continue to be set
- Using the RAG data, a cohort of students has been identified who may need a higher level of intervention. These students will be invited into school from the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Monday to Thursday for three hours per day. They will be supervised to complete the work they have been set. Parents will also be offered a google meet with a member of the Sixth form leadership team to discuss their child's progress
- Students will receive an extended lesson (3 hours) in school, in each of their subjects. As we are unable to facilitate a full year group in school, the classes will be split in two. The teaching weeks will be from the 29<sup>th</sup> June until the 10<sup>th</sup> July. Students will only attend on the days that their subject lesson is being delivered, so three days for most students and four if they are taking further maths)
- Every student will receive one google meet per subject per week as a minimum, with most receiving more

All other year groups will continue as normal.

Since lockdown, staff have spent a great deal of time logging and chasing students who have not been completing the work. Please be advised that during the period of academic tutoring the frequency of this may diminish. Most staff have over thirty sessions to organise with parents and some have over sixty.

We have updated our risk assessment in light of larger numbers of students returning to school. This will be available on the school website in advance of students returning. Whilst we hope that those students who are invited into school for sessions attend, I do understand that some will still prefer to learn from home. This is why all sessions in school will be to check and support students in what has been delivered since lockdown, and will not be new learning – this will continue to be delivered remotely.

### **Google meets**

Unless there is a valid reason, which should have been communicated to a class teacher in advance, students should be attending and engaging in all google meets that their teachers are holding. Staff prefer it when students keep the camera and sound on, unless they advise differently. It is harder to teach remotely to an empty screen. Some teachers are reporting that students are joining the meet, turning off the camera and sound, then not participating in the meet – one went back to bed! I have reminded students in my update to them that the purpose of the google meet is to help them so that they don't fall behind, it is for their benefit.

To support students and parents, we will, by the end of next week, publish a timetable of when subject google meets take place each week.

### **Year 6 to Year 7 transition**

I would like to thank Isabelle Gardiner (Year 11) for producing a video for the Year 6 students coming to Presdales in September, this was Isabelle's idea. Isabelle gives her perspective of being a student at Presdales and offers advice to the new students. Please click [here](#) to view the video.

### **Celebrating Work**

As always, there has been some excellent work this week. This can be found in the "What's On" section of our website under [News](#).

### **RBA Star Students**

Every year The Arts Society partners with the Royal Society of British Artists (RBA) to offer A-level Art students the opportunity to show in the RBA Star Students exhibition at the Royal Over-Seas League and the Mall Galleries in London. We are pleased to announce that Grace Stansall-Seiler (Yr 13 2019-2020) has been awarded the RBA President Prize for her work *Cacti*. Work by Amy Pozzilli and Erin Hartnett (Yr 13 2019-2020) also feature in the exhibition. Their work can be viewed [here](#). Well done to all three.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards

Matt Warren

Headteacher