



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parent/Carer

I want to start with two pieces of fantastic news for the school.

Following a long application process, completed by Mrs Miller and Mrs E Sykes, we have been successful in being accredited as a Healthy Young Minds in Herts school – one of only six secondary schools in Hertfordshire. The accreditation demonstrates a commitment to supporting students' and teachers' emotional wellbeing and mental health. In order to achieve the Kitemark status, we had to audit our practice in 11 main areas - from school leadership, ethos and staff wellbeing, to teaching students about staying well and seeking help, including targeted support for vulnerable individuals. Our accreditation has been reviewed by the Healthy Young Minds panel which includes representatives from East and North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Herts Valleys CCG, Hertfordshire County Council, Public Health, Public Health Nursing, Educational Psychology and special and mainstream schools. An action plan for further development will be drawn up ready for September

We have now been informed that we were successful in one of our CIF bids for 2020-21. We can now replace the roofs over the admin block, the hall, gym and remainder of the DT/Science block. We received c.£680K to complete this work, which we hope will start as soon as it is safe to do so.

## Results days

We will be running both exam results days as normal, asking students to come in to collect their results. A detailed plan will come out next week from Mrs Simmonds.

## Private tutoring/music lessons

Further to the email that Mrs Chandler sent out earlier this week, we would like to clarify that the DBS check is the Enhanced DBS check. We were unaware that it is not a legal requirement for a private tutor/instrumental teacher to have one of these certificates, although many will. You need to decide whether you wish to employ the services of someone who does not have one of these certificates. Thank you to the parent/tutor who raised this point with us.

*(If you are unaware, an Enhanced criminal record check, also known as an Enhanced DBS Check, details any cautions, warnings, reprimands or convictions on an individual's criminal history and if relevant, can also check against the children and/or adults barred lists)*

## Autumn term guidance

The guidance from the government for the Autumn term was published yesterday. We will be digesting it over the weekend before starting to plan what September may look like. Please expect all students to be in school in September full time. Further details will be shared with students and parents as soon as we can.

## Trips 2020/2021

As we cannot predict whether there will be another spike next year, we are likely to only run trips that are essential to a subject specification e.g. coursework. I do not want us to be in the position where we are having to cancel again, then not being able to get refunds. I know there are a few trips already in the calendar as they were previously agreed, I do not envisage us changing these.

**STEM Challenge**

Due to the recent poor weather, the STEM challenge deadline was extended, therefore results will be available early next week. The next challenge, 'The Great British Space Dinner Challenge', will open next week, deadline Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. The challenge is to design a meal to be eaten on the International Space Station.

**Maths Virtual Summer Show**

The Maths department have booked the Maths Inspiration: Virtual Summer Show, which is streaming live via YouTube next Thursday afternoon 9<sup>th</sup> July from 1.30-3pm. This is usually an annual event in a London theatre, but this year they've opened up the availability and brought it online. We recommend this to all Year 9/10 in particular, but anyone is able to participate.

The speakers are all fantastically inspiring - including Presdales own ex-student Hannah Fry, and many others who are well known for engaging people in popular, modern maths.

The talks are fully interactive - you need YouTube and a browser open at the same time so you get a chance to fully participate.

<http://www.mathsinspiration.com/virtual-show>

Joining instructions and details will be posted to students' Edulink accounts, as they are released to us a couple of days before the event.

**General**

As we come to the end of the three-week Year 10 academic tutoring sessions, I would like to thank students, parents and staff for the time they gave to make these a success. We have received many positive comments about the meetings.

It has been good to see half of the Year 12 students back in school this week, we look forward to seeing others next week.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards  
Matt Warren  
Headteacher