



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

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24th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

For the past few years we have held information evenings for all year groups. The purpose of the evening was to share key information that was relevant to an individual year group and for parents to meet key pastoral leaders.

As we are unable to hold face to face meetings this year, we have put all of the information that would have been shared into a letter. I appreciate that this is going to be a long letter as there is a great deal of information. We have included links to other important information, so that you can choose to read them at a time that is convenient to you. This letter will also be placed on the school website so you can refer to it at any time.

Each heading/section will have been written by a different member of staff who is identified at the start of their section. If you have any questions or comments then please direct them to the appropriate member of staff for that section.

Matt Warren

Headteacher

Behaviour and Pastoral – Mrs S Miller; Deputy Headteacher

At Presdales School we are committed to ensuring that all of our students achieve their very best. We strive to create a safe and stimulating learning environment where exemplary behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. We seek to embed a culture of praise, encouragement and self-discipline in our students and provide early intervention to prevent issues escalating. We place a heavy emphasis on positive relationships between staff and students, and endeavour to ensure fairness of treatment for all by encouraging consistency of response to both positive and inappropriate behaviour.

We aim to do this in a number of ways –

- Focussing on good behaviour
- Praise and reward positive behaviour by use of the reward point system
- Celebrate success and reward improvement, endeavour and achievement through phonecalls/emails/postcards home and PressTales (our fortnightly newsletter)
- Create an environment where all students can learn effectively without any disruption from others

At times students will make the wrong decision and might find themselves with a consequence point. We do have a clear consequence system in place for the times when a students' behaviour falls short of our expectations. Just like every other secondary school, we provide the students with clear guidelines on how they should conduct themselves. The full behaviour policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

We do understand that they are still learning and they will make mistakes. Our behaviour system isn't in place to catch students out, more to support them in making the correct decision the next time they are faced with a similar scenario.

This is more important now than ever before. Many of our usual school routines are different, and students really do need to be following instructions from all members of staff, for their own, and others, safety.

We understand that the time away from School has been challenging for many students and we are working hard to ensure students well-being is a priority. There continues to be a wide range of support open to all students within school and I would encourage you to speak to your daughter's form tutor if you wish to find out any further information about this, or, if you click here, it will take you to the well-being section of our school website, where you will find links to external organisations that offer a wide range of support.

Online Safety – Ms C Chandler; Assistant Headteacher

We are very much aware over the last few months of both the benefits and dangers of online activity for young people whilst we live through Covid-19.

Government organisations have been providing very useful advice to parents to help them support their children with online activity.

There are a number of helpful short video guides created by ThinkuKnow for parents that you can access by clicking on the link below on the following particular issues:

- Cyber security
- Watching videos online
- Social media
- In-game chat
- Live streaming
- Sharing images

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/>

They have also come up with a list of useful reminders for keeping your child safe online.

- 1. Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
- 2. Chat about online safety little and often:** Young people are likely to want to explore new apps and websites this month, whether that's for learning or for fun. Take this opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these new services, and in general.

Ask if anything ever worries them while they are online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.

3. **Help your child identify trusted adults who can help if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
4. **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
5. **Talk about how their online actions can affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
6. **Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available to your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website. **Direct your child to age appropriate information about relationships and sex:** It's natural for young people to start exploring their sexual feelings online and adolescents are more inclined to take risks. It's important to understand this and talk to your child in a positive way. Thinkuknow, Brook, The Mix and Childline all provide age appropriate information about relationships and sex that you can signpost your child to.
7. **Make sure they know about CEOP:** Young people can report a concern about grooming or sexual abuse to CEOP at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ and get some support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

Curriculum and Careers – Mrs J Stephenson; Deputy Headteacher

Assessment and reporting key dates

Tracking points this year

- TPA week commencing 19th November. *This will only contain the four key skills - effort, behaviour, homework and organisation*
- TPB week commencing 1st March 2021
- TPC week commencing 28th June 2021

Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening is scheduled for 4th March 2021 and School exams are from 7th to 18th June 2021.

Your daughter's tracking reports will include an FFT estimate. We buy into a non-profit organisation called Fisher Family Trust (FFT) which provides estimates for UK schools, to support effective target-setting for GCSEs. This looks at the academic profile of your daughter at the end of primary school and estimates how she will progress on her five-year journey based on similar students in the past. If your daughter's progress is not inline or exceeding our expectations, we will look at putting an appropriate intervention in place. Please support us by ensuring your daughter has a distraction free work station for homework and revision. The GCSE revision guides that we recommend can be found on the school website [here](#).

For any further information on assessment and reporting please read the policy which can be found [here](#).

Homework Timetable

- Science homework will be three lots of 30 minutes a week whilst all other homework is 60 minutes.

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ENGLISH | BLOCK D SCIENCE | MATHS BLOCK C | SCIENCE BLOCK B | SCIENCE BLOCK A |

Classcode can be found on student timetables e.g 10C/Hi is History in Block C.

- Block A – Business, Drama, Geography, Graphics, History, PE, Sociology
- Block B – Art & Design, Business, Food, French, Geography, History, Music, PE, Textiles
- Block C – French, Geography, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Extra Maths and English
- Block D – Art & Design, Drama, Geography, German, Graphics, History, Health and Social Care, Sociology, Spanish

Curriculum Maps

Curriculum Maps and term by term overviews for each subject are available on the **Learning** tab of our Website. These will provide you with details on the curriculum that each subject is delivering over the academic year.

Careers, Employability and Enterprise Education

There are many different activities planned for your daughter over the coming year including:

- 1-1 meetings with YC Herts: self-referrals and teacher referral - All year
- Interview Skills workshop by YC Herts - January/February 2021
- Big Interview day by YC Herts - 5th March 2021
- Enterprise House Event - Summer term
- Work Shadowing Day - 9th July 2021

Please click [here](#) for more information on our Careers Programme and the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Presdales is working towards the completion of the Investor in Careers Award. More information can be found on their website <https://investorincareers.org.uk/>

If you feel you can support us in this, please fill out this parent survey by clicking [here](#).

Pupil Premium – Ms S Jennings; Assistant Headteacher

The government provides schools with additional funding which is called the Pupil Premium Grant. The amount of funding allocated to the school is based on the number of students who are eligible for free school meals, or who have been at some point in the last few years, students who are in care or who have been previously, and students with a parent serving in the armed forces.

The funding is allocated to schools to support eligible students in their education. Approximately 10% of our school population is eligible for Pupil Premium. We are particularly aware that this may increase as current circumstances may have changed for families during the Covid crisis.

If your daughter is eligible for free school meals at any point during her secondary education we would recommend applying, as the benefits follow the student until the end of their secondary education even if the family's financial circumstances change. This means the school receives additional funding to support the eligible students in appropriate ways, such as staffing additional classes/ groups, supporting with resources, revision guides, equipment, tutoring, support with school trips, visits and experiences, clubs, mentoring, careers support and preparation for exams. It is about more than just the headline of a free school meal, although that is vital to ensure students can concentrate well during the school day. If you want to find out if you are eligible at any point, this can be done quickly online [here](#).

If you know your daughter is an eligible student and you need support from the grant in a particular way, please let us know. A brief email or a phone call can suffice. If you have questions about this, please contact Ms Jennings: sjennings2901@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Head of Year Information - Miss A Stitson -Year 10

First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Year 10 students for all of their hard work during lockdown, particularly in the last half-term when they focussed on their GCSE bridging work. In my fourth assembly during lockdown, I shared with the students many positive comments from their teachers about the fantastic quality of work being produced. I have also been very impressed by the way Year 10 have approached coming back into school and the step up to KS4, and a number of teachers have been to see me to pass on how wonderful their new Year 10 classes are.

In my first assembly with the year group, I emphasised the importance of the students working *with* us this year, and reiterated our high expectations in terms of behaviour and uniform. I also introduced our value for Year 10 which is **integrity**. The school definition of integrity is: being honest, being trustworthy, showing loyalty to others and doing the right thing. I have also asked the students to consider the following definition: 'integrity is choosing courage over comfort; choosing what is right over what is fun, fast or easy; and choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them'. Throughout this year we'll be regularly referring to, and reflecting on, our value of integrity.

The pastoral support team in Year 10 is as follows:

Ms K Chandler – Assistant Headteacher; Pastoral Care KS4

Miss A Stitson – Head of Year

Mrs B Richard – Form Tutor for 10BR

Mrs E Bird and Mr A Noon – Form Tutors for 10EB

Miss G Price – Form Tutor for 10GP

Mrs L Dann – Form Tutor for 10LD

Mrs L Evenden and Mrs A Smith – Form Tutors for 10LE

Ms S Straw and Ms M Coulson – Form Tutors for 10SS

Please get in touch with your child's form tutor in the first instance for any pastoral concerns and their subject teacher for any academic concerns; all staff email addresses are available on the school website.

There is no doubt that Year 10 is a very important year, as the students begin learning content and skills for their GCSEs. Ways in which you can support your child at home include encouraging them to establish a good routine with regards to homework, as the volume and significance of this increases this year. It is also vital that students take responsibility for catching up any missed work due to absence or extra-curricular activities, and they should develop a system for organising their class notes and revision material at home. The more students can revise throughout the two GCSE years, the better prepared they will be for internal assessments and ultimately their final exams in Year 11. Later this year the students will be receiving a specialist revision skills workshop to support them with this.

Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence, I hope you have found it useful.

I expect that this year is going to be different to previous school years and I thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Matt Warren
Headteacher