



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

24<sup>th</sup> 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 student's 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 [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.

As we are a large secondary school, there is a clear management structure within the school to enable us to support students effectively. If you have any concerns about your daughter, could I please ask you to contact her form tutor in the first instance, who will address your concerns. This may include passing the matter to the most appropriate member of staff or escalating the issue to a more senior member of staff.

### **Online Safety – Mrs E Sykes; 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.

- 7. 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.
- 8. 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/](http://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/) and get some support from a specialist Child Protection Advisor.

### **EduLink**

You should now have received your EduLink login details via email. Logins are issued to all contacts that have parental responsibility on our school management system.

This is an important portal for parents to engage with. Your daughter's homework will be set on this platform, her tracking reports are uploaded here as well as useful information such as Wisepay, reward and behaviour points.

Should you have not received your login, have any issue with EduLink, or notice that any of your personal details are incorrect please email [Helpdesk@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Helpdesk@presdales.herts.sch.uk)

### **Curriculum and Careers – Mrs J Stephenson; Deputy Headteacher**

#### **Assessment and reporting key dates**

We have three tracking points each year where you will receive a report outlining your daughter's academic progress. The report will include information on your daughter's effort, behaviour, homework and organisation.

#### Tracking points this year

- TPA will be sent home week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- TPB will be sent home week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- TPC week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 after school exams

All tracking point data is analysed in school enabling us to celebrate and support where appropriate.

Year 7 internal school exams will take place between 21<sup>st</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

Parents Consultation Evening is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This is a chance to speak to all your daughter's teachers where they can give you more information about her academic progress, however, please do not wait until then if you have any concerns. You can contact teachers throughout the year and can locate their email addresses on the school website.

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. As we know, students will not necessarily follow that journey and they may progress faster or slower depending on many different circumstances.

Our aim at Presdales is to ensure that every child achieves their potential whatever their starting point and we will monitor and report on the progress towards this during these tracking points. Your daughter will be given a BALE indicator documenting the progress being made using Below, Approaching, Inline and Exceeding.

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

### Homework Timetable

In Year 7, all homework will be 30 minutes in length. Students can expect to receive homework at the following frequency;

- English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, and Languages – **once per week**
- PRE – **twice per half term**
- Art, Drama, Music, Computing and Technology – **once per half term**
- All students will also be expected to complete any additional tasks from Technology e.g. bring ingredients/organise equipment.
- Additional reading of at least one hour a week is recommended for all students.

FORM	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7FG	SCIENCE	FRENCH OTHER LANG	GEOGRAPHY MATHS	HISTORY ENGLISH	
7AJ	FRENCH	SCIENCE OTHER LANG	GEOGRAPHY MATHS	ENGLISH	HISTORY
7JB		SCIENCE OTHER LANG	GEOGRAPHY MATHS	HISTORY ENGLISH	FRENCH
7VW		SCIENCE MATHS	HISTORY OTHER LANG	GEOGRAPHY	FRENCH ENGLISH
7TH		GEOGRAPHY MATHS	HISTORY OTHER LANG	FRENCH SCIENCE	ENGLISH
7NP	SCIENCE	MATHS	OTHER LANG	HISTORY FRENCH	GEOGRAPHY ENGLISH

### 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:

- Army workshops – 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020
- Careers week webinars – 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Enterprise House Event – Summer Term
- Unifrog careers activities in SMSC – All Year

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](mailto:sjennings2901@presdales.herts.sch.uk)

### **Head of Year Information - Miss A Haywood -Year 7**

All of the girls have made an outstanding start to the new school year. As a school, we have been extremely impressed by the positive approach and resilience that the new students have demonstrated since their very first day with us at Presdales. We have praised the girls for the way that they have adopted the new secondary school way of life and have passed on the positive feedback that we have had from their new class teachers. They should all be very proud of themselves.

To truly settle into a new school environment is always going to be challenging and can be more difficult for some than others. It is therefore our priority as a school to provide the girls with as much support as we can with making new friends, becoming more organised and developing effective daily routines.

The Year 7 bubble system provides the girls with their own zone in the school which helps to encourage the girls to feel more confident to spend time outside of their form rooms at breaktimes and lunchtimes, mixing with the other girls in the year group and meeting new people besides their classroom peers. In the early stages, we ensure that there is a strong staff presence during the girls' free time who are there to remind students to mix with others outside of their primary school friendship groups. We also provide a structured registration period at the start of each day during which the Form Tutors run engaging learning games and activities as well as fun ice-breaker games to help the form group feel settled in the mornings and get to know each other better.

Soon we hope to be starting weekly clubs for Year 7 students. Every student will be required to join at least one club to broaden their social circle. Clubs are integral in supporting students with making new friends as they provide further opportunities for the girls to develop new hobbies and skills whilst working with others with whom they share similar interests.

Besides making new friends, it is important that all of the girls take ownership over their organisation now that they are at secondary school. Students must take care of their own property and bring the correct equipment with them to every lesson. To facilitate this, students are given a locker which they are encouraged to store the equipment that they do not need for their lessons that morning, afternoon or homework. We encourage the girls to have three printouts of their timetables; one to be kept in their school bags, one inside their lockers and one at home for the kitchen fridge. Students are then reminded to visit their lockers before school, during break, lunch times, and before going home. All students are supported with developing a good routine with using their lockers so as it prevents school bags from becoming too heavy and helps students feel more organised and on top of school life.

We also ask parents and carers to support their daughter at home with establishing good and healthy routines during term time. Year 7 students should all be preparing for the day ahead by packing their bags the night before, eating a healthy evening meal and getting a good night's sleep. We advise parents to also put in place rules surrounding mobile phone use as it is common for young people to become overly dependent on their screens which prevents them from switching off at night. Day to day life at Presdales is extremely busy for everyone and can become very overwhelming without clear boundaries. By establishing these positive and healthy routines at home, you will find that your daughter will be able to learn and progress more effectively as well as cope emotionally with their day to day life at secondary school.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Matt Warren  
Headteacher