



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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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 – 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. **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 will be sent home week commencing 7th December 2020.
- TPB will be sent home week commencing 13th April 2021
- TPC week commencing 19th July 2021 after school exams

Parents Consultation Evening is scheduled for 29th April 2021 and the Year 8 internal school exams will take place between 21st June to 1st July 2021.

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

Homework Timetable

In Year 8, 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
8U	SCIENCE FRENCH	OTHER LANG GEOGRAPHY	ENGLISH	MATHS	HISTORY
8V	SCIENCE FRENCH	OTHER LANG ENGLISH		MATHS HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY
8W	SCIENCE	ENGLISH OTHER LANG	GEOGRAPHY FRENCH	MATHS	HISTORY
8X	SCIENCE FRENCH	OTHER LANG ENGLISH	MATHS HISTORY		GEOGRAPHY
8Y	FRENCH SCIENCE	OTHER LANG ENGLISH	MATHS GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	
8Z	GEOGRAPHY	OTHER LANG ENGLISH	MATHS FRENCH	HISTORY	SCIENCE

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:

- Design careers workshops – 13th November 2020
- Take Your Daughter to Work Day 2021 – 22nd April 2021
- Stem Day – 8th July 2021
- Enterprise House Event – Summer Term
- Unifrog 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.

Head of Year Information - Mrs J Fry - Year 8

Year 8 is a very exciting year to be in, both for students and those who teach them, and I look forward to seeing just what they are capable of this year. Your daughter's form tutor has remained the same so those connections from Year 7 can be developed further throughout the year. The form tutor is your first point of contact if you have a pastoral issue to raise or discuss with us. All contact details can be found [here](#) on the Year 8 page of the website. As in Year 7, attendance at school is carefully monitored and, government rules permitting, full attendance at school is vital to support your daughter's learning and progress.

We will be using the skills learnt during lockdown to support learning now that we are back in school and this is a real positive for Year 8. Students will investigate their new school value - creativity - and there will be lots of opportunities for your daughter to get involved with challenges, activities and competitions along this theme.

Returning back to school has been a process requiring flexibility, patience and understanding from all those involved. In form times, for the first half of the Autumn term, the Year 8 pastoral team will be leading their form groups through a range of activities as part of the WELL programme with the aim to support reintegration back into school.

Over the next few weeks we will investigate:

- W - **Welcome back**; what's the new normal; keeping safe
- E - **Emotional**; emotional health; re-building relationships; team building
- L - **Learning**; positive mind-set, helpful technology; mindfulness
- L - **Life**; creativity, mental health, physical health

I hope that Year 8 is a positive and rewarding step in your daughter's school journey. I am looking forward to working with her through the year.

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