



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

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23rd October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach half term, I hope that our students and staff get time to relax and recharge their batteries. The students have been fantastic since we came back in September, coping effortlessly with the changes we have had to make.

I would like to thank our teaching staff, for the work they have put in by ensuring quality lessons are continuing to be delivered to our students, especially with the added pressures of having to move from room to room nearly every period of the day. Remote learning, on the whole, is working well. We will continue to develop and strengthen this over the coming weeks. Also, our support staff, without whom the school could not run.

Covid

If your child tests positive for coronavirus at any point during half-term, please notify us as soon as possible so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process with public health and notify any other children or staff who have been close contacts and need to self-isolate. During half-term you should contact covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk. Please don't call the normal absence line as this will not be covered during half-term.

Remember as soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self-isolating immediately and book a test.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
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If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have coronavirus or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- they have symptoms of COVID
- they, any members of your household, or any close contacts (including extended family or friends they have seen and bubbles at half-term activities and sports clubs) have tested positive for COVID-19
- they haven't completed the full 14 day isolation period requested

If you or your family are affected by COVID-19 and need support locally with things like shopping, getting medication or financial advice, visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Year 7 Remote Parents' evening

Over the past week, Year 7 form tutors have been meeting remotely with Year 7 parents in the evenings. We have been trialling a software package that will enable us to hold consultation evenings remotely. I am pleased that the trial went well. The Year 13 PCM on Tuesday 3rd November will be held remotely using the same software.

Sixth form

This year, we have produced a digital version of our Destination of Leavers information. A copy has been put on our school website. We are proud of what our Year 13 students achieved in their exams and the places they are now working in or studying at.

The student leadership team have opened three new Instagram accounts for the students who are aged 13 and above (Instagram age limit). These are for information only, controlled by the student senior team and students are not able to comment on them. I am conscious that we have set up accounts that only students who are 13 and above should be accessing. However, this is an initiative by our senior student team and I would like to support their idea. We will ensure that any information shared is also put on the website/edulink for students who are not 13 or do not have Instagram.

Presdalesschool

- Led by the Senior Students: will have updates on all school events, and important months (e.g. October is Black History Month).

Presdales.houses

- Led by the Heads of Houses: will have updates on house events.

Presdalescharity

- Led by the Charity committee: will have updates on charity events.

Admission Code

We are consulting on our admissions policy for 2022-2023. The consultation is on Rule 3, in particular what happens when the 180th place is given to a child of multiple birth through random allocation. We are proposing that we change our admission code to be in line with HCCs. Please find details on our website.

Poppy Appeal

As in previous years, we will be supporting the British Legion poppy appeal. We will receive one box of poppies for those who would like to wear one, a donation for the appeal would be appreciated. This year, the British Legion are encouraging people to donate online using the following link:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/poppies-by-donation>

Paving

Calling any parent who owns a paving firm and would like to offer us a fair quote for work we need doing! We are looking to pave areas at the front of the mansion to make it safer for the students, meaning they wouldn't have to walk through the car park. If you are able to offer us a quote, then please contact Margaret Stanley, School Business Manager. (stanleym218@presdales.herts.sch.uk)

School cleaners

We are looking to recruit additional cleaners to help with general cleaning after school (4pm- 6pm) and additional Covid related cleaning during the school day (times to be confirmed).

Salary £9.75 - £10.15 per hour. Please email stanleym218@presdales.herts.sch.uk for further information if you or anyone you know might be interested.

Food bank/Non-uniform day

Thank you for the monetary and food donations we have received for our school charity, 'Herts Young Homeless', this week. The food items will be delivered to the charity promptly. A small number of students brought cash into school this morning, however, as we are not accepting cash we would be grateful if you could make the donation via Wisepay. As at lunchtime today we had received 600 donations.

Out-of-school activities

The DfE has produced information for parents on keeping children safe in out-of-school activities. You may find it useful to read if your child is attending clubs in the evening or at weekends.

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/keeping-children-safe-in-out-of-school-settings?utm_source=964cdc3f-8d59-4ffd-ae83-73006c04baea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Good luck to those students doing their 5-day practice expedition for the Gold Award over half term. Whilst they cannot camp overnight, it will still be a gruelling 5 days of trekking. Over the weekend before we return to school, ninety Year 10 students will be doing their Bronze Award practice expedition. My thanks goes to Ms Haywood and her team for the time and effort they have put in over this half term to ensure that the DoE award scheme can still run.

I wish the students a restful half term break and look forward to seeing them all on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards
Matt Warren
Headteacher