



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

As we come to the end of the Autumn term I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in keeping the school open. Teaching staff, support staff, parents, contractors and most importantly, our students have all played a significant role in ensuring that this term has been as successful as we could make it under the circumstances.

Today, we say farewell to Mrs Margaret Stanley, School Business Manager, who will be retiring after 23 years at Presdales School and nearly 50 years in the workplace. Mrs Stanley has a wealth of knowledge and experience and has been instrumental in the improvements we have made to the site whilst ensuring we keep within our budget! We wish her all the best for her retirement.

## COVID - IMPORTANT

We will monitor the [covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk) email address until midnight on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. As per guidance given to schools, this will be monitored from 8.00 am until 10.00 am each morning. For our records, we would ask that parents still inform us if their child has tested positive at any point over the Christmas period.

If your child becomes symptomatic less than 48 hours since they were last in school, (or if they had no symptoms but had a positive test result less than 48 hours since last in school), you will need to let us know so we can help to identify any close contacts that need to be informed and advised to self-isolate. For example;

### Child develops symptoms between now and the end of the day Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December

- Contact school via [covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk) so we can identify potential close contacts
- Inform school of test result
- If positive, then the school will inform close contacts, if negative, then no further action
- (If your child tests positive on 24<sup>th</sup> December onwards and symptoms started before Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December, then you will need contact NHS test and trace)

### Child develops symptoms on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December or beyond

- Contact school via [covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk)
- Inform school of test result
- There will not be any close contacts from school

Please do not send your child back to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January if they are in a self-isolation period, or they have any of the recognised symptoms.

## Testing

You will have seen from the media that testing will be available in secondary schools from January onwards. We have been advised not to do anything about this until we return after Christmas. More information will be shared with parents when we are clear what needs to happen in school. The tests are not mandatory.

### **Year 11 and 13 Mocks**

A reminder that these commence on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Students in Years 11 and 13 will be on study leave during the exam period. Whilst we will provide rooms for students who are not able to get home between exams, where possible we would ask that students are only in school for an exam. We have put a two-week contingency period onto the calendar for students who are unable to attend an exam due to COVID related issues. We considered asking students to take exams from home, but if we have to use the mock grades as part of any Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) process this year, we need all exams to be taken under controlled exam conditions to maintain the validity of the results.

### **School Uniform**

As the weather is becoming increasingly colder and we still need to maintain ventilation in all classrooms, we will allow the following additions to the school uniform policy from January. This will be for a fixed period of time.

- Students are permitted to wear layers underneath their school uniform, such as a long sleeve t-shirt, thermals etc. They can also wear a pair of plain black leggings (unbranded) or the Presdales PE leggings under their school skirt.
- Students in Year 11 only who will be completing a mock exam in either the hall or the gym in January will be permitted to wear their PE hoody / PE sweatshirt or a plain dark coloured hoodie over the top of their school uniform for the duration of the examination.

### **Speech Day**

This week would have seen our annual Speech Day taking place, where the Year 11 and 13 students from last year would come into school to receive prizes and certificates. As we were unable to run this event live this year, we have put speeches on the [school website](#) from last years' Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and a presentation from Cynthia Stroud MBE. A copy of the Speech Day booklet that we normally produce will still be sent out to all students in those year groups.

### **Virtual Christmas Concert 2020**

Thank you to the Music and Drama departments for putting together an informal virtual concert, showcasing many of our students. The interaction that comes with performing with others in groups is sadly missed at the moment. We hope you enjoy the performances.

### **PresTales**

Please click [here](#) for the final PresTales of the term.

Everyone at Presdales wishes you all a safe and enjoyable festive period. We know it is going to be different this year, but I am sure that time to relax, reflect and meet up with family will be welcomed by all.

Take care,

Matt Warren  
Headteacher