



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

It was pleasing to hear this week a potential return date for students. We will know more on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, but my personal feeling is that this will be a staged return starting with primary, moving to exam year groups and then all year groups. However, we have learned since last March not to try to predict what will happen so we will wait and see and then plan accordingly.

I have spoken before about remote learning being a team effort and I would like to say thank you again to our students and parents for the part they are playing in ensuring remote learning is successful. Many of us in school have children, and we know how challenging it can be juggling your own work as well as ensuring our children are engaging in learning. Well done to all of our students for attending and participating in lessons. We know it can be hard to focus every day, but it will be worth it in the long run.

### **Inset day**

A reminder that we have an inset day on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February. There will not be any lessons, and the school is closed to those students who have been attending.

### **Children's Mental Health Week (W/C Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb)**

Next week is National Children's Mental Health week and the theme is 'Express Yourself'. The Campaign aims to encourage children to find healthy ways to express themselves creatively. Finding creative and enjoyable ways to share our thoughts, feelings and ideas can make us feel good and help our mental health, especially in these challenging times.

To coincide with this National Campaign, Mrs Miller has led on creating a student wellbeing Google site. The site will be available from 8:30am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The site will continually be updated with new and appropriate supportive resources. Students will be given the link during registration on Monday morning. We will also share the link with parents, as there is a parents' section on the site.

### **Year 10 and 12**

Over the next two weeks, students in Year 10 and 12 will be completing assessments. Teachers will expect cameras on as the assessments will be completed during the lesson, then uploaded immediately for the teacher to see.

### **Year 9 Parents' Evening**

I was pleased to see that the parents evening software worked well this week. Thank you to everyone who took part. Year 9 students will have a short interview with a member of our senior team over the coming week to talk through their option choices. A reminder that the deadline for options forms will be Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - the form will be available online from Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Stephenson will continue to communicate directly with Year 9 students and parents about the options process.

### **Year 11 - Sixth Form application deadline**

A reminder to Year 11 students that the deadline for applications to our Sixth Form is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

### **New telephone system**

Over half term we will be moving from an old analogue telephone system to a cloud based system with BT. This will give us more external lines and a secure knowledge that our system is appropriate for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I expect the transition to be smooth.

I wish you all a pleasant weekend

Best wishes

Matt Warren

Headteacher