



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I trust that half term was as enjoyable as it could be for our students.

We hope that this lockdown has been the last and that students can now remain in school until the end of the academic year. I ask students to not listen to the rhetoric in the press about how far students are behind in their learning. Comments about the need for additional classes, summer schools, extended days etc. are not helpful. I believe that our staff are best placed to ascertain whether any student at Presdales needs extra help or support with their learning, and also, the most appropriate way of doing this for each individual student. As with the first lockdown, content that would have normally been delivered at this stage in the year has been. I am not dismissing the significant disruption that students have had over the past 12 months, but feel it is not healthy for students to constantly be told in the media that they are a 'lost generation'.

### Return to School and Testing

Thank you for your patience in waiting for our return to school plans. You will be aware, from the national media, that schools are able to bring their students back to school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The expectation is that students are tested three times in school before being able to test at home twice per week. Further details to follow when the home tests are available. The first test should be completed before the students return to the classroom. As you can imagine, this has posed a number of logistical challenges.

To allow us to complete the first test for all students who have consented, we will be staggering the return to school for students.

Year groups	Test date	Return to school date	Lessons
11/12/13	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Remote on Monday. Face to face from Tuesday onwards
9/10	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Remote on Monday and Tuesday. Face to face from Wednesday
7/8	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Remote lessons on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Face to face from Thursday.

- *The second and third tests will take place during the school day from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March*
- ***Students who are not being tested return to school on the same day as the rest of their year group***
- *Students who have been attending school during lockdown will continue to do so from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>. They will re-join their year group on the day their year group returns.*

Students will be given an allotted time slot when they should arrive in school for their test. The whole process will take around 30-45 minutes. **Arrival times and details of the testing process will be sent out next week.** Due to the logistical challenge of testing over 1100 students in three days, we will not be able to accommodate requests for specific testing times.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the consent form: a reminder to complete this (even if you are not giving consent) by Sunday evening. Testing is not compulsory, but we would hope that students take up the offer of being tested in order to keep our community as safe as we can. ***Students who have tested positive for COVID in the past 90 days, confirmed by a PCR test, may choose not to take a test. However, if they develop symptoms they will still need to self-isolate and inform the school.***

The consent form for students under 16 can be found [here](#). Students aged 16 and over (at the date of their test) should complete their own consent form [here](#).

### **Face Masks and Safety Measures**

As from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, everyone in school will be required to wear a face mask whenever they are in a building (except those who have an exemption as agreed with their Head of Year). Staff are usually two metres away from students when they teach, so some staff may take off their mask to deliver the lesson, especially if there are students in the class who have a hearing impairment.

All other safety measures that were in place last term will continue to be followed when students return. I will remind students and parents of these in my letter next week.

### **GCSE/A Level exams**

Further details have been released outlining how GCSE and A Level grades will be awarded this summer. Summary information can be found [here](#). I would advise that students in Year 11 and 13 consider every piece of work they complete from now on to potentially count towards their overall grade. I do not say this to increase pressure, but instead to encourage students to ensure they are consistently producing work that accurately reflects their current attainment levels. We intend to be transparent with students on which pieces of work/assessments etc. we will use to determine the grades and will share this information in due course.

### **National Careers Week**

Thank you to Mrs Stephenson for putting together the resources for next week's National Careers Week. Letters were sent out earlier this week, but can be found [here](#) if you missed them.

### **STEM Challenge 2 - Marble Run**

Well done to all students who took part in the latest STEM challenge. Please click on this [link](#) to watch some marble run videos. Those who participated clearly spent a lot of time and effort designing and building their runs.

Awards as follows:

Winner            Emily Man

Runner up        Daisy Grey

Special awards   Grace McMenemy, Paige Hunt, Tayla-Mae Deane

STEM challenge 3 has been launched - Baylab Heart Mechanics Olympics. Details can be found on google drive.

Thank you for your continued support

Regards

Matt Warren

Headteacher