



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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5th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school next week. It has been a long three months without them. A reminder that all of the safety measures we had in place before Christmas remain, including bubbles, year group entrances and keeping your distance from each other. The government has also given guidance that we should wear face masks in all areas in school and this will be reviewed by the government at Easter. I would rather staff do not have to spend time dealing with issues around face masks, as our focus should be on education, so the students' support in this matter is appreciated.

I expect that between now and the end of the academic year we are going to have positive cases in school, even with the twice weekly testing at home. We are still required to send home close contacts of a positive case, and this is going to be frustrating for all concerned. Students will still be able to access their live lessons if they are self-isolating.

Testing

By now, I am hoping that those who are being tested have received their barcodes and registration cards in the post. A reminder that the test should be registered no more than 24 hours beforehand. Please do not worry if it doesn't work or you haven't received it, we can register you in school.

- If you have successfully registered your test go straight to the sports hall at your allotted time (rear entrance)
- If you have not been able to register your test then go to the gym
- Students do not need to wear their school uniform when they come in for their test. Correct school uniform should be worn when students return for their lessons
- School site code when registering is: **PWJM**
- You only need to bring one registration card and the extra barcode with you, the second card is for your records

Summer Exam Series

As I mentioned last week, the overview of the process for the awarding of exam replacement grades for GCSE and A Level students this year has now been released. Please read the full guidance [click here](#). We are still awaiting further guidance that we are expecting before Easter. Until then, we are planning our approach, but cannot finalise it in case the information from Ofqual includes statutory guidance we must follow.

What we know so far:

- Schools must submit Centre-Assessed Grades (CAG) by 18th June 2021
- We will be collecting a portfolio of evidence for each student in every subject
 - As yet we do not know the requirements of this, but expect it to include work already completed e.g. September assessments, essays completed in lessons, mini/end of topic tests etc.
 - If allowed, we want to give all students the opportunity to complete new assessments (essays/mini tests/full papers) which demonstrate what they can do at this point in their course

- Subjects may finish their courses now, or very soon. Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught. These decisions are currently being discussed by departments
- We will share with students and parents which topics will be included and which ones are omitted
- We will be open about which pieces of work in each subject will be used to evidence the CAGs we give
- **Students will be sitting assessments in the two week period after the Easter break.** There will be study leave for all Year 11 and 13 students. Students will be informed which topics they are being assessed on, so their revision is targeted and not generic to all elements of the specification
- All subjects will likely require students to complete short assessments/essays in lessons between now and the internal deadline for CAGs
- We have to have a thorough quality assurance process in place which we intend to share with you

This time of year is always stressful for exam students, and more so this year because of the disruption that they have experienced. We are conscious that students are not overburdened with assessments from now until the end of May, so subjects will only assess where they need to ensure that we can accurately evidence the CAGs. I know students and parents will want the school to give CAGs that are fair; we cannot do this without the appropriate evidence. Our aim is to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged due to the impact of the pandemic. I believe you have trusted our judgement throughout this pandemic, and I ask you to trust us again in this process.

School Buses

The bus companies have been informed that students will be returning to school from Tuesday 9th March onwards. We have been made aware of issues with the 388 bus, as the route has now been taken over by Reg's Coaches (now called R879). The route will not include Bramfield and Sele Shops. If you are affected by this change then please contact Regs directly admin@regscoaches.co.uk.

World Book Day

We were sad not to be together in person for World Book Day 2021, but English classes enjoyed sharing book recommendations during remote lessons. World Book Day book tokens are available as usual this year and will be distributed when students return next week. As an alternative option, this [link](#) takes you to a digital version.

Details about how to use the digital version can be found on the token or at the World Book Day website [here](#).

Children and Young People Lockdown Survey (Future Living Hertford)

Future Living Hertford are asking children (10 years +) and young people to fill out a short survey to tell them how lockdown has impacted their emotional well-being. Please click [here](#) for survey.

Bake off!

Applications for the 7th series of Junior Bake Off; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain have now opened. Do we have any budding chefs out there? They are looking for young budding bakers between 9 -15 years old. Filming would take place from July 2021, but the applications close on Sunday 28th March 2021. Interested bakers can apply online [here](#).

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards

Matt Warren
Headteacher