



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

It is hard to believe that Tuesday marked the year anniversary of the first lockdown. Those early days seem so long ago. We know that many members of our school community have lost loved ones over the past year to COVID and our thoughts are with you as we spend time reflecting on the past year.

There is a lot of information to share this week, so thank you in advance for reading this update.

Home Testing

We have now distributed nearly 7000 boxes of tests to students and staff. Students should continue to test twice per week over the Easter period.

- If your child tests positive, then please inform us by emailing covid@presdales.herts.sch.uk
- Due to contact tracing in school, please inform us using the covid@ email if your child develops symptoms between today and the end of day Sunday. From Monday onwards, we do not need to be informed if your child has symptoms, just if they have a positive test result.

Changes to Government Guidance

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it is so important that we do not let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday 29th March, you can;

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen)
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home

GCSE/A Level - Summer Series

Yesterday, schools received further guidance from Ofqual, with guidance from the individual examination boards expected on 31/3/21. The Ofqual guidance can be read [here](#).

Much of what was in the guidance was expected, but more clarity has been provided about the process. We will be giving a holistic grade for each student using evidence from previous assessments completed and those assessments to come. The assessments after Easter give students the opportunity to demonstrate the level they are working at right now.

Outcomes from these assessments will form part of the evidence for students' overall grade. Students will also be given smaller assessments in lessons on their return, with the aim of giving them as many opportunities to show what they can do. Our aim is to ensure that every student is given a fair grade, taking into account the disruption they have all experienced over the past year. We will be expected to justify and evidence every grade we give.

Nearer the time, we will be sharing with students and parents which assessments will be used as evidence when determining students' grades.

Sixth Form Induction Day (Sept 2021 cohort)

Date for your diary - the Sixth Form induction day will be held on Tuesday 22nd June 2021. All students who will be continuing their education at Presdales in September will be expected to attend.

STEM Challenge 3 - Babylab Heart Mechanics Olympics

Well done to all of the students who took part in our third STEM challenge. Mrs Warburton was overwhelmed with the quality of submissions. My thanks go to Mrs Warburton and the Sixth Form STEM Ambassadors for arranging and judging the challenge. The overall winner was **Tayla-Mae Deane** in Year 7. More information about the challenge and lots of other news can be found in this week's edition of PressTales [here](#).

House Creative Writing Competition

The English department was delighted to receive so many entries for this competition, well done to all those who entered. The winners are as follows:

Y7 - Ryah Dean (Curie) for *One Yellow Sun*

Y8 - Joint winners: Martha Ker (Curie) for *Killing Time: The Purple Button* and Madison Scully (Pankhurst) for *One Last Purple Pearl*

Y9 - Abbie Norris (Curie) for *It was the Red Rum*

Y10 - Brooke Cockman (Windsor) for *Code Purple*

Y11 - Charlotte Waring (Frank) for *Green Paradise*

Y12 - Arianne Constance (Parks) for *Waving the Red Flag*

Y13 - Talitha Hookway (Pankhurst) for *Purple Flame*

Staff winner - Mr Boyter (Nightingale) for *The Red Book of Dalibor*

Herts for Learning Maths Clinics

Please click [here](#) for information on GCSE Maths clinics over the Easter Holidays.

Parent Parking/Dropping Off

Pinewood School have asked if our parents could ensure that they are giving way to cars/minibuses entering their site in the mornings. The local vets have asked parents to cease parking in their car park in the mornings and after school. Your support is appreciated.

Farewell to staff

We say farewell today to Greg Craig (site team) and Christina Wilson (catering team) who are both retiring after a combined service to Presdales of over 40 years. We thank them for all they have done for our students and wish them well for the future.

General

A reminder that the first day of the summer term is **Tuesday 13th April** for all students, except those in year 11 and 13 who have an assessment on Monday 12th April.

I would like to thank our staff for their work over this past term. The students have settled back into school well, and we thank them for their continued cooperation in following the safety protocols we have in place.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break

Kind regards

Matt Warren
Headteacher