



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

## Parent Survey

Thank you to those who were able to complete the parent survey. This was shared with our Trust Board this week. We are pleased with the outcomes of the survey, which are very positive. Please find an overview of the survey outcomes below.

## Year 8 Maths Challenge

On Wednesday, six Year 8 students took part in a County team Maths challenge. Well done to Beth Unwin, Isla Threlfall and Madison Scully who came 6th and to Martha Ker, Grace McMenamin and Eloise Cooper who came 13th! There were 29 teams from across Hertfordshire taking part so well done to both teams for doing so well!

## Year 11/13

We look forward to next week's celebrations for Year 11 and 13 students and are pleased that we have been able to put events on for them. I would remind students that these traditions continue year on year due to the positive and mature attitude shown by the students involved. I expect this to be the case this year.

## Facilities for Hire

As we start getting back to normal in school, we are also starting to make our facilities available for hire again. We have a new page on the website for advertising our facilities. Please direct anyone you know who may be interested in hiring the swimming pool, sports hall, classrooms etc out of school hours to [here](#).

## Parking/End of Day Pickup

Please be reminded that parents should not drive onto the school site until 3:45pm. We continue to receive complaints from members of our local community regarding parent parking at the end of the day, including the use of inappropriate language towards local residents when they challenge those who are parking illegally. Responding to these complaints takes time, which would be best served elsewhere. We direct residents to the council and police. Please support us by being respectful of parking restrictions.

I would hope by now to wish you all a pleasant weekend in the sun, but alas, not quite yet!

Regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher

## Parent survey 2020-2021

### Common trends and action points

Thank you for all of the positive feedback that you gave us in the parent survey. In particular, you praised for us for:

- How we continued to provide a quality curriculum throughout lockdown and looked after the students in difficult times
- How happy your child was at Presdales
- Our hard working, caring and professional teaching and support staff
- The pastoral support that students had received on an individual basis
- Strong leadership and regular, concise communications throughout the past 18 months of disruption
- The number of extracurricular opportunities in normal times
- The curriculum that we provide and the quality of teaching that your children receive

### Parent survey 2021 (%) (496 responses)

	SA/A	D/SD	DK	N/A
Q1: My child is happy at this school	95	4	1	0
Q2: My child feels safe at this school	98	1	1	0
Q3: The school makes sure its students are well behaved	94	3	3	0
Q4: The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	76	18	6	0
Q5: The school has high expectations for my child	92	3	4	0
Q6: My child does well at this school	93	4	3	0
Q7: The school lets me know how my child is doing	85	13	2	0
Q8: There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	98	1	1	0
Q9: My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	86	8	7	0
Q10: The school supports my child's wider personal development	81	8	11	0
Q11: My child has been bullied and the school has dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	14	3	5	78
Q12: When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	61	4	2	32
Q14: If you answered "yes" to the previous question, how strongly do you agree with the following statement: My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed	90	10	0	0

Whilst we appreciate the kind words shared by parents, the purpose of the survey was to consider the views of parents in areas that we may not do so well in. We know that views are subjective and usually relate to personal experiences. One may praise the school whilst another may raise concerns for the same issue. We have analysed all comments and have tried to address common trends. These may have been raised by a small number of parents, but nevertheless, more than a few may suggest a trend. Some may contradict what we have been praised for by the majority.

Point raised (generalised)	Actions
<b>COVID recovery</b>	We are working hard to get back to normal as and when restrictions allow. Students have missed out on so many opportunities that we would normally provide. Upcoming internal assessments will give us a clear picture of which students may be behind where we would expect them to be, and support will be offered where needed. We have increased the hours that our school counsellor is in school to support those most in need. We are expecting all bubbles to go by the end of term and expect September to be a normal school experience for all.
<b>Wifi in the school needs to work all the time</b>	We recently upgraded the bandwidth coming into school and this has made a difference. However, we are still experiencing drop out in some areas. We have enlisted the support of a professional IT firm who will review our system set up. This will take place before the end of term.
<b>BYOD for the rest of the school</b>	We are moving ahead with BYOD in September for the new Year 7 and Year 12. A rollout to other year groups will happen once we have ensured our infrastructure is working effectively for a large number of devices at the same time
<b>Maintain high standards of uniform and behaviour</b>	A small number of parents commented on the behaviour of some students in school, this was also backed up by the student survey where 6% stated that behaviour was not good most or all of the time in their lessons. Whilst this % is very small, we would expect behaviour to be good all of the time. When we returned from lockdown, we made a conscious decision to give more reward points, but also to be more lenient with students as we wanted to ease them back into school. We have now returned to our normal behaviour and uniform expectations, and consequences will be given in line with our behaviour policy. We have missed not being able to provide live assemblies, and look forward to starting these again soon. The senior team have re-started lesson drop ins with year groups to monitor behaviour and uniform. The majority of consequences are given to the minority of students.
<b>Lack of Extracurricular clubs</b>	Due to COVID restrictions, and students not being in school for a significant amount of time, there have been few extracurricular clubs taking place. We look forward to increasing the number of extracurricular activities we offer as and when COVID restrictions allow. Several have already commenced.
<b>Making parents aware of what their children will learn during the year</b>	18% of parents disagreed, or strongly disagreed that we make parents aware of what their children are learning. Curriculum maps and overviews for all subjects in all years are available on the school website. <a href="https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-subjects/">https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/curriculum-subjects/</a> We would also recommend that parents engage in conversation with their children about what they have learned/experienced that day/week. We are fully aware that teenagers may not always welcome such intrusion into their school life, but regular conversations about learning are useful.

<b>Student academic targets/reporting</b>	We made a conscious decision to withhold academic estimates based on the national target setting system we used for Year 7 and 8 students. We will be reviewing this decision in due course. Our reporting system is designed to give parents a brief overview of how their child is doing at school. We report to parents three times per year, so twenty-one sets of reports have to be completed by the school each academic year. A greater level of detail regarding rewards and consequences on reports is being trialed. Due to staff workload, we made the decision that staff only need to add a comment if a student is working below expectations or there is an issue that the parent needs to be aware of. We do encourage parents to contact class teachers/form tutors whenever they have a concern and we also have parent consultation evenings each year. Mrs Stephenson, Deputy Headteacher, will be undertaking a review of how we report to parents in the near future.
<b>Teachers need to respond in good time to parental emails/phone calls</b>	We need to ensure that every member of staff follows our school protocol of responding to an email or telephone call within 48hours (working hours), even if this is a holding message to allow further investigation.
<b>Quality of food in the canteen</b>	There were several comments about the quality of the food in the canteen. COVID restrictions have meant that we have had to alter our menu to takeaway only, as students are not able to eat sitting down in the canteen. Regardless of these restrictions, we are working to improve the menu we offer and will be seeking the views of students on what they would prefer to have on the menu, which also fits within a healthy and nutritional offering.
<b>Not enough outside seating</b>	We have increased the number of benches available for students to use outside and will continue to add more.
<b>Redecorate the toilets</b>	We refurbished the student toilets in the main block during the first lockdown. The cost of a complete refurbishment is very high. We do have a long-term plan for the improvement of the school environment and the toilets, in particular those in the mansion, are part of that plan.
<b>Keep to the homework timetable</b>	If you feel that teachers are not following the published homework timetables then please let your child's form tutor know. It is easier to deal with specific issues as and when they arise.