



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

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10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 parents and carers. I trust that your child has settled in well over the past week. I hope that all families had a pleasant summer break and that our students are refreshed and ready for the year ahead. Through no fault of our own, there have been teething problems with our new cashless catering system, which the company has been working hard to rectify. All students should be on the system by the end of today.

Covid Testing

Thank you to the students for their cooperation in our return to school testing program. We had a slightly different system this time which allowed us to test students quicker than we did in March. Thank you also to the 20+ staff and trustees who were involved in the testing program. Students have been offered more LFTs to use at home and whilst it is not compulsory to use them, we would hope that students continue to support this approach, as advised by the DfE. We are waiting to hear whether students will be asked to take LFTs past the end of September. Please log the results by using the [link](#) on our website as well as with the NHS.

Spelling Bee

You may remember me informing you last academic year that several of our students made it through to the MFL Spelling Bee National Final, which was a fantastic achievement. Whilst we did not have any national winners, it should be pointed out that they were in the final 70 out of 9,282 entrants! Congratulations to those involved, and thank you to our MFL staff who facilitated and supported the entrants.

Information Evenings

We are still reluctant to bring large groups of visitors into school. Therefore, all planned information evenings will be delivered in writing as per last year. These will come out over the coming weeks. We will gauge how the return to school has been in terms of infection rates, and then make a decision about live evening events in school.

Secondary Transfer Evening

For the reasons above, many schools are adjusting their approach to their Secondary Transfer/Open Evenings this year. We will not be having an evening event, where we normally have up to 1000 attendees, this year. Instead, we will be running smaller tours for prospective parents over the coming weeks.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Please click [here](#) for a link to the extracurricular activities that are available for students to participate in. I strongly recommend that students involve themselves in at least one club or activity. It is pleasing to see so many clubs available; these were sadly missed last year.

Election of Parent Trustees

Nominations are invited for the role of Parent Trustee on the school's Trust Board. The board is seeking to appoint two new trustees.

The Board is the key strategic decision-making body in the school and is responsible for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. It does this by supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

Trustees need not be experts in the field of education; they need an interest in the school, the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. We expect that all trustees will share the vision and values of our school. Whilst the positions are open to any parent or carer, the Board is specifically seeking individuals with skills and experience of health and safety, facilities management or finance.

As a minimum, our Trust Board expects trustees to:

- attend Presdales School for 6 evenings per year to attend board meetings
- sit on either the Students or Resources committee, as well as the full Trust Board
- commit to attend training courses, perform additional research as required and support the school by attending a limited number of school events

All Parent Trustees must be a parent of a student at the Academy at the time when they are elected. The term of office is four years.

Presdales is an academy trust and, as such, trustees are also directors for the purposes of Company Law and trustees for the purposes of charity law. All trustees are registered with Companies House as directors and exclusions or disqualification will apply as it would with any other company. All trustees are asked to provide two referees on appointment as well as undergoing an enhanced DBS check and undertaking safeguarding training.

The Secretary of State has imposed limits on the number of Trustees who are Officers or Members of a Local Authority. Therefore, if the relevant limits would be breached by an appointment, the Trust Board may be unable to appoint a nominee.

If the number of applications is the same as the number of positions to be filled, the persons nominated will be elected unopposed. If more than one nomination is received for each vacancy, then an election will be held.

If you are interested in applying for the role, please complete the candidate form [here](#) and return either by email to governors@presdales.herts.sch.uk or to the school office by Monday 20th September 2021. If you would like more information about the role, please email the above email address or contact the school office by midday on Friday 17th September 2021 to arrange a meeting.

Mrs Jackie Harvey

Chair of the Trust Board

Environment, Climate and Hope Day All Saints Hertford 11th September

We have been asked to advertise the following event:

'On Saturday 11th September, All Saints church is holding an event dedicated to Environment, Climate and Hope. The intention is to celebrate wonderful wildlife areas and the many positive initiatives taking place around us and to encourage the actions we can all take to live more sustainably and to protect the environment. We wish to take into account the ravages of climate change, but also find ways to point to hope for the future. The wider issues surrounding climate change will also be considered. There will be activities and information to suit all ages. Some of the talks may be of particular interest to secondary students interested in photography or studying Geography or Environmental Issues, and their teachers.

The event runs from 10:00 to 16:00. People are welcome to stay for the day or drop in as is convenient. Activities will be spread over 3 venues associated with All Saints: talks and films in adjacent St John's Hall, stalls and displays in the church itself, and stalls and activities in the churchyard. Refreshments will be served all day, and there will be activities for children and families. Cakes and plants, including native trees, will be on sale. Immi Davis, 8-year old super star busker will perform as will Nigel Braggins with his spoken word poetry.

The full programme and more detail, including the invited speakers and filmmakers is available at www.allsaintshertford.org/ech.php

Picking up Students After School

A reminder that parents should not be driving onto the school site at the end of the day to pick up their child as we need the driveway to be clear for the school buses. Parents can pick up onsite from **3.45pm**.

I wish you all a pleasant weekend.

Regards

Mr M Warren
Headteacher