



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

Headteacher: Mr M Warren

Hoe Lane

Ware, Herts

SG12 9NX

Tel: 01920 462210

Email: admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

## **PressTales**

Please take time to read our latest edition of [PressTales](#).

## **Dance Show**

Well done to the students who took part in the two dance evenings this week. Having watched the performance you would never know that the students only started rehearsals at the beginning of this term. This was the first live performance we have had in a long time and it was a pleasure to see so many parents attend the shows. Thank you to Mrs Dann and her team for organising the production.

## **Year 8 Virtual STEM Morning**

On Tuesday, Year 8 took part in a Virtual STEM morning; this was delivered by PPMA BEST. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to meet real engineers working in manufacturing and explore opportunities available to them in the future. In teams, students participated in two activities. The first was to build an Eco Factory Roller Loader. Working together, students created a marble run to safely move a product from A to B. The second activity was to design a new product and pitch their ideas to the rest of the class in 40 seconds in a Dragons Den style. Year 8 students demonstrated their creativity and excellent communication skills. Thank you to Mrs Warburton for organising the morning.

## **Year 9 D&T Careers Day**

On Wednesday, we held our Design and Technology Careers day for Year 9. Students had presentations from external speakers, including two ex-students, on various jobs within the industry and GSK also provided an online session. More information will be in the next edition of PressTales. Thank you to Mrs Hayhurst and her colleagues in the D&T department for organising these sessions.

## **Mobile Phones in School**

As students are aware, we allow mobile phones to be brought into school and used outside at break time and lunchtime. They can also be used in lessons when allowed by a teacher. If a student abuses this privilege then they may have their mobile phone confiscated for the duration of the day. We would not keep mobile phones overnight, as we want students to be safe on the way to and from school. The decision to confiscate a student's mobile phone whilst on school premises is for the school to make and not the student or parent. Thank you for your support in this matter.

As from Monday, students going to the toilet during a lesson will need to leave their mobile on the teachers' desk.

## **Tik Tok**

You may be aware from the national media of the 'challenge' a few weeks ago on Tik Tok which was to produce videos about schools. This resulted in a significant amount of videos being made by students in schools across the country. Many of these were aimed at staff and were derogatory, offensive, homophobic and racist. I am sad to say that one such video was made about Presdales. It is also disappointing that several students followed this fake school account. The video has been removed from Tik Tok. Consequences from schools across the country that have been able to identify those who have made and posted videos have ranged from fixed term exclusions to permanent exclusions and reporting the incident to the police as an offence under the Malicious Communication act 1988. I trust that whoever posted the video at Presdales will not repeat their actions. Creating and posting material that is derogatory about anyone in our community is not acceptable and does not fit with our school values.

### **Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Examinations**

Good luck to our Year 11 and 13 students who will be taking their mock exams over the coming weeks. We know many have been revising hard for the exams they are about to take. Parents of students in Year 11 and 13 will have seen their child's first report of the year, via Edulink and an update will be sent following the mock examinations.

Ofqual have published new [guidance](#) for schools in the event that public examinations do not take place in the summer. If exams do not take place, then schools will be expected to complete the TAG (Teacher Assessed Grade) process as per last year. Students have been informed in assemblies this week that their mock grades will be used if we are required to give TAGs. There will also be further assessments in the Spring term.

If your son/daughter's performance is affected by circumstances out of their control, then they can apply for special consideration. Special consideration is a post-assessment adjustment that compensates candidates who were suffering from a temporary illness or condition, or who were otherwise disadvantaged at the time of the assessment. JCQ guidance can be found [here](#). If you believe that this applies to your child then please complete this [Google Form](#).

### **COVID**

I encourage all students to continue testing twice per week. Students can collect test kits from the school office. We have removed the request that students wear a face covering in lessons, however, we still ask that non-exempt students wear one in communal areas.

### **Touch-Type Club**

A reminder to students that we run a touch-type club on a Monday at 12.50pm in room 6. It is open to everyone, but would particularly benefit those students who use a computer in their exams.

I wish you all a pleasant and restful weekend.

Regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher