



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

As we come to the end of our first term of this academic year, I want to say thank you to everyone in our community for making this past term so successful. Despite COVID restrictions remaining, and guidance continually changing, we have been able to provide an educational experience this term that is closer to the norm at Presdales. We have seen students performing on stage, sporting fixtures, students participating in house events, several trips and numerous extracurricular activities at lunch times and after school. Education outside of the classroom is vital and it was sorely missed last year.

## PressTales

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

## Christmas Fayre/Raffle

Well done, and thank you to staff and students who helped organise the Christmas Fayre and raffle this week, where over £2500 was raised for the Parents' Association. Further details are in Presstales.

## Defibrillator

Whilst the school already has a defibrillator on site, Mrs Albone has been able to secure funding from Ware Town Council for a second defibrillator, which will be installed externally. We have several sporting clubs who use the school site in the evenings and weekends. Thank you to WTC for their kind donation.

## COVID

- We will continue to ask students to wear facemasks on their return in January so please ensure you have a supply of masks.
- The beginning of the Spring term will not be staggered, all consenting students will be tested onsite on the first day back to school. Students will be given testing times when they return.
- Students - please take a LFT test at home before you return to school.

## Message from HCC

As we head into the festive season, we'd like to say thank you for continuing to play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and helping to keep yourselves and others safe.

We are all looking forward to spending time with friends and family this year, there are simple steps you can take to help make this festive period as safe as possible and reduce the risk of you and your family catching and spreading COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated - Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. You can also now get your booster three months after your second dose, to book this and any COVID-19 vaccinations, visit: [www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination)  
Young people aged 12-17 yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccination(s) can find out more and book at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>
- Test regularly – 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 don't display symptoms. Regular rapid testing at home can help to prevent transmission. Find out all the ways to get home test kits (LFD tests) at: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/rapidtest)

- From 14 December, all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 by NHS Test and Trace – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.
- Stay at home – if you have symptoms stay at home and book or order a PCR test online at: [www.nhs.uk/get-tested](http://www.nhs.uk/get-tested)  
If you test positive you must self-isolate for the required period and not have people visit you at home. There is support available to help people who need it to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net)

Finally, please don't send children back to school in January if they have symptoms. Hertfordshire's childcare, nurseries, schools and colleges are working so hard to keep our communities safe and reduce disruption to children's learning and development so let's all work together to help them and each other.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe festive season.  
Hertfordshire County Council

### **Final Thoughts**

Thank you to the canteen staff who cooked and served nearly 1000 Christmas dinners this year.

Well done to everyone who took part in the Sixth Form Revue yesterday. It is always an enjoyable end to the year and I thank those students in Year 12 and 13 who helped to organise the event.

I do hope that our students and staff take time to rest and forget about school for a while. It has been a very busy term and everyone deserves a break.

Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable and safe Christmas break.

Best wishes

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher