



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

As we reach the end of another half term, I wanted to say well done to all of our students and staff. Whilst this is a short half term, it is very intensive, with evening events for most staff taking place every week. The students have gained over 61,000 achievement points since September, with a good spread of points across all year groups.

A reminder that Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February is an Inset day, so students should return to school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

## **PressTales**

The latest copy of [PressTales](#) can be found here.

## **Apprenticeship Week**

This week has been National Apprenticeship week, which is aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of apprenticeships for young people. Students in Years 8 and 9 had a presentation by Tesco where they discovered the multiple roles that the company has to offer. Students in Years 10 and 11 had a presentation by GSK, including talks by current apprentices at the Ware site.

## **Much Ado About Nothing**

Well done to all of the students involved in the production which took place this week. Both performances were excellent, giving students the opportunity to perform an uncut version of a Shakespeare play. Thank you to the Drama department, in particular, Mr Jones for leading rehearsals over many weeks.

## **Hertfordshire County Swimming Championships**

Over the last 3 weekends, we have had 15 Presdales girls representing their swimming clubs at the Hertfordshire County Championships. Congratulations to Mia Nelson (Year 7), Poppy Saunders (Year 8), Lilianna Sopala (Year 7), Ellie Sopala (Year 9), Katie Gorman (Year 10), Ella Cannell (Year 12), Abigail Cannell (Year 13), Zoe Van Maanenberg (Year 13), Holly Yeoman (Year 13), Natalie Bolton (Year 11), Teah Gregory (Year 10), April Mills (Year 10), Gemma Adams Rothwell (Year 10), Autumn Shine (Year 10) and Amelie Renouf (Year 7), who all swam individual events and relays. Between them they swam almost 100 individual events, were part of over 25 relay teams, swam in 35 finals and won over 25 medals. This is an incredible achievement to be amongst the best swimmers in the whole of Hertfordshire where they had to achieve fast qualification times to be accepted to swim. Several of the students will now be competing in the regional competition in May. Well done to all of the students.

## **Super Curriculum**

A reminder that all Year 7, 8 and 9 students are expected to complete a Super Curriculum task over the duration of the Spring term with a deadline of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. We have put this on EduLink as a reminder for students and parents. Your child may wish to use the February half term break to complete one of these tasks. It may also be a good time for you to look through the wide range of tasks we have to offer, which you can access on the Super Curriculum Google site [here](#). We look forward to seeing the completed tasks and sharing examples in future editions of PressTales.

### **Safer Internet**

This week in school we have been having assemblies and form time sessions focusing on Safer Internet Day which was celebrated on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. The national focus of Safer Internet Day this year has been '*Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.*'

Students have been spoken to about efforts to make the internet a safer place and all the adults who work to reduce harm online. In form times, they have been collating ideas for a Youth Charter on what young people want the internet to be like and how various groups in society can help achieve this. Students have been encouraged to talk to adults they know and trust about their online activity. In this week's PressTales there are *Tips for Encouraging Open Discussions about Digital Lives* from the National Online Safety platform, as well as *Top Tips for Parents*.

We are very much aware that the promotion of safe online behaviour for young people is a shared responsibility between school and parents. Unfortunately, we frequently deal with inappropriate online behaviour amongst students in our school community and therefore by working together to help students engage positively and appropriately online, we hope we can help them gain valuable life skills.

### **World Book Day - Year 7**

In celebration of World Book Day, we would like as many teachers and Year 7 students to dress up as their favourite book characters on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**. There will be lots of activities for students, celebrating reading throughout Thursday and Friday of that week. If students choose not to dress up, they should attend in their normal school uniform.

### **Presdales Library - A New Beginning**

At the start of the year, the school library was moved to a new location in school. It is now a fiction library only, with over 2000 titles available. It has also been enhanced by over 4000 ebooks and 1000 audiobooks. All of these titles are available to our students and staff to read. Students can order their books online via the Accessit Library App on RMuNify. The physical library is open in form time and lunchtimes. In addition, students regularly visit the library in their English lessons. If anyone has any ideas for the library or questions about how to access it please do contact Mr Samways on [psamways@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:psamways@presdales.herts.sch.uk) who will be happy to respond.

### **Trip to Tallinn**

We wish those students and staff from the Russian department who are going to Estonia on 15<sup>th</sup> February a safe and enjoyable trip. I look forward to seeing photos and reports in the next edition of PressTales.

Wishing you all a pleasant and restful half term.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher