



24th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I trust that you all had a pleasant half term break as a family, and had time to rest and recuperate ready for the busy half term ahead.

Strike - Wednesday 1st March

A reminder that school will be open for all students in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and all students in these year groups are expected in school. Students in Year 10 and 11 will be permitted to bring their own devices e.g. laptop/Chromebook, into school on this day for use in any lesson where they are being supervised and not taught by their normal teacher. Appropriate work will be set in these circumstances.

Students in Years 7 to 9 will remain at home and access remote lessons where the teacher is available. We will send further details directly to students early next week.

Presdales Week of Culture

Thank you to our Student Heads of Houses and their teams for organising the many activities to celebrate our Week of Culture. Activities have included quizzes and treasure hunts as well as food from around the world. Please look out for photos in next week's PressTales.

Concert Band

Thank you to Mrs Brass for arranging for several professional musicians to come into school today and work with students in our concert band. As part of the National Concert Band Festival, the students received tuition from the visiting musicians and had the opportunity to perform with them at the end of the day. Well done to all the students who took part.

Student Sporting Success

Well done to Ellie Bostock, Year 11, who is now the U17 National Champion in the shot putt. Ellie competed at the England Athletics U17 National Indoor Championships in Sheffield on Saturday 11th February. She led throughout the competition and won by 30cm claiming the title of National Champion.



World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day next Thursday and Friday. On Thursday, all students will take part in DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) activities, reading extracts from Dahl's 'Lamb to the Slaughter'. The SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development) activity in form next week will be themed around World Book Day. On Friday, students in Year 7 and staff will be encouraged to dress as a character from a book. Other activities will also be taking place.

Please be aware that the National Book Tokens have moved from paper tokens to digital tokens for secondary schools. There are two posters in the main corridor of the school and on the room change board which have a QR code for students to scan. Ms Severino has also emailed a copy of the token to all parents and students on EduLink. Simply save the token to your phone or print it out and take it to your local retailer. You can purchase one of the special £1 World Book Day books or put the money towards some useful revision guides or fiction novels! Thank you to Ms Severino and Miss Turner for organising these days.

House Creative Writing Competition 2023

This week the English Department have launched the yearly House Creative Writing Competition.

Students and staff are invited to write "Chapter One" of a detective story in 800 words or fewer. The chapter must include a character with the name of one of the houses: Parks, Nightingale, Pankhurst, Windsor, Frank or Curie. Writers can choose any house, not only the one they belong to.

Entries should be handed to an English teacher or emailed to Ms Hobbs on ahobbs@presdales.herts.sch.uk before the end of Friday 24th March. Remember to include the writer's name, form and house. There will be a winner in each year group and a staff prize.

It was great fun reading all the amazing fantasy story openings for last year's competition. We look forward to some dramatic and mysterious detective fiction this year!

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren
Headteacher