

3rd March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Please click <u>here</u> for the latest edition of PressTales.

Toilets

Today, several of the toilets were locked during the school day. The toilets by the main office, Sixth Form toilets and at certain times, the tech block, all remained unlocked. We did this due to several recent incidents of poor behaviour in the toilets. This includes graffiti, vaping, breaking toilet seats and water soaked tampons being thrown around. This is totally unacceptable.

Closing the toilets is unfortunate, as no doubt a small number of students are responsible but the repercussions affect the majority. A subheading of our value Equality is: 'Understand rights and act on responsibilities'. It is not my intention to stop students from using the toilets during lessons, however, those students who are not treating our environment with respect need to understand their responsibilities of looking after our site and the repercussions.

Over the next few weeks, we will be installing CCTV in corridors by toilets. The cameras are not aimed at the toilet doors, nor will they be able to see into the communal area of the toilets. What they will show is who is using the toilets at a particular time, making it easier for the school to identify those students who are not respecting our environment. It is also not my intention to remove the main door to the toilet communal areas, which several other schools already do.

I ask the students to respect the facilities we provide. There is a school council meeting on Friday 10th March, where Mrs Miller will be seeking the views of students about how we can ensure that our environment is respected.

Year 10 L4L Day

On Thursday, Year 10 students were involved with a full day of Learn4Living workshops. Led by Professor van der Spoel, students were challenged to consider their learning and approach towards their GCSE studies to provide a range of tools and effective learning strategies that should prove invaluable next year. Also, students considered how we might take care of our mental health, practiced strategies that help to manage stress and also built confidence online in terms of recognising potential scams and how to keep safe online. This was a very busy day but students were enthusiastic and great to work with. In the evening Professor van der Spoel delivered a webinar session for parents and carers which highlighted ways in which they might support students effectively with their school learning. Thank you to Mrs Fry for organising the day.

'How To Revise in Maths' Workshop - Year 11

The Mathematics Department will be hosting a parent/carer and student "How To Revise in Maths" workshop on **Tuesday 21**^{*} **March** from 6pm to 7pm in the school hall. It is a great opportunity to ensure your child has the tools they need to succeed in their GCSE Maths exams in the summer. We will be providing information on the most effective strategies that can be applied when revising Mathematics, signposting you to resources that are available to students and putting some of the strategies into practice in the session. We look forward to seeing as many Year 11 students and their parents/carers as possible.

If you are planning on attending, please click <u>here</u> and complete the short form by Friday 21st March.





Duke of Edinburgh

Yesterday DofE participants and their parents received an email with a password to access the DofE page of our website. This will allow participants to access important information, including details of their expeditions. If you have any issues with this password, please contact <u>dofe@presdales.herts.sch.uk</u>.

World Book Day

Well done to all of the students and staff who dressed up today in celebration of World Book Day. There were so many different characters and it was clear that a lot of time and effort went into making and sourcing the costumes. Thanks to parents for helping your children with the costumes. Below is are some of the staff who dressed up.



Wishing you all a pleasant weekend Regards Mr M Warren Headteacher