



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

I start my update this week by praising the amazing students in 8LH and, in particular, Ronnie Buttle. Yesterday, one of our substitute teachers started choking during the lesson. They left the room and were seen by the students to collapse and pass out. Ronnie went outside, put the teacher in the recovery position and constantly called their name to wake them up. Other students went to the next room and medical room to raise the alarm. When the teacher came to, they tried to stand up but Ronnie insisted they stayed where they were until medical assistance arrived.

I am so proud of what the students did in this circumstance, especially Ronnie, who said her Sea Cadets training had helped her to know what to do. The teacher is doing fine and has emailed the school to say:

'I can't thank you (Mrs Cainelli) enough and the first aider but particularly, those amazingly mature Year 8 girls today, who acted with such maturity, when I passed out today, at the end of period 2. I must thank those students in person, when I'm next at Presdales, which is genuinely the most special school I've ever worked in throughout my long teaching career. The friendly and welcoming staff, the polite students and the wonderful school ethos, all contribute to make Presdales an amazing school to work in. Despite the irregular days that I work there, everyone makes me feel like I belong to the school.'

## **Final Days for Year 11 and Year 13**

As the public exams start on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, next week will be the last week of formal education this year for our Year 11 and 13 students. I will say more next week about both year groups.

As is our tradition, there are several events taking place over the coming week and beyond to celebrate both year groups.

### **Year 11**

#### **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Dress Up Day**

Year 11 students are invited to attend school in fancy dress costumes. It is always fun to see the coordinated approach by so many students. A reminder that students are not permitted to bring in anything which would damage school property, or cause distress to other members of the school community (including water pistols). We would also ask that their costumes are appropriate for a school setting.

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Leavers Day**

Students are asked to bring, or wear, a shirt which they are happy for others to sign. Following the celebration assembly, students in Year 11 will have a year group picnic, leading into the celebration event on the field, which includes a waffle van, music and other stalls.

#### **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June: Prom**

Information about this event has been sent to Year 11 families separately.

### **Year 13**

#### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May: Leavers Day**

Students will arrive in school, often via the rugby club and a march down Hoe Lane. They will then spend time with their form tutors having breakfast before their leavers assembly.

Their day will finish with the celebration event on the field which includes fun fair stalls and waffle van.

## **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June: Prom at Knebworth Barns**

Information about this event has been sent to Year 13 families separately.

With all of the above events, we want the students to enjoy their last few days in school, before embarking on six weeks of public exams. For several years, all of these events have been very successful and this is down to the excellent behaviour of the students who have appreciated what has been put on for them. This is a celebration, and we ask for the students' support in ensuring we have a positive atmosphere throughout the last few days of their formal education.

### **Presdales Primary School Football Festival for Girls** *(Report from Mr Macrae)*

'Over the last 3 days, Presdales hosted around 350 primary school girls at our annual Primary School Football Festival for Girls. This is the second year of the event and once again it's been hugely successful, nearly doubling in terms of the number of girls playing football. Girls from Year 1 to Year 6 have enjoyed the experience of playing competitive football, many of them for the first time. With over 20 schools participating, it's been a busy 3 days. Win, lose or draw, they never stopped trying their hardest. Lots of smiles and excited faces with the girls expending every ounce of energy. I'm sure they all slept well after the festival!

On Day 1, we saw Year 1 and 2 girls charging relentlessly over the pitches for nearly 3 hours and still they seemed to have the energy to cartwheel around the field! Their enthusiasm was something to be admired. For such a young group, there was some wonderful football played with St Catherine's topping the table, just edging Sacred Heart on goal difference of 1 goal!

On Day 2, we had 14 teams and nearly 150 girls participating in the Year 3 and 4 festival. Again boundless energy and enthusiasm with some lovely skills on display. The schools were split into two groups based on size, with Wheatcroft just edging Simon Balle to top their pool. In the other pool, Hormead topped the group with Ponsbourne finishing a close second.

At time of writing, we are preparing for the final day of the festival where we will host around 120 Year 5 and 6 girls. The girls will be playing for the Presdales Cup with last year's winners Bengeo returning to defend their title. Can they do it again?! I'm sure we will see some fantastic football today.

Thanks to our Sports Leaders who have helped run the event and referee the matches. Also thanks to Lisa Robinson and her team at the Hertford & Ware School Sports Partnership who have helped organise and run the event. Their assistance has been invaluable.'

My thanks goes to Mr Macrae and the PE department for leading this event.

I wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable long weekend.

Regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher