



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

There is a lot of information to share today, so my update is longer than usual. Thank you for taking the time to read about what we have been doing in school over the past week.

## International School Award

I am pleased to inform you that we have been accredited with the International School Award, through the British Council. The ISA rewards schools that have shown a commitment to embedding international awareness and understanding within their school. This fits with our school aim of enabling students to make a meaningful contribution to our global society. The assessor said *'I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone at your institution for submitting such a thorough and captivating evaluation. It is evident that you highly value an international and global approach, which is deeply ingrained across the entire school in various departments. The range of activities you have presented is commendable, encompassing different age groups and spanning throughout the year. Furthermore, it is impressive to see the active involvement of a significant number of staff members.'*

Thank you to Mrs Yates, Head of MFL, and the team of staff she coordinated. The assessor made reference to Mrs Yates in our feedback, *'Congratulations on working so hard to coordinate such an impressive range of work as an International Coordinator! You are a credit to the school and the wider community'*.

## Public Exams

Monday saw the end of the public exams for all Year 11 and 13 students. It has been a long exam season for them, and they deserve the extended break over the summer. The students have been excellent throughout, and we hope that their hard work will be rewarded. Thank you to Mrs Martin, her assistant Mrs Davidson and all of our invigilators who have worked tirelessly to ensure the exams ran smoothly and as stress free as it could be for our students.

## Year 11 and 13 Proms

Last Friday, our Year 13 students had their prom at Knebworth Barns, and on Wednesday of this week, our Year 11 students held their prom in a marquee at school. It was a pleasure seeing all of the students enjoying their well-deserved proms. Thank you to all staff who spent significant amounts of time to plan and deliver both events for the students, and to those staff who were able to attend.

## Sixth Form Induction

It was a pleasure to see our returning Year 11 students, who were joined by a record number of external candidates, for the Sixth Form induction days on Monday and Tuesday. Students had taster lessons in their chosen A Level subjects and gained further information about how our Sixth Form works. Thank you to the staff who organised the days, and to those staff who took the taster lessons.

## Strike Days

A reminder of the following plans for the strike days next week:

### Wednesday 5th July

**Year 7** - At home completing online lessons where teachers are available to provide lessons. Tasks such as Super Curriculum or Sparx Maths should be completed where a teacher is not available.

**Year 8** (students not on the trip) - In school as normal.

**Year 9** - In school as normal.

**Year 10** - At home completing online lessons where teachers are available to provide lessons. Sparx Maths and revision of content already delivered should be completed where a teacher is not available.

### **Friday 7th July**

**Year 7** - In school as normal.

**Year 8** - At home completing online lessons where teachers are available to provide lessons. Tasks such as Super Curriculum or Sparx Maths should be completed where a teacher is not available.

**Year 9** - At home completing online lessons where teachers are available to provide lessons. Tasks such as Super Curriculum or Sparx Maths should be completed where a teacher is not available.

**Year 10** (students not on the trip) - In school as normal.

### **Parent Parking**

A reminder to be respectful of our local residents when dropping off and picking up students at the beginning and end of the day. We have had further complaints from local residents about parents parking on double yellow lines and blocking carriageways. Where possible, please park further afield and get your child to walk to where you are. If you are collecting from the school site, please do not arrive before 3:40pm.

### **Learn4Living Day**

This week, Year 10 students were involved with a full day of Learn4Living workshops. Students participated in six different themes from both the statutory PSHE and the Citizenship curriculums. The topics that were explored included long-term relationships, consent and sexual harassment, cohesive communities and Britain's links with the rest of the world. The final session of the day was delivered by The Money Charity focusing on tax, payslips and pensions. This was a very busy day and students were enthusiastic, participated positively and were great to work with.

### **Sports Day**

Yesterday, we held our annual sports day. Throughout the morning students participated in heats for all events, with the finals taking place in front of students in the afternoon. Well done to Curie House who won. Thankfully, the weather improved over the day and there were several school records broken. Well done to all students who participated and thank you to the spectators for cheering all competitors. Thank you to Ms Awad and the PE department for organising the day.

### **Hertfordshire Area SEND Ofsted inspection**

SEND services in Hertfordshire are being inspected by Ofsted over the next two weeks. Please see the letter below:

*Dear parent/carer,*

*Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are visiting your area, as part of an inspection. We will be looking at arrangements for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).*

*We would like to hear your views about the support that your child receives. You can provide your views by completing an online survey at the following link:*

<https://ofsted.smartsurvey.co.uk/p/AreaSend/10266964>

*This survey is for parents/carers of children and young people with SEND aged 0-25.*

*Your views are important to us and will help inspectors understand your child's experience of the SEND arrangements within your area. The survey will close at 9am on Tuesday 4 July 2023.*

*The survey is voluntary, and you do not have to take part. The responses will complement the evidence collected by inspectors during the inspection. We do not ask for your name.*

*If you complete this survey, you consent to the transfer of your information from SmartSurvey to Ofsted.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Katherine Douglas*

*His Majesty's Inspector*

### **Sparx Maths Update**

We introduced Sparx Maths homework across Years 7 to 11 this year. Students across the school have engaged brilliantly with Sparx, answering over 700,000 questions and spending almost 20,000 hours on Sparx since the start of September! Compared to using Hegarty Maths last year, students are now twice as engaged in completing their personalised homework each week. The students below have gone beyond just completing their weekly homework and have gained the most points in their year group this year. Well done to:

- Khadeeja Khan (Year 7)
- Lily McMenamin (Year 8)
- Nicol Coman (Year 9)
- Nefeli Tsamili (Year 10)
- Elinor Ainsbury (Year 11)

### **Year 7 Author Visit**

The English Department was delighted to welcome children's author Alice Hemming on Wednesday. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed hearing Alice speak about her range of children's books including the Dark Unicorn series and her forthcoming book The Thirteenth Vampire. It was fascinating to hear all about how she became an author, how she comes up with ideas and how she plans a story. There were lots of questions at the end and students then had the chance to buy signed copies of Alice's books. Wisepay will remain open until Monday for any Year 7 students who would still like to buy a signed book and have it delivered to school.

### **Barracudas**

During the summer, Barracudas, the holiday activity camp, will be using our facilities. As part of this arrangement, parents of students at Presdales can obtain a discount on the fees. Please click [here](#) for further details.

### **Trips**

On Monday, the annual Year 8 French trip to the Opal Coast leaves, and on Wednesday, our Year 10 History students depart for Berlin. We wish all students and staff an enjoyable and safe trip.

Wishing you all a pleasant and enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher