



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

## Vaping

You will have seen in the news recently the ever-increasing number of young people who are using vapes on a regular basis. We are also experiencing an increase in the number of incidents involving vapes. In our Parent Information evenings in September, we will be addressing the dangers of vaping. We also intend to raise awareness, educate and inform students of these dangers through our SMSC and PSHE sessions in school. Alongside trying to educate students about the potential dangers of vaping, we have updated our behaviour policy as a result of the increased number of issues we are experiencing. This has been agreed with our trust board and is in line with many other Hertfordshire secondary schools and will start in September.

Being with smokers/vapers	C5 - 2 hour after school detention
Possession of smoking/vaping equipment	C5 - Internal Suspension
Smoking or vaping	C5 - Fixed Term Suspension

We are hopeful that a combination of all of the above and with your continued support, we can reduce the number of children vaping.

## String Recital

Well done to those students who performed in the string recital last evening. Ms Jennings reported that the performances were outstanding, *'a fantastic experience for the students and a real tonic to be swept up in their beautiful music'*. Thank you to all the music staff who tutor the students. A particular thanks to Sam Slade, our violin teacher, who organised and led the event.

## Athletics

Congratulations to the students who took part in the district athletics competition. The students were amazing!

- Minor girls team 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Junior girls team 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Inter girls team 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Senior girls team 1<sup>st</sup> place
- Senior boys team 2<sup>nd</sup> place

This year, for the first time ever, we were able to enter a senior boys team. Congratulations to the boys, who came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. There is more information about individual performances on the PE Facebook page.

Yesterday, our athletics teams entered the Nicky Morris Challenge, a competition that we have always been placed first overall. I am pleased to say that our record still stands! Well done to all who competed. Thank you to our PE staff for preparing and organising our teams.

## Opal Coast Trip - Year 8

Thank you to the staff who have been on the Opal Coast trip with Year 8 students this week. The students returned safely yesterday afternoon, tired, but full of lifelong memories.

### **Young Writers' Competition: Creative Writing**

Calling all students: Fancy becoming a published writer? If the answer is yes, then all you have to do is complete a 100-word mini saga/story. This year's theme is 'Crime', based on the title 'Unsolved'. If you would like to enter, please email Ms Severino for more information or complete the forms on EduLink. Please hand in any entries to Ms Severino. The deadline is: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **Visit of Ex-Student**

On Monday, the Psychology department were delighted to welcome back ex-Presdales student Claudia Holmes who gave a talk to current psychology students about her experience of the process of applying to university, studying for a psychology degree at UEA and her current Speech and Language Sciences MSc course at UCL. She gave students some useful tips for the application process and introduced them to the varied roles of a Speech and Language Therapist. We were also very proud to hear that part of Claudia's undergraduate research dissertation was published in the journal *Brain Sciences* earlier this year which validated the use of a specific parental-report questionnaire to assess language abilities and pragmatics in children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

### **Tesco Community Grants**

A reminder that we have been selected as one of the community grant options at the Tesco in Ware. This has now gone live. We are raising money for production lighting in the hall. If you shop at the Ware branch, then please support the school by adding a blue token to the Presdales pot! Please pass on to your family and friends who live locally.

### **Second Hand Uniform**

We are asking for donations of clean, good quality (no holes or fraying edges) school uniform and PE kit. These items will be sold in our second-hand uniform store at a much-reduced cost. If you are able to donate any items, please drop them to the main reception by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Further details on how to purchase items will be sent out in due course.

### **PressTales**

Please click [here](#) for this week's PressTales.

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher