



17th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

This week, I have had the pleasure of delivering assemblies to all students. It is national Anti-Bullying Week and the focus for the assemblies and registration SMSC activities has been on 'Making a Noise about Bullying' and how banter can easily turn to bullying. We know there are times when people are unpleasant to each other in all walks of life. We know this also happens at times at Presdales. Being unkind to people does not fit with our school values and we work hard to ensure all students understand this. We have frequently spoken to students about being an upstander and calling out unpleasantness and bullying when they see it. 'Banter' can often be seen as harmless fun, although it is usually delivered at someone else's expense. We shared ways in which banter can easily be perceived as bullying.

I am pleased to say that the number of achievement points given out to students continues to rise. Over 40,000 have been given since the beginning of term. Year 7 continues to lead the way, followed by Year 9. Well done to all of the students who are being awarded reward points.

U14s Sport

Last week, I wrote in my update that the U14 Hockey team were competing in the regional finals. I am pleased to inform you that the team won the tournament and will now represent the East of England in the National Finals in February. This is an amazing achievement. Well done to the students and staff involved.

On Thursday of this week, our U14 Rugby team entered their first ever contact rugby tournament which was held at Hertford Rugby Club. Well done to the students who won all of their matches.



Evening of Dance

Last night students from all year groups took part in our annual dance show. Well done to all of the students who participated in group and solo dances. It is clear that many hours of rehearsals have gone into ensuring the show was of high quality. We look forward to seeing another performance this evening. Thank you to all of the parents who have supported the students as well as purchasing or making costumes. Photos will be available in the next edition of PressTales.

Young Writers Competition

In July, the English department supported students who took part in the Young Writers competition. Seventeen students had their work selected to be published in a book titled 'Unsolved'. Well done to all students who entered and to those whose work was selected for publication.



Upcoming important dates

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| Friday 24th November | Year 11 and 13 mock exams start (timetables have been sent to students) |
| Friday 1st December | Occasional day - the school is closed |
| Tuesday 12th December | Carol Service at St Mary's Church (6pm) |
| Wednesday 13th December | Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day |
| Monday 18th December | Annual Speech Day (early finish) |
| Wednesday 20th December | Term ends at 12.45pm |

I wish you all a pleasant a restful weekend.

Regards
Mr M Warren
Headteacher