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24th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

#### **PressTales**

Please click <u>here</u> for the latest edition of PressTales, which includes a flyer from the Parents' Association about the Christmas Raffle. This is one of their biggest fundraisers of the year, and your support in purchasing tickets would be appreciated. Students will be given tickets next week to bring home, more are available on request. The students can drop off ticket stubs and money to the main office.

## **Early Morning Drop Offs**

Currently, we state that students should not be dropped off until 7.45am. However, there are some students being dropped off before this time. To support parents, we will bring this back to 7.30am. I will guarantee that there will be a member of staff on site from this time. From Monday, the pedestrian gate and the main gate will remain locked until 7.30am. Please do not drop your children earlier than this, as they will not be able to access the site. A reminder that unless a child is in an after school activity, they should be off site by 4.30pm. We do run after school homework club on a Monday to Thursday for any student wishing to attend.

#### Year 11 and 13 Mocks

Good luck to our Year 11 and 13 students who start their mock examinations on Monday. The mock exams give the students, parents and school an opportunity to see the level that students are currently working at. It is important that the students revise for these exams, so we can judge who needs extra support based on outcomes that show a fair reflection of their ability, and not a reflection of how much they have/have not revised.

I would be grateful if students in other year groups ensure that they are quiet around exam venues. They should not pass the no entry signs, and should politely observe quiet break times when we have them.

## **Staff Achievement**

Congratulations to Mrs Burnett, teacher of English and to Miss Chapman, ex-teacher of English at Presdales, who were jointly awarded the Terry Furlong Research Award from the National Association for the Teaching of English. The research was started in 2018 when Mrs Burnett and Miss Chapman began to look at utilising a unit of Year 7 poetry as a vehicle for students to raise their consciousness of gender identity. This was then published as an academic paper in 'English and Education' magazine. It was from this publication that they were nominated and awarded the Terry Furlong Research Award. Photo taken at the award ceremony on Saturday 18 November at King's College London.



# 'The Big Ambition' - From The Children's Commissioner for England

Dame Rachel De Souza has launched 'The Big Ambition' survey. This is a national survey aimed at young people. Dame De Souza is keen to harness the views of young people and share these with political leaders before the next general election. Please click <u>here</u> to complete the survey.

# **Parent Parking at Hertford Rugby Club**

I have been asked by Hertford Rugby Club to politely remind parents that they should not be using the rugby club grounds to drop off or wait for their children at the end of the day. There have been several near miss incidents recently and it is also causing inconvenience to those who work at the club, their clients and pedestrians. The club currently allows our Sixth Form students to park on site during the day. If the club decides to put a barrier on the driveway, then this will likely impinge on the students' use of the site. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Regards

Mr M Warren Headtecher