



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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15th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Carol Service

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the annual Carol Service on Tuesday evening. I was unable to attend the evening, but colleagues said it was the best Service we have held in several years. Well done to all of the students and the Music team for rehearsing and organising the service.

Young Writers Competition

We have been informed that Presdales School is the Young Writers' Summer Term School Winner for Unsolved, which is a national creative writing competition. The panel received over 12,000 entries nationwide and they read every single story submitted. The editors and independent judge, Mark Grist, decided on our school's entries from thousands of others as the winner. Well done to the students who took part. This is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to the staff who led on this project, in particular Mrs Severino, who provided our students with the platform to write such amazing stories. The book "Unsolved" which contains the stories that were submitted can be found in the school library.

English A Level Conference

On Tuesday, our Sixth Form A Level English Literature students attended the 'Poems of the Decade' A Level Student Conference in London. Inspiring poets such as Simon Armitage (Poet Laureate), Daljit Nagra & Ros Barber explored the way poets create and consider poetry. An interesting range of topics and speakers broadened the students' understanding of poetry. The students enjoyed the opportunity to explore poetry beyond the classroom and meet iconic writers in person.

'Meeting Simon Armitage was really inspiring. His way with words is like a lively heartbeat. Armitage loves what he does, and that passion is catchy. Being with him makes you want to express yourself creatively. It's like a push to rethink your own story and artistic abilities. Tara, Year 12.'

Thank you to Mrs Teal and Mr Soltysik for arranging the trip.

Sixth Form Community Outreach Project

Thank you to our Sixth Form team who have led on the creation of Christmas cards by Year 7 and 8 students that are to be delivered to three local Care Homes, two local Paediatric Wards, and one local Hospice. Students in other year groups were also invited to create and write cards and there were some fantastic cards produced and handed in. In total, we have 269 cards that will be delivered by the end of this week. Thank you to those students who produced a card.

Families First Partnership

Family Lives are delivering online groups for [Parenting SEN Children when Separated](#), and [Within My Reach](#). Both programmes are funded by Herts County Council, for parents/carers who live in Hertfordshire.

All their programmes provide support, information and resources to parents/carers and adult family members so they can help their child reach their full potential as well as access to the wraparound support provided by our helpline, live chat and website.

School Charity of the Year 2022-2023 Presentation

Last academic year, our Presdales Charity of the Year was the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. This morning, we were pleased to present the cheque for £4,108.85 to representatives from the NICU Unit, Husnara Begum and Laura McGee.

A big thank you to all parents, students and staff who helped to raise this amazing sum of money for our chosen charity. We hope that the money will help in some way to assist the brilliant staff continue to help many families through their NICU journeys.



School Charity of the Year 2023-2024

The School Charity for this academic year is The Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG). Some events have already taken place this year, with House Charity Weeks from Frank, Curie and Parks. We look forward to more Charity Weeks and other events such as the Sixth Form Revue.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **Monday 18th December:** School ends at 12.30pm for all those students not involved in Speech Day in the afternoon. Golden Boy Coach and Micks Travel will call at school at 12.30pm. The other coaches will arrive at the usual time as they also have to serve other local schools. If your child is unable to be collected early, they can stay in school until the coaches arrive at the normal time. Year 12 students who were not at Presdales for their Year 11 are not required to be in school on this day.
- **Wednesday 20th December: Term ends at 12.45pm**
Regs coaches are not able to pick at 12.45pm, please make other arrangements to collect your child.

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend.

Regards

Mr M Warren
Headteacher