



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Well done to all students on another successful half term. The first half of the Spring term is always tiring for students and staff, with evening events most weeks and everyone arriving and leaving school in the dark. I am so proud of what the students have achieved in the past six weeks. Since September, students have amassed 82,447 rewards, compared to 78,835 for the same period last year. This figure is also 25% higher than three years ago. There are 453 students with over 100 reward points, including 42 who have gained over 200. In contrast, the number of consequences given since September is down by 20% on last year. There are 341 students who have not had any consequences since September, and a further 660 with less than 10. Well done to all students.

PressTales

Please click [here](#) for the latest edition of PressTales.

Bugsy Malone

Congratulations to everyone involved in the performances of Bugsy Malone. Those parents who saw the show will know how amazing the production was. On Tuesday afternoon, the cast performed to students from St Catherine's Primary School and students from Pinewood School. This was followed by evening performances on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The students in the cast, backstage, sound, lighting and in the band excelled in every performance. These are memories which will be lifelong. My thanks to Miss Mack and Ms Hardiman for the months they put into rehearsing with the students, and also to Mrs Cooper and Miss Sargent for organising the the band. I am sure there will be many tired students today who are looking forward to their half term break. Well done to everyone involved.

Science Workshop

30 students across Year 9 and 10 took part in an innovative new partnership between the Ideas Foundation and the Centre for Bioengineering at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). This initiative combines the power of science and art. Students collaborated with renowned photographers Eliska Sky and Michael Cockerham and Ted Smith (author of the book Hidden Disabilities) and post-doctoral students from QMUL to design compelling campaigns addressing the pressing issue of Hidden Pollution.

Drawing on the ground breaking research led by Dr Tina Chowdhury who is leading a clinical trial on air pollution, maternal and foetal health, the project aims to highlight the often-overlooked impacts of pollution on vulnerable populations and inspire actionable change. Students worked alongside Dr Chowdhury and her team to create campaigns to raise awareness about these important issues.

This partnership reflects the Ideas Foundation commitment to empowering young people through creative industries while tackling real-world challenges. By fostering collaboration between academia, creative professionals and students, the initiative seeks to educate and inspire the next generation of change makers.

Please click [here](#) to see the work that the students produced; it is well worth a view.

Thank you to Miss Lee for organising this session and to Dr Chowdhury for bringing the team to Presdales School.

Sporting Success

On Monday, our U15 football team continued their march to Wembley in the National Cup. After a hard fought game against Kingsdale School, Dulwich, Presdales triumphed in extra time, winning 3-2. The team is now in the quarter finals and will play Shenfield, the current holders. It is an amazing achievement to be one of the last eight teams from over 400 who entered the competition. Well done to the team.

Well done to our U15 Netball team who yesterday became the Mid-Herts Regional Champions. The tournament took place at Broxbourne School, with Presdales playing nine games and winning them all. Many congratulations to the students and thank you to the PE team for their continued support.

Safer Internet Week

This week has been Safer Internet Week across the world. In school we had assemblies and form time activities looking at making the internet a better and safer place for everyone. The focus of this year's national campaign is about online scams which is a growing issue. Students have been made aware of different types of common online scams to look out for including phishing scams, shopping scams, money muling and sextortion. They have been given advice on how to protect themselves from online fraud and scams by looking out for the signs, ensuring they use strong passwords and security settings, and using 2-step verification systems where possible. Reminders on steps to take if they do think they may have been scammed have also been given.

Another focus of this week's activities has been to remind students of the standards we set regarding their online behaviour in the school community. This is through our 'Acceptable Use Agreement' that they signed up to when they joined the school. The standards set in this agreement promote appropriate and positive online behaviour in the school community. We are pleased that since we have become a No-Phone school during the school day that the online behaviour of our students has improved. For reminders of the standards we set for all members of our school community (students, staff, volunteers and parents) please do see the agreements set out in our [Online Safety Policy](#)

It is important to remember that whilst in school we filter and monitor our school network and devices to ensure student online safety. Parents are also able to filter and monitor student online behaviour on their home devices (especially their phones). For helpful parental tips on how to do this across a range of home devices; please click [here](#).

Another growing development in today's world is the use of artificial intelligence and whilst we recognise there are many exciting opportunities stemming from the use of AI in today's world, there are also concerns about its appropriate use. This advice from the NSPCC for parents is helpful in how to guide young people in using AI appropriately; please click [here](#). We are currently drafting our own AI policy on how this will be used in school. This will be published next half term.

Please do see the regular Online Safety updates included in PressTales and on the Online Safety page of our website for more helpful information.

I wish you all an enjoyable and restful half term break.

Kind regards

Mr M Warren
Headteacher