



# PRESDALES SCHOOL

*Achievement for all*

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

## Presdales in the News

I know many of you have seen the article that came out this week about the safest schools in the country, according to The Great British Schools Guide. Based on the Ofsted ParentView survey data from last year, Presdales was ranked 6th and was one of only two schools in Hertfordshire to feature in the top 20. We are pleased that the work we do to keep our students safe is recognised. However, we know that a 98% approval rating means we still have more to do to ensure all families believe their child is safe at Presdales. For context, the national approval rating for similar schools was 83%.

## Secondary Transfer Evening

Our Secondary Transfer Open Evening will be taking place this year on **Thursday 16th October** from 5.30 - 8.30pm. As in previous years, to prepare the school appropriately, students will finish at 12.45pm. Unfortunately, only some school buses will be running at this earlier time and alternative pick up arrangements will need to be made for students who normally catch those buses not running at this time. Please see below:

- Golden Boy Coaches (E85 and E86) - will be offering an earlier pick up
- Mick's Travel - will be offering an earlier pick up
- Reg's Coaches - **will not** be offering an earlier pick up so alternative arrangements will need to be made
- Uno buses - **will not** be offering an earlier pick up so alternative arrangements will need to be made

We ask that all students who are helping on the evening, return to school by 5.00pm. Please be aware that we are unable to provide supervision between 12.45pm and 5.00pm.

A reminder that **Friday 17th October** is an inset day, and the school will be closed to all students.

## Summer Exam Information

Please take a moment to review the timetable for the summer's exams and note the key dates. We also ask that you ensure that your child reads and understands the JCQ Information for Candidates documents, which outline essential exam rules and expectations. Your support in this helps everything run smoothly during the exam season.

<https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/exam-boards-and-codes/>

## Netball

Well done to our U14 and U16 Netball Teams who took part in the Anne Miles County Netball Tournament last weekend. The U14's dominated their pool, meeting STAHS in the semi final where we won 12-6. They then played St Edmunds in the final where Presdales maintained their winning streak and won 12-7. This meant they were crowned County Champions, qualifying for the Regional Finals in February - an amazing achievement!

The U16 team started strong, despite having a tough pool. They won 5 out of 7 group games which meant they narrowly lost out on a semi-final spot. They therefore went on to compete for the Shield and ended up winning it! Well done to all the girls for their hard work, resilience and commitment in the lead up to the tournament and throughout the day. Thank you to the PE Department for supporting the teams.



◆ Ambition ◆ Creativity ◆ Equality ◆ Integrity ◆ Kindness ◆ Resilience ◆

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### **IROKO Theatre Company Visit**

On Thursday, Year 8 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from IROKO Theatre Company. In their music lessons, Year 8 have been learning djembe drumming rhythm patterns and understanding the role of the drum in West African traditions. Each form group experienced two workshops; one in dance and the other in storytelling. We discovered how important gesture, exaggeration, rhythm and sound effects are in West African storytelling. Students were given the opportunity to extend the story IROKO had given, using improvisation and call and response to rhythmically move the tale forward. The rhythm of the drum played a central role in the story. I think every student smiled or laughed at some point during our dance workshop as we adopted unfamiliar moves in a high energy, unison performance, again only accompanied by the drum. IROKO were energetic in communicating the cultural features of West African dance, music and story and the students responded brilliantly with an open mind and a willingness to try something new. Thank you to the Music Department for arranging the visit.



### **Aqualathon Race**

Presdales entered our first ever Aquathlon Race with four talented and enthusiastic Year 8 students. The race was held at the Royal Masonic School where the girls completed in a 350m swim and then straight into a 2.2km cross country race. This was a gruelling challenge, and the girls showed amazing grit and determination to finish well in their heat. We await the results.

Presdales was the only state school competing and it shows once again what a range of talents our students have. Not just talent, but also the drive and determination to push through when things get tough. The girls were exhausted at the finish but rightly proud of their efforts. Well done Scarlett, Lily, Lois and Millie for being such fantastic competitors. Thanks to Mr Macrae for taking the girls.



### **Parking in the Blue Badge Bays**

A polite reminder not to park in the blue badge parking bays unless you are eligible to do so, even if you are dropping off, or just coming into the school for a short period of time. Your support with this is appreciated.

### **Book Concern**

The Safeguarding team at Hertfordshire County Council have contacted all schools in Hertfordshire following contact from the children's publisher Puffin.

We have been made aware that several titles in the Spy Dogs, Spy Pup, and Spy Cat series by Andrew Cope contain a web link at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions. This is nothing to do with the Author or Publisher. We have some of these books in our digital library, but the link is not in the digital versions.

### **Science - Data Logging Equipment**

Thank you to our Grants Officer, Mrs Albone, who has managed to secure several grants totalling £8,000 to pay for new digital logging equipment. Grants have been received from the Royal Society of Chemistry, The Royal Institute's Partnership Grant, Tesco Community Fund and EdufundUK Ltd.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful weekend.

Mr M Warren  
Headteacher