



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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Friday 6th February

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

AI

The safety of our students is of paramount importance to us as a school, including their safety online. In the Year 10 and 11 assemblies this week, students were spoken to about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and informed about the school's approach to its use. AI is becoming more and more prominent in our world today and is evolving every day. Used well, AI can support with learning but as with any technology, it can be misused. Students were given information about the advanced chatbot ChatGPT and why this is not the safest AI tool for them to use. We recognise that AI can play a part in students' learning and so therefore have given those who may have been using ChatGPT a period of grace to download any information or resources. From Monday 9th February, ChatGPT, and other AI sites, will no longer be accessible on school devices. This is so that students are kept safe online and do not share information that is personal, sensitive or confidential either willingly or unintentionally. As a school using Google, students will have access to Google Gemini for schools. This AI tool is built for schools and offers more protection than ChatGPT and other platforms. The information that students put into Gemini is only stored within the school and is not available to users outside of Presdales, meaning it is a lot safer to use. We will continue to educate students about the uses and risks of AI so that they can make correct and informed choices when using it to support their learning.

Due to the 13-year-old minimum age restriction, Gemini will only be available on Chromebooks for students in Year 9 upwards. Next week, students in all year groups will have whole school assemblies on the theme of online safety and AI as part of the nationally recognised Safer Internet Week.

Race Equality Week

This week has been Race Equality week. To mark this, all students have taken part in an SMSC session looking at the stereotypes we might have about groups of people and how we can overcome these. Students in the 6th Form attended a thought provoking assembly written and delivered by the 6th Form inclusion ambassadors. Staff have completed daily activities with students aimed at helping us all to reflect on what we can all do to be better allies to all minoritised groups of people.

U15 National Cup Football

Congratulations to the U15 football team who, following a 4-1 win against Thorpe St Andrews School from Norwich, have made it through to the quarter finals of the National Cup. This was a fantastic performance against a strong and highly competitive team. Well done to all involved.

Careers Parent Coffee Morning

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend our first parents/carers careers morning today. Mrs Stephenson and Mrs Gray spent time discussing our careers offer and future plans. We appreciated the feedback that we received from those who attended. Further information on our careers program can be found [here](#).

U14 Netball

Good luck to the U14 Netball Team who are taking part in the regional round of the National Schools Netball Tournament tomorrow. The event will take place at Stanborough School in Welwyn, starting at 9.30am. We wish the team all the best in what is looking like another wet day!

High School Musical

A reminder that our students will be performing High School Musical next week. Evening performances will be held Monday to Thursday. Tickets can be purchased on WisePay. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Holiday Food Voucher Scheme for benefits related Free School Meal Children (HCC Communication)

Since December 2020, the Local Authority has been able to provide supermarket vouchers to families, supported through government funding streams. From October 2021 onwards, this was funded through the Household Support Fund, a national programme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) designed to help households with the cost of living.

The government has now confirmed that the Household Support Fund will come to an end in 2025. Unfortunately, this means we will no longer be able to issue vouchers to children who are entitled to benefit-related free school meals for the holiday periods.

We understand that this change may be difficult for some families, and we want to reassure you that support is still available. If you feel you may need additional help, we encourage you to visit the Hertfordshire County Council 'Cost of Living Support' pages on the council website, where you can find information about a range of services and assistance options.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Mr M Warren
Headteacher