



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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Friday 13th February

Dear Parent/Carer/Student

As we reach the end of another half term, I want to say well done to all our students and thank you to Presdales staff. This past half term is always one of the hardest. You arrive and leave when it is dark, the weather has been dismal, and for Year 11 and 13 students the reality of their final exams has become more real. Despite this, I hope you have seen from our communications this half term, that the students continue to excel in all that they do. They are a credit to the school, themselves and to their parents and carers. Thank you to our dedicated team of staff who go above and beyond by providing intervention classes at lunchtimes, extra-curricular activities after school, weekend fixtures, music concerts, drama shows and trips outside of school time. All these events will provide lasting memories for our students.

U14 Netball Regional Finals

Many congratulations to our U14 netball team who, at the weekend, qualified for the National Finals in Sheffield in March. This is the second year in a row that Presdales will be represented in the National Finals and will likely be one of a very small number of state schools there. The girls did not lose a match, and I believe that this team has never lost a match since Year 7. Thank you to the PE team for coaching and supporting them and to the parents/carers and students who supported on the day.

High School Musical

If you were able to come and see the show, I am sure you will agree that the quality of the performances were outstanding. It was a pleasure to see so many students on stage in the ensemble and the lead roles being alternated each evening. Rehearsals for the show started many months ago. Standing on stage performing to others can be very daunting, however, their confidence shone through. On Tuesday, we were pleased to invite students from Pinewood School and St Catherine's CofE Primary School to watch a matinee performance. Thank you to Miss Mack, Ms Hardiman, Miss Sargent and all those who supported them for providing this experience for our students.

Year 12 Biology

This week, our Year 12 A-level Biologists transformed their classroom into a specialist pathology lab. Moving beyond the standard syllabus, students took the lead on a series of advanced dissections, exploring complex organisms not typically covered in the core curriculum. Before picking up a scalpel, each student conducted independent investigations into their chosen specimen's unique physiological adaptations. This allowed them to apply theoretical knowledge to physical structures in real-time. As a key activity for our Medsoc members, these dissections serve as vital preparation for high-level medical and veterinary careers. Thank you to Mrs Gregory for arranging the session.

Safer Internet Day - AI

In assemblies and form times this week, we have focussed on 'Safer Internet Day'. Safer Internet Day is a yearly national campaign, and this year it was aimed at raising awareness about Artificial Intelligence and its growing use in society. Students have been thinking about the ethics of using AI and how it can be both positive and negative for them and the world around them. Sessions have focused on how students need to be mindful when they do use AI generated information, understanding that they need to fact check output and consider that it can include bias and favour certain outcomes. There have been a lot discussions about choosing to use AI and if they do, making sure students use it safely and responsibly. Our new AI policy can be found [here](#).

HFL Education Revision Sessions

A reminder of the revision sessions available from HFL Education.

Science – Grade 6/7 sessions start 3rd February 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

Science – Grade 4/5 sessions start 30th March 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

English AQA Literature – sessions start 7th February 2026, cost £20 per session, duration 2 hours.

English AQA Language Writing – sessions on 31st March and 2nd April 2026, cost £15 per session, duration 90 minutes

Maths – GCSE sessions start 28th February 2026, cost £10 per session, duration 50 minutes.

All sessions are recorded and will be available after each session in the run-up to the summer examinations. Please click [here](#) for the QR code to book.

Consultation on Hertfordshire's Local Government Reorganisation proposals

We have been asked to share details about the government consultation on the reorganisation of local government in Hertfordshire. They are seeking views on the options for two, three or four new unitary councils which was submitted in a single proposal by all Hertfordshire Councils. You can find the proposal on the [Hertfordshire LGR microsite](#).

School Trips

We have two school trips out over half term; one to Berlin and the other to New York. I am sure that all the students will have a wonderful time away. Thank you to the staff who are going on the trips.

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

Wishing you all an enjoyable and restful half term break.

Mr M Warren
Headteacher