



PRESDALES SCHOOL

Achievement for all

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

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As we reach the end of the spring term, I want to say thank you to our students, parents and staff for another amazing term at Presdales. We have had so many sporting successes, trips, concerts, external visits which have provided opportunities for our students to learn and thrive outside of the classroom. The students continue to 'buy-in' to what we provide at Presdales and I look forward to more of the same in the summer term.

U14 National School's Netball Finals

Congratulations to the U14 netball team who were phenomenal at the National School's finals last Saturday.

The team started strong in the pool stages winning 16-7 to Brookfield Community School. They continued to dominate in their second match winning 10-1 to Dame Allans. In the third match, the team had to raise their game to secure a 9-6 win against St John's Leatherhead. Presdales' goal average increased during the fourth match against Prince William School, which they won 19-3. The fifth match, against Parkstone Grammar (who came second overall), was a goal for goal match where they unfortunately lost by 1 goal, 8-7. The sixth match against Bedford Grammar ended in a 10-8 win and the seventh match against Cheadle Hulme also ended in a 12-9 win. The final pool game against Solihull School remained important as the top of the table was very mixed due to all teams losing a match, however Presdales dug deep and secured a 14-12 win to secure our first ever National Cup Semi Final spot.



Coming second in the pool (with only goal average separating Presdales from first place) meant the girls had the tougher of the semi-finals against the eventual winners, Silverdale. The girls fought non-stop to come back from a larger goal difference at half time but unfortunately ran out of time and lost 11-8. The team then went on to play in the third/fourth play offs where they started strong, dominating at half time. Unfortunately, Streatham & Clapham came back with a vengeance meaning Presdales sadly lost 13-10. We are all beyond proud of the team. They left it all out there and played the most incredible netball, showing outstanding teamwork, resilience and prowess. Presdales came away with the title of 4th best U14 school netball team in the country which is our most successful netball achievement ever. I would like to thank Mrs Hicks, the lead coach for the U14 team, and the rest of the PE department for their support of the team. Well done to all of the girls in the team.

Music trip to The Barbican - *report from Mrs Cooper*

On Wednesday, the GCSE and A-level Music cohorts travelled to the Barbican in London to see one of the world's best orchestras, the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), perform Dvořák's 9th Symphony "From the New World". We were all impressed not only with the size of the Barbican Hall, which was packed full of just under 2000 concert goers, but also with the power and beauty of the orchestra's sound. The concert series "Half Six Fix" is aimed at bringing well known orchestral music to wider audiences, and the concert began with the conductor introducing key features of the music from each movement. The symphony itself is full of memorable melodies, most notably the cor anglais solo used for the Hovis bread advert back in the 1970's! The concert felt too short - it was so good we might need another Half Six Fix at the Barbican soon.

Thank you to Mrs Cooper and Miss Sargent for taking the students on the trip.

Year 10 Learn 4 Living Day

Yesterday, all Year 10 students took part in 4 different L4L workshops exploring the areas of stress management, cyber-security and 'What has the law got to do with me?'. Students also participated in a final workshop delivered by Glia Learning which encouraged students to consider how they retain and remember information with the aim of improving student revision skills. Students worked with enthusiasm and effort, asking questions throughout the day. The Glia parent/carer session in the evening was also well-attended and positively received. Thank you to Mrs Fry for organising the day, and to those parents who were able to attend the evening session.

Primary School Girls District Football Tournament

Presdales recently hosted the Year 5 & 6 Primary School Girls District Football Tournament. The event was attended by 20 Primary Schools with around 200 students enjoying playing football on a beautiful warm, sunny day. The tournament was extremely competitive and hard fought. The semi-finals were contested between Edwinstree, St Catherines, Simon Balle and Hertford Heath, with Edwinstree and Hertford Heath reaching the Final. The Final was extremely close between two evenly matched teams. The game ended in a draw and went to a penalty shoot out. Edwinstree won the shoot-out 3-2 to become District Champions. Well done to Edwinstree and to all the schools who took part in a fantastic tournament. Thank you to Mr Macrae and the local sports partnership for putting on the tournament.

Swimming Pool

There will not be any swimming on the curriculum in the summer term. Our pool has been deemed unsafe to use for this academic year. I will provide updates about the pool next term.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and safe Easter break. We look forward to seeing all students back on Monday 13th April.

Regards

Mr M Warren
Headteacher