



# PressTales



Issue 28, 16 March 2018

## Headlines

Dear Parents/Carers

I cannot believe that we are nearly at the Easter holidays and there is talk of snow again! I look forward to warmer and more settled weather.

We continue to be extremely proud of our students' achievements that are outside of the normal curriculum. Today, our Robotics club are at the national finals, last week a group of Year 10 students were at an awards event in London where Prince Charles requested a meeting with them, and tomorrow our U14 Netball team are at the national netball finals. On Thursday of this week, Year 10 students all had a careers interview with an external advisor from business through Herts YC as part of their PSHE day. I attended the Hertfordshire School's Gala at The Royal Albert Hall last Sunday where a number of our students were performing with the School's Orchestra, this was an excellent concert.

As the public exam period draws closer we would expect students in Year 11 and 13 start to increase the amount of revision they are doing. We are continuing to provide extra classes at lunchtimes and after school for students to go and ask for additional support. There is no doubt that the exam period can be a stressful time, but with efficient time management and a continuation of activities in or out of school that are not exam related these stresses can be managed more effectively.

Following a recent PTA meeting, where feedback was offered about this publication, we will be changing the format of PressTales. We appreciate that PressTales is sometimes a large document, but this is due to the number of activities that our students are doing which we feel should be highlighted. The idea of this publication is to celebrate our students' achievements as well as keep parents up to date with important dates and information. After the Easter break, all key dates and information for parents will be on the first page of PressTales, a parent can then choose as to whether they would like to read the rest of the document. PressTales will continue to be published on a fortnightly basis.

Kind regards  
**Matt Warren, Headteacher**

## Good Luck to our U14 Netball Team!



We wish our U14 Netball Team the very best of luck when they represent the East Region on Saturday 17th March at Stanborough for the National Finals.

## Non-uniform Day

Our fourth non-uniform day of this academic year is being held on Thursday 29th March 2018. Again, 50% of the money raised will go to supporting Teens Unite (The Teenage Cancer Trust Charity) and the other 50% will be spent directly on our students, as determined by our Student Council. We would like everyone to take part and to make a voluntary £2.00 donation (or more if you would like to contribute as a family).



We would be grateful if donations could be returned to Mrs Eyre in the School Office in an envelope marked with your daughter's / son's name and form group. We would welcome the donation before the 29th if possible, please.

## Rewards

Congratulations to the following forms who have achieved the highest number of reward points since the last issue of PressTales:	7AH 8EC 9AH 10EB 11LC 12NG 13SR
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**Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Teens Unite Charity since January 2017. You have helped to raise a fantastic £7924.91. We have also raised £2201.37 since the beginning of this academic year to go into the Student Fund. The Student Council will meet to discuss how this money will be spent. Watch this space for an update!**



## School Events

Presdales Music Department Presents

# LEGENDS

PAST  
PRESENT  
& FUTURE

FEATURING  
CONCERT BAND  
BIG BAND  
ORCHESTRA  
MUSIC MAKERS  
JUNIOR CHOIR  
SENIOR CHOIR  
BELLA VOCE  
& MANY MORE!

THURSDAY  
22ND MARCH  
7.30PM

Tickets at £5

Tickets available from WisePay and the  
music office

# GIRL POWER

## Dance Evening 2018 Tickets!!

Dance Evening 2018 is Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th April  
at 7pm.

Tickets can be purchased in cash from Miss Weaver  
at **BREAK TIME ONLY** in the PE office in the Sports Hall for £6 each.



## Year 10 Industrial Cadet Interview with Prince Charles

On Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, a group of seven Year 10 girls travelled to Savoy's Place in London for the Industrial Cadet Awards Ceremony. The team consisted of: Ayesha, Becca, Amelia, Phi, Talitha, Saidhriti and Evie. In the summer term of 2017, three Presdales groups participated in a regional competition (sponsored by GSK) where each team had to prepare a ten week project about worldwide issues e.g. energy resources. Each group had to prepare a team report about their project, a model of their idea and a presentation for the judges. Every participant received a nationally recognised bronze Industrial Cadet Award, for their hard work and contribution to the project. My team, Presdales Brilliance, chose the topic 'Our Healthy School' and created a website from scratch entitled 'Think Aloud'. In the regional stage of the competition, our team won the award for Best Overall Project and so had the opportunity to meet the other regional winners from around the country.



Our team chose to focus the project on mental health as we believe it plays a fundamental role in our wellbeing, as well as having an important effect on our academic performance, which we thought was very relevant to students our age. The website is full of helpful information to spread awareness about mental health and what it is, as well as blog posts centred on a focus of the week, helplines, calming music and links to informative videos. The main aspect of our website is that it combines professionally sourced advice as well as personal experiences, in a way that is student friendly and enjoyable to read. Our website was made by students, for students and so we believe that Think Aloud is the perfect combination of professional and personal. Our aim is to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and promote its importance in a way that encourages people to discuss it. Our motto, 'think allowed, think aloud' says exactly this: we want to express that everyone should openly talk about and explore mental health and our website helps do just that. We chose to create a website in particular as it is easily accessible, can be constantly updated, has a low carbon footprint and is extremely cost-efficient.

After travelling through London, we arrived at Savoy Place and began to set up our display board. Throughout the day, our team had the opportunity to meet industry bodies through networking and promoting our project as well as meeting other winners and learning more about their projects and ideas. We also sat in on the awards ceremony to listen to speeches by the Prince of Wales and industry CEOs, encouraging young people to take up careers in STEM. As well as this, we each answered a recorded interview question regarding our Industrial Cadet experience. What I think was the highlight of the day was getting to have a private interview with His Royal Highness Prince Charles: we were one of two groups who had the opportunity to do this! We were asked questions about our project, our Industrial Cadet journey and plans for the future. Each member answered the questions confidently and we had all perfected our royal curtses! After lunch, our group also attended an engineering and science lecture by special guest, Johnny Ball, who gave us an insight into some particularly interesting examples of engineering in action in today's world.

Our team is planning on completing our silver Industrial Cadet Award, where we plan to incorporate the website into school life at Presdales; perhaps promoting it through assemblies, for use in form times or at home. I also plan on consulting the rest of the school council on their ideas on how to integrate Think Aloud into our school. In the future we are also considering developing a Think Aloud app and social media presence in order to further reach out to teenagers and improve accessibility.



I believe that the variety and diversity in our team was one of the main reasons that we worked so well as a unit; we could have rich discussions and make well informed decisions. From this experience, I have most definitely learnt new skills: networking, teamwork and decision making, and the journey has inspired me to extend my scientific knowledge and experience and go into a STEM career in the future. Personally, the Industrial Cadet experience has allowed me to develop key skills that I have built during my time at Presdales. For instance, public speaking, opportunities like this and the Mock Trial in year 9 have really helped me grow these kinds of skills that will be vital for success in later life.

On behalf of my team, I would like to give a huge thanks to our GSK mentors, Steph and Kaye, for all of their guidance and advice through the journey, as well as Ms Walsh and Mrs Barnes for their help in getting us to London. Not to mention, Ms Walsh's hard work behind the scenes to allow our team this opportunity of a lifetime!

**Ayesha Unadkat (Year 10)**



## Presdales Sunken Garden Project – Appeal for Help

Presdales School is situated in the grounds of the former Presdales Mansion which was built in 1864 by wealthy Maltfactor, Charles Cass. It was later owned by the Sandeman and the McMullen families, prior to its acquisition in the 1960s by Hertfordshire County Council. Whilst used as a home, the grounds included many special features, one of which was a Victorian sunken garden that is currently in need of some renovation.

As reported in a recent edition of PressTales, we obtained a small grant from the Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust for some of the work, including the repair of the hard landscaping and this work was completed over the recent half-term holiday.

By taking the project to the next stage and creating a sensory garden, the school believes that this special space could be put to a considerable number of uses. It would provide a place for quiet reflection and mindfulness to enhance the personal wellbeing of our students, and an area for learning beyond classroom. It will also enable us to preserve this historic asset.

Currently used mainly by the Science Department for pond-dipping, its use could be extended to include the scientific study of wildlife, plant growth, biodiversity and other scientific study. The English, Drama, Art, Photography and Music departments have all expressed a desire to use this unique space to enhance creativity, and the Geography department has identified it as a space to practise field studies and sketching skills. Once the initial work is complete, maintenance and ownership of this space by an extra-curricular gardening club would create an interesting and extraordinary opportunity for our students.

Now with a safe place to work, the snow gone and spring officially here, we would like to move to the next stage of restoration. The first steps include the identification of the plants currently in the garden, an assessment of their health and suitability for the site, a programme for pruning and planting and general garden work necessary to achieve our goal.

As you will be aware, school budgets are stretched to the limit and few schools have funding to spare to undertake such work. We would, therefore, like to appeal to you, the Parental Body, for help.

To take this forward, I would like to put together a register of helpers so that we can formulate a plan to take this to the next step. If you have a passion for gardening and a desire to help, I would be very pleased to hear from you. Please email me at [albonen@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:albonen@presdales.herts.sch.uk) using the heading "Sunken Garden Help" with a brief description of how you can help, such as: identification, planning, project leadership, general gardening, donation or simply time, and I will be in touch.

Many thanks  
Mrs Albone  
Revenue Generation Coordinator

## New York and Washington DC Trip - October 2018



We have a place which has become available on the Government and Politics trip to New York and Washington DC, and this is open to students in Year 11 and above. The trip will leave on Friday 26th October 2018 in the morning returning approximately 12.00 noon on Thursday 1st November. The stay will comprise of 2 nights in New York and 3 nights in Washington DC and the cost of the trip will be approximately £1,380. A deposit payment of £150 can be made either as an online payment via Wisepay or cash/cheque made payable to Presdales School and handed in to Mrs Eyre in the main school office.



Photos from the last New York and Washington Trip





## Presdales' Jewellery Club



Every Friday, students come to Room 30 for a fun and creative lunchtime activity. The Presdales Jewellery and Origami Club is on Friday Lunchtimes every week. Girls have the chance to make themed jewellery, like dazzling Christmas tree ornaments, Easter brooches and beautiful rings for a Valentine. Students also have the opportunity to try napkin folding activities, making complex and intricate designs, like roses. Also, the club is fully equipped with origami paper of almost every pattern available! The club leader is Mrs Stewart who organises for Sarah, a professional jewellery maker, to come in and demonstrate how to make keyrings, brooches and any other jewellery. Sarah provides specialist materials for the students to use to make some jewellery for family and friends! Miss Stitson also helps with the club and has proved herself to



be a fantastic jewellery maker. The club had a sale at the Christmas Fayre where we sold lots of jewellery, keyrings and Christmas ornaments, made by Presdales students, in aid of the school charity, Teens Unite. These are some pictures of some of the student's beautiful creations!

Thea, a year 7 said: 'Jewellery Club is very creative and I think it's great that we get the chance to make something for charity. I feel I can express my feelings through the jewellery and we have the chance to do something exciting at lunchtimes'. Natalia said: 'it's a very fun activity and great for making presents - I definitely recommend it!'



I have been helping out at Jewellery and Origami Club as part of my Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering for around three months now. I love how the students engage in the activities, have and spend lots of time and effort making something special for friends, family, themselves or even for a good cause. It is a fun and creative way to get involved with charity within our own school, build character and get involved with the wider community. The club provides a great



opportunity to all year groups to have some down time and try some calming activities at lunchtimes; it is a great place to meet new friends with similar interests! I strongly recommend coming to the club and making something, or even volunteering, as I did. On behalf of all of those that come to the club, I would like to thank Mrs Stewart, Sarah and Miss Stitson who come every week to lead the club, provide resources and guidance and a listening ear. Thank you very much for all of your hard work that makes the Presdales' Jewellery and Origami Club an artistic, friendly and special place to be!

**Ayesha Unadkat (Year 10)**

## New GCSE Food practical results wow staff and visitors

As part of the new GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification, our fantastic Year 11 students successfully completed their 3 hour practical exam. Our students are to be congratulated for battling through the snow, week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Year 11 have produced a range of exciting dishes depending on their chosen task. Staff and visitors lucky enough to taste the food all made extremely positive comments about the food including; "restaurant standard," "excellent flavour and amazing presentation".





## Art & Photography News

### Year 12



## News from PE

### Gymnastics

Well done to Madeleine (Year 8) who recently won Silver on Floor, and Alexis (Year 8) who won Gold on both Floor and Trampoline at the Affinity Invitational Competition 2018 held at Wodson Park.

Congratulations also to Hannah (Year 9) who won Silver on Floor in the U15 section.





## Hockey

### Ella Sherring



### Regional Hockey Finals



Ella Sherring (Year 10) and her U16 teammates at Southgate Hockey Club competed in the National Cup Regional Finals on 11th March and finished Regional Champions. As one of the top eight teams in the country they go through to contest the National Finals in Nottingham on the 7th and 8th April. It was a thrilling and nerve racking tournament with Southgate winning 1-0 against Saffron Walden and also Harlston Magpies. They secured their place in the finals with a tense 0-0 draw in the final game against Braintree Hornets.

Well done Ella and her team for a fantastic performance and getting through to the National Finals!



### Year 8

Well done to our Year 8 hockey team who came 2nd in their tournament last week.

Only lost to Haileybury A team 1-0 but we won all our other games 3-0. The whole team were great - well done girls! Star player was Lotty who scored an absolutely cracking goal!



### U14

The U14 Hockey County Cup team competed in the semi-final this week. Unfortunately

they lost a very close 2-1 to Queenswood but it was a terrific game of hockey. Well done girls for fabulous team work and getting to the semi-finals of the competition!

## Netball

### Year 10

Well done to the Year 10 Netball team who came 5th at the District Tournament recently. Fantastic resilience even when losing girls; you kept fighting till the end!

### Senior Team

Huge well done to the Senior Netball Team who competed in the Herts County Cup Plate Final against Princess Helena. Unfortunately with only 6 players we lost 28-16 but the girls worked so hard and kept fighting till the end! Thank you to those girls that represented the school this week and on the journey to the final!

### Year 7

Well done to both year 7 netball teams this week - A team won their tournament and the B team came 2nd overall after just losing out to Broxbourne 4-2 in the final. Great team work girls! Star players were Olivia and Lola.

## Tennis

Charlotte in Year 7 competed at the LTA Caunton Newark-on-Trent Junior Grade 5 - U16 Girls Tennis Tournament on Sunday 4th March 2018. She played 3 singles matches against 15/16 year old girls and won the tournament! Pretty impressive for a 12 year old!

Charlotte also played doubles at LTA Tennis Solutions Feb Tour 2018 U12 Doubles Grade 3 Regional At David Lloyd Bristol and won this tournament too!

Well done Charlotte, these are amazing achievements!



## Fencing

Amelia in Year 10 won a Gold Medal in the Girls Foil Under 16 London Region Championships last weekend. This means she has also qualified for the British Youth Championships in May! Congratulations Amelia and good luck at the Youth Championships!



## PE Fixtures

Please [click here](#) for the PE fixtures.



## Trips and Reminders

- **Year 13 Leavers' Hoodies** - Cost of Hoodie: £18.99. Payment due by Tuesday 17th April.
- **A Level Geography Fieldtrip to North Yorkshire (April 2018)** - Balance of £150 due by 1st April.
- **A Level Economics and Business Revision Conference (24th April)** - Cost of ticket: £25 each.
- **Year 9 Geography Trip to Epping Forest (30th April and 4th May)** - Please return slip and voluntary contribution of £31 if you have not already done so.
- **6th Form English Literature Trip to Theatre (2nd May)** - A few tickets (£32 each) are still available for A Streetcar Named Desire. Please contact Mrs Eyre in the main school office for more information.
- **Year 9 Spanish Trip to Cantabria (June 2018)** - The final payment was due by 1st March.
- **Year 11 Celebration Evening** - Save the date! **Monday 25th June 2018**. More information to follow shortly.
- **Year 10 & 12 Trip to Berlin (June 2018)** - Please make sure you are following the payment schedule.
- **Year 8 Opal Coast Trip (June 2018)** - Final payment was due by 2nd March 2018.
- **Italian Trip to Urbania (July 2018)** - Next instalment of £225 is due by 27th April 2018.
- **New York & Washington DC Trip (October 2018)** - If you are following the payment schedule, £600 should have now been paid.



## Presdales School

Hoe Lane  
Ware  
Hertfordshire  
SG12 9NX  
Tel: 01920 462 210  
Email: [admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk)



## School Calendar

### March

- Monday 19th : Year 10 Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and MenACWY vaccinations
- Tuesday 20th : Year 13 Drama Exam, 8.40am to 12pm
- Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th : Year 9 Trip to Rome
- Thursday 22nd : Spring Concert, 7.30pm
- Friday 23rd : Year 11 Drama Exam, Time tbc
- Tuesday 27th : Year 10 Drama Mock Exam
- Thursday 29th : Non-Uniform Day
- Thursday 29th : End of term, 12.45pm

### April

- Tuesday 17th : Dance Evening Technical Rehearsal
- Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th : Year 12 Geography Fieldwork
- Thursday 19th to Friday 20th : Year 11 Art Exam
- Monday 23rd to Tuesday 24th : Year 12 Photography Exam
- Tuesday 24th : A level Economics & Business revision conference
- Wednesday 25th : Dance Evening Dress Rehearsal (Day)
- Wednesday 25th : Dance Evening Performance, 7pm
- Thursday 26th : Year 8 Take Your Daughter to Work Day
- Thursday 26th : Dance Evening Performance, 7pm
- Thursday 26th : Junior Maths Challenge (Years 7 and 8)
- Thursday 26th to Friday 27th : Year 12 Art Exam
- Friday 27th to Friday 4th May : Year 12 French Exchange (here)
- Saturday 28th to Sunday 29th : DofE Practice Expedition
- Monday 30th : Year 9 Rivers Trip

## Cover Supervisor Roles

Presdales School is seeking to build a team of confident and efficient Cover Supervisors who could provide cover on an ad hoc basis.

We are looking for applicants who:

- have strong communication and interpersonal skills
- are flexible and reliable
- are able to work well in a team
- can be proactive in meeting students' needs
- are well organised
- would be committed to contributing to the overall ethos and aims of the school
- have experience in a Primary or Secondary school setting

Please contact Mrs Hazel Goodwin, Cover Manager, by email: [cover@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:cover@presdales.herts.sch.uk) if you would like to apply for the role or need to know more information about the role, including hours/days/pay.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo an Enhanced DBS disclosure and approved references will be required for the post.

