



# PressTales



Issue 23, 15 December 2017

## Headlines

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the school Carol Service on Wednesday at St Mary's in Ware. It was a wonderful evening of music and reflection. It was a pleasure to watch the first performance from the Presdales hand bell group, who performed two Christmas songs. I would like to thank Mrs Hetherington, Miss Ringer and their team for organising the event in what has been a very busy period for the music department. A special congratulations to the staff choir!

Yesterday, we had our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. In a little over an hour we were able to serve 750 student Christmas lunches. Thank you to Chris Huckle and his team for all they did in ensuring the lunch was so successful.

We have decided that we will not set any homework for Year 7-12 students over the Christmas period, we would like them to take a break and come back refreshed in January. Unfortunately, Year 13 students have their mocks after Christmas so will need to revise. However, they should be experienced enough now to get the balance right between work and appropriate rest.

A reminder that school starts at the normal time on Wednesday 3rd January.

From all of the staff at Presdales, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best Wishes

**Matt Warren**  
Headteacher

### Rewards

Congratulations to the following forms who have achieved the highest number of reward points in their year group for the Autumn Term.

7SH
8LC
9JP
10AW
11AL
12NG
13DS



### Speech Day: Monday 18th December

School ends at **12.30** for all those students not involved in Speech Day in the afternoon, although a lunch service (with a reduced choice) is available. As in previous years, our school transport providers are unable to provide an early pick up on this day. Year 12 students who were not at Presdales for their Year 11 are not required to be in school on this day.

### Overdue Library Books

We have a number of overdue library books. We would, therefore, be grateful if they could either be returned to the library or renewed before the end of term. Many thanks.

### End of Term: Tuesday 19th December

Students are dismissed at 12.45pm (with organised transport booked for 12.45-1.00pm).

### Lost Property

Lost property is kept in a cupboard outside Mrs Dewbrey's office. Lost PE Kits and trainers are kept by the PE department in the Sports Hall. Clothing, shoes and miscellaneous items are recycled at the end of each term. If your child has lost anything at school, please urge them to come to Mrs Dewbrey's office and look for it before the end of term.

### Poppy Appeal



Thank you very much for helping with the 2017 Poppy Appeal.

Presdales School collected £218.15.



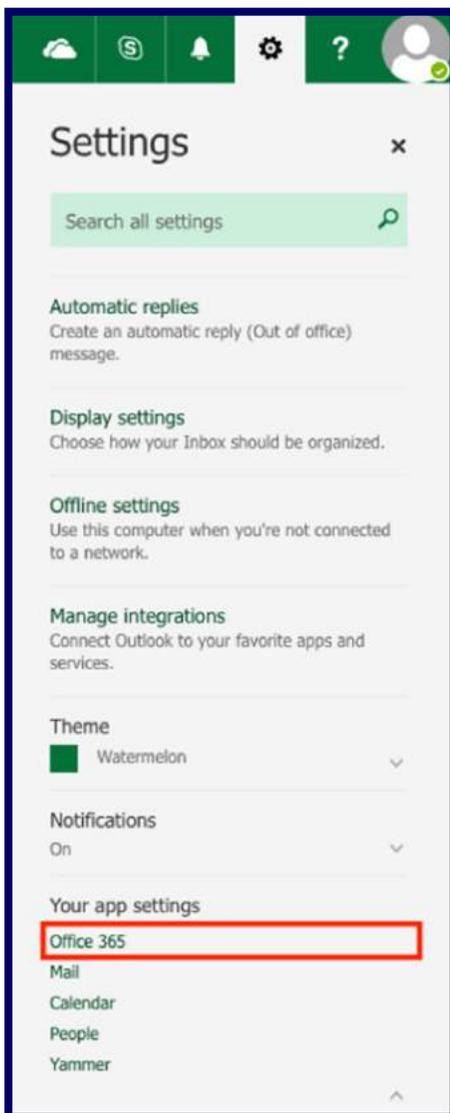
## Free Copy of Microsoft Office

Our license agreement with Microsoft entitles all staff and students to install 5 copies of the latest version of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access and a few miscellaneous applications) on personal devices. They are expected to delete the software when they leave Presdales School.

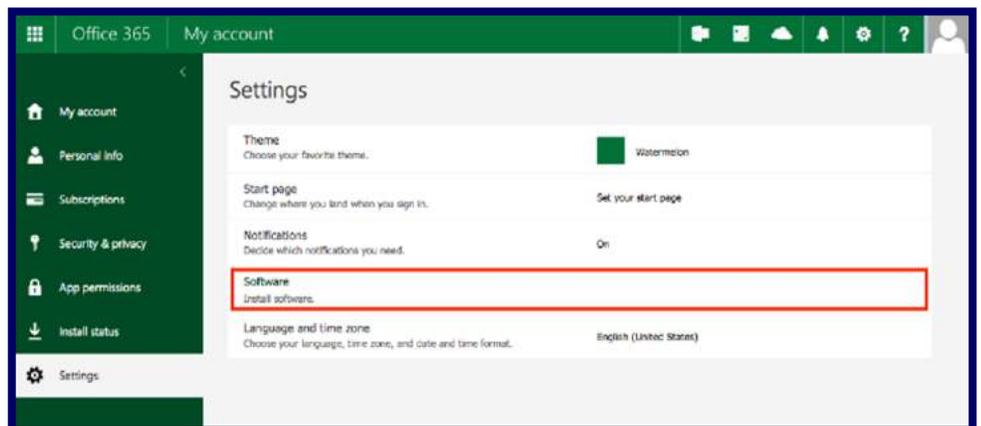
Your daughter/son should log in to their email account in the usual way, go to the 'cog' top right, > Office 365 > Software, then follow the onscreen instructions.

Make sure the PC or laptop is connected to a mains supply because it might take a few hours and you will get better speed if the PC is connected directly to the router by ethernet cable.

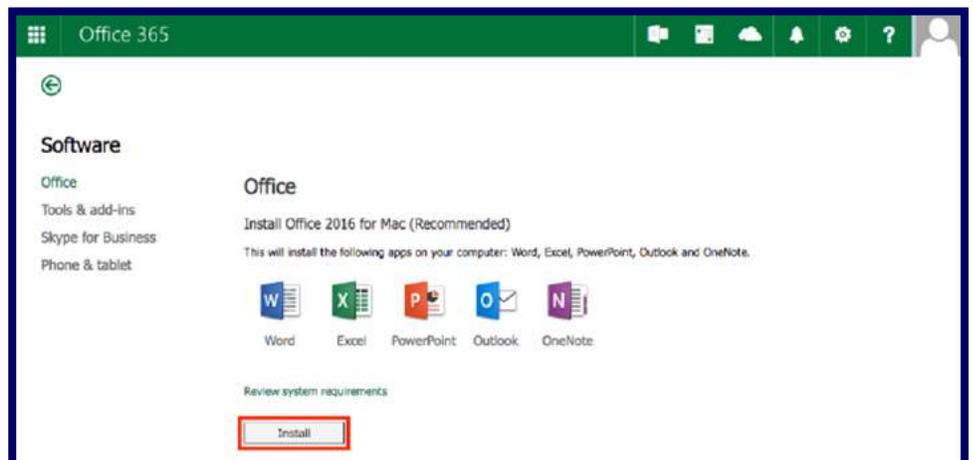
Click on the gear icon in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and go to **Your app settings > Office 365**



**Under Settings, select Software.**



**Click the Install button to begin Microsoft Office download and installation. Mac and Windows versions of the suite vary, as Microsoft offers more apps for Windows than Mac.**





## News from Art & Photography

### Year 7 Doodle Club



Year 7 Doodle Club are celebrating the last Doodle club of the year and looking forward to doodling some amazing self portraits next term. There are now 59 members of Doodle club!



## Artists of the Month - November

Congratulations to:-

- Year 7 - Tony Pigg
- Year 8 - Charis Church
- Year 9 - Nyah Lythall
- Year 10 - Harriet Curzon
- Year 10 - Amy Bishop
- Year 10 - Elizabeth Attfield
- Year 11 - Imogen Proctor
- Year 11 - Rachel Ward
- Year 11 - Eva De Beer
- Year 12 - Erin Harnett
- Year 13 - Natasha Hickman

Photographer of the Month

- Year 12 - Evie Hibbert
- Year 13 - Amber Marshall



Artists & Photographer Of the Month

Well Done from The Art Department!







## Design & Technology News - Textiles



These are machine quilted practice placemats created by 7AN students.



8MA have just completed their tree decorations ready to place on their trees at home. They look really professional and the group had a lovely time developing their hand stitching skills. Merry Christmas everyone.



Year 9 have been busy this term making some colourful cushion Craft kits inspired by the work of the French designer Phillippe Starck.



## Design & Technology News - Graphic Design

As we are nearing the end of this term, we would like to congratulate a huge number of students who had postcards sent home this year for exceptional work in Design and Technology. Many students and parents have commented that they are now happily being displayed on 'the fridge at home'!

Year 7 have been making photoholders out of acrylic, and learning new techniques in the workshop, as well as production methods and using equipment, such as the radiant strip heater, for the first time.

Year 8 have been making eco-speakers out of recycled wood, using the 1960s as their inspiration. The students have learnt about batch production and how important the quality of finish is.

Year 9 have been designing and making stationery for special occasions. We have had some wonderful examples of work, for example for weddings, baby showers and children's parties. They have also completed a unit on technical drawing where they learnt about orthographic, isometric and perspective methods, as well as taking an end of unit test.



A thoroughly enjoyable term, with some fantastic products made. The Design and Technology Department would like to wish all students and parents a very happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing all students back in 2018!





## Robotics News



On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, a team of seven girls from Year 9 and 12 took part in

this years VEX Robotics Challenge at Hertfordshire University. This was Presdales' first opportunity to use their Robot in competition. They should be very proud of themselves, as their creativity and teamwork on the day was outstanding.

We played ten qualifying matches against other teams forming an alliance with another team every time to try and score as many points as possible. Out of the 16 teams competing, we finished 14th after the qualifying rounds. Everyone then went through to the quarter final matches where we subsequently lost our quarter final matches, thus ending our involvement in the tournament.

Our aim now is to fund raise to be able to buy more parts to make our robot better so that we are able to compete more efficiently against other teams who had more advanced robots. Naomi (Year 12)

Team members: Naomi Harvey, Lorna Ferguson, Faith Wonfor, Miffy Harlow, Olivia Allen, Holly Gibbons, Lily Woodward

## News from PE

### Fencing



Amelia Middleton in Year 10 has been selected for the 2018 England Girls U15 Foil Fencing Squad. She has finished the year ranked 7th overall in the country. She has also been selected to represent the London region at U17 (cadet) level in the prestigious "Cadet Winton" which is an all weekend event held at Millfield School in December.

In the photo she has the medals which she

has won this year from various competitions. She will be travelling to Poland with the England squad in March for a big competition! Congratulations Amelia, your training schedule takes a lot of your time. You should be very proud of your achievements!

### Combined Events (Years 9 & 10)



Both teams performed amazingly and came out as overall group winners in both age groups! Top individual performances from Hermoine Kay who came 2nd overall in the U14 age group and in U15 age group Lauren Simpson who came first overall and Daisy Creasey who came 3rd.

Well done all of you ... and well done to our two sports Leaders, Issy Henn and Issy Gardiner, who helped officiate at the event!



Find us on  
**Facebook**



## School Calendar

### December

- Monday 18th : Speech Day, pm
- Tuesday 19th : End of Autumn Term, 12.45pm

### January

- Wednesday 3rd : Start of Spring Term
- Thursday 4th to Friday 12th : Year 13 Mocks
- Friday 5th : Year 11 Results Day
- Thursday 11th : Interform Cross Country. Period 3 - Years 7 & 8, Period 4 - Year 9 to 11
- Wednesday 17th : GCSE and A Level Music Trip to London
- Thursday 18th : Year 11 Parents Consultation Meeting
- Monday 22nd to Monday 29th : Year 10 and 12 Spanish Exchange (away)
- Monday 22nd to Wednesday 24th : Year 13 Photography Mock
- Wednesday 24th : Year 9 Options Evening
- Thursday 25th to Monday 29th : Year 13 Art Mock
- Friday 26th : Year 13 Results Day
- Tuesday 30th : Year 9 Parents Consultation Meeting
- Wednesday 31st : Year 10 Technology Trip

The full school calendar for the current academic year can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

## 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.

## Trips and Reminders



- **GCSE Geography Revision Guides still available at £5.50.**
- **Wicked Theatre Trip (17th January 2018)** - Open to GCSE and A level music students. Cost of £44.
- **Spanish Exchange to Barcelona (January 2018)** - Next instalment of £110 due today, Friday 15th December.
- **Design Museum Trip (Wednesday 31st January 2018)** - Open to Year 10 Design & Technology pupils. Contribution of £22 per student please.
- **Ski Trip (February 2018)** - The following need to be provided before we break up for the Christmas holiday:

**Any outstanding monies. Medical consent form. Copy of passport and EHIC card. 1 passport size photo.**

Ski hoodies are available to purchase at £17 each. Various sizes available: XS, S, M and L. Order needs to be returned to school no later than 3rd January 2018. No orders will be accepted after this date.

- **Year 7 Little Canada Trip (March 2018)** - The final payment of £125 is due today, Friday 15th December.
- **Year 9 Trip to Rome (March 2018)** - Next instalment of £220 is due today, Friday 15th December 2017.
- **Year 8 Take Your Daughter to Work Day (26th April 2018)** - Permission and confirmation slips to be returned to the school office no later than Wednesday 10th January 2018.
- **Year 9 Battlefields Trip (May 2018)** - Still a few places available. £30 deposit to secure a place.
- **Year 10 Trip to Urbania (July 2018)** - Next instalment of £155 is due today, Friday 15th December 2017.

**Please return any outstanding medical consent forms with copies of passport to Mrs Eyre in the main school office by the end of term.**

## Presdales School

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Email: [admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk)





## 13<sup>TH</sup>, 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY SPORTS 121 FEBRUARY CAMP

Come join our Netball half term Camp this February! It gets the chance to get together with their friends and take the court in the holidays! There will be plenty of skills and match play which our coach will give plenty of tips to help improve play! Book now! 7 years- 13 years.

Wodson Park, Wadesmill Rd, Ware SG12 0UQ

Hertford Heath Rangers



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£12.50

£10 PER DAY IF  
BOOKED BEFORE  
JAN 14TH

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DEVELOPMENT

FUN

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