



Headteacher: Mr M Warren

20th July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Year Letter to Parents 2016-2017

It is hard to believe that an academic year has nearly passed. It does not seem long ago that I spoke to staff and students as the new Headteacher of Presdales School. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Presdales, and would like to thank the staff, governors, students and parents for their support this year. We will always aim to provide the students with the highest quality education and environment.

The past few years has seen unprecedented changes in education; the abolishment of KS3 national curriculum levels, new KS3 national curriculum, new GCSE grading system, changes to GCSE and A Level specifications. I am sure that you are all aware from the national and local media about the financial situation that most schools find themselves in. We are very careful with the financial resources that we receive, and are ably supported and challenged by our governors to ensure that we are budgeting appropriately and within our means. However, as a school, we are not immune to the constraints that most schools nationally are experiencing. We will continue to allocate our funds carefully to ensure that we can continue to build on our successes. I would like to thank those parents that contribute to the school through the Presdales Educational Trust, and would ask those who have not signed up to this valuable financial support to consider doing so.

New Developments for 2017-2018

We are seeking to improve our facilities and resources in the school. I am pleased to announce that the governors have agreed to the building of an all-weather pitch on our school field. We are at an early stage with this venture and will start the planning for this project in earnest in September. We have agreed that the building of the pitch should be at zero cost to the school, so all of the money will need to be raised through grants and fundraising ventures. We would also like to create outside covered areas with seating for the students.

Staffing

We would like to say thank you to those staff that are leaving us at the end of this term. We wish them well for the future. I am pleased to say that we are fully staffed for the next academic year.

Mrs Clarke	PE technician/Cover supervisor	Career change
Mr Beckley	Maths	Moving abroad
Mr Lee	RE (HOD) ITT Lead	Moving to a school in Cambridgeshire as the Director of Teaching Education with the Cam Academy Trust
Ms Dickson	History	Moving to a school in Hertfordshire as Teacher of History
Mrs Wright	Receptionist	Moving to a school in Hertfordshire



Mrs Looker	Geography (HOD)	Moving to another school in Hertfordshire as Head of Geography
Ms Bray	RE	Moving to a school in Oxford as Teacher of RE
Mrs Wilkins	Psychology	Moving to a school in Shropshire as teacher of Psychology
Ms Brown	History/English	Moving to a school in Suffolk as teacher of History
Ms Cheetham	Music	Moving to a school in Surrey as Head of Music
Mrs Bourne	SEN support	Retiring
Mr Levy	Maths	Retiring
Mrs Williams	Science	Retiring
Mrs Beran	French assistant	Retiring
Mrs Gray	Admin support	Retiring
Mrs Hewkin	Maths assistant	Retiring
Mr James	Physics technician	Retiring
Mrs Smith	SEN support	Retiring

Behaviour for Learning Policy

You may already be aware from your child that we are launching a new behaviour for learning policy in September. There is a greater emphasis on rewards and celebrating what the students are doing well. For those few students that do stretch the boundaries, there are clearer consequences. There may be times when your child is given a consequence such as a detention. I would ask that you support us by ensuring that your child attends any detentions that are set. If your child has raised concerns about a consequence that has been given, please seek clarification from the school first before assuming that your child's version of events is factually correct.

A small number of girls continue to have ear rings in the upper part of the ear. These are not appropriate and should not be worn. We will not accept the excuse that there is a six-week healing process for such ear rings before they can be taken out.

The inappropriate use of mobile phones in school is becoming increasingly challenging to deal with. The new policy states that any mobile phone that is seen in the school building will be confiscated until the end of the day. Students are allowed to use mobiles in lessons if a member of staff deems it appropriate, e.g. taking photos of work on the board. Students will still be able to use their mobiles outside of the school buildings, but will need to ensure that they have them in their bags when taking them outside. We envisage that a number of the students will find this change a challenge in September, and we ask for your support with this. Contacting your child during lesson times is not helpful; if you wish to get an urgent message to your child please contact our office staff and they will pass on the message.

Recent studies have shown that an increasing number of young people are spending too long in front of a screen, whether this is a phone, tablet or television. At a recent training session I attended, a leading medical expert shared the following advice for schools and parents:

- Establish rules as to when a child can use their devices
- Monitor the amount of time spent and the content of what they are looking at
- Students shouldn't be using a device before bedtime, as the blue light emitted tells your brain to wake up, not sleep. They will also wake themselves up in the night to check their messages
- Don't use your phone as your alarm in the morning

- Turn the house Wi-Fi off at night
- Have screen-free dinners
- Discourage multi-tasking e.g. using social media apps whilst revising or completing homework

It is not for me to tell parents the boundaries that they should have with mobile phones, we are merely offering advice. One Year 7 recently told us that she did not have her phone for one week, when she got her phone back there were over three thousand messages in one group chat alone. Many of the students feel under pressure to be in such groups and to constantly respond.

The new Behaviour for Learning Policy will be on our school website for the beginning of term in September.

End of Term Arrangements

Please be reminded that term ends on Friday 21st July at 12.35pm. We would be grateful if all students are off site by 1.15pm.

September 2017

Terms starts for Year 7 and 12 on Wednesday 6th September, with all year groups being in from Thursday 7th September onwards.

I wish you a pleasant and safe summer.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Warren
Headteacher