

Presdales News



APRIL 2014
SPRING TERM
ISSUE 1

Headmistress' Welcome

I should like to start by thanking you all for your excellent support this past term. We were very pleased with the results of the Year 11 mock examinations and we wish all our students the very best with both their revision and their public examinations which will be beginning shortly.

I should also like to thank you for your support for our many extra-curricular activities. We enjoyed an excellent production of "Arabian Nights" which included large numbers of students in acting, musical and behind the scenes roles together with a team of highly dedicated staff. We were also privileged to enjoy three wonderful musical evenings: one at The Ritz which was a magical setting for our Chamber Choir's beautiful singing and two concerts here in school, the second of which highlighted the first performance of Mr Burrell's cantata, Arthur's Wood which was performed earlier this week by large numbers of primary school children at the Hertford and Ware Primary Schools' Music Festival.

Mrs J M Robinson

School Production- Arabian Nights

For our school play this year, we chose to perform "Arabian Nights", adapted by Dominic Cooke, by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

Our very large cast tackled the play with enthusiasm and gusto. Using a variety of techniques, including puppetry, masks, physical theatre, dance and music, each story was brought to life, to the delight of the audience, and indeed Shahrayer. As part of the rehearsal process, we had a puppetry workshop from an expert puppeteer who has worked on "Warhorse" and the film "Gravity" among other projects. This exciting session gave the actors confidence and belief in the power of puppetry, as well as being great fun.

Performed in the round, and involving some audience participation, the liveliness and energy of all the cast infected the audience, who thoroughly engaged with the different ways of storytelling, willingly suspending their disbelief.

Mrs Gower



TERMLY MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

As well as the wonderful performances by the Concert Band at the South Bank and the Chamber Choir at The Ritz we have had two excellent school concerts. The first on the 13th March featured the instrumental ensembles including the Orchestra, Concert Band, String Ensemble, and Brass Group, Little Big Band, Cello Group, Clarinet Choir, Saxophone Group and the Ceilidh Band.

The second concert on 20th March featured the Junior, Senior and Chamber Choirs as well as the guitar group and oboe ensemble. The choirs gave the special first performance of Arthur's Wood, a new cantata composed by Mr Burrell.

In the summer term we look forward to a String Concert on July 3rd (6pm) a recital at St Mary's Ware on July 7th (12:30pm) and a Summer Music Event on Tuesday 15th July.

Mr Burrell



Presdales School singers perform at The Ritz Wednesday 29th January 2014

"Presdales Chamber Choir was one of only two school choirs selected to sing at The Ritz. In January they performed for Tea at the Ritz which was sold out. The girls sang magnificently throughout the evening. Many parents and staff were able to attend along with hotel guests. It was particularly heartening to have such nice comments from the hotel staff and guests. Commenting on how excellent they were, one businessman asked when the choir would be returning so he could hear them again. In between the choir sessions there were piano items from students Anna Wilson and Maddie Bryan and piano teacher Jeremy Lovell. It was a real privilege to be able to perform at such a prestigious venue."

Mr Burrell



Year 8 Science Activity Day

On Monday 3rd March, Year 8 students had a busy day in the Science Department carrying out a range of fun and challenging activities.

Zoolab visited with a display of interesting animals, including a corn snake, a hissing cockroach, a tarantula, a giant African land snail and a rather large millipede! Students learned how each animal was adapted to survive in its unique habitat and also learned about classification within the animal kingdom.

Mrs Walsh



PRESDALES WINS THE MAGISTRATES' MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

On Saturday 8th March a team of 18 girls from Presdales School, Ware attended Stevenage Magistrates' Court to take part in a National Mock Trial Competition organised by the Citizenship Foundation in conjunction with the Magistrates' Association of Great Britain.

The object of the competition is to give students a taste of the Criminal Court System and allow them to become Barristers, Witnesses, Legal Advisers, Ushers and Magistrates for the day.

The schools taking part are sent a case to study and this year it was about handling stolen goods when a young person purchased a bicycle from a group of youths in the street. Did she know that the bike had been stolen?

The girls, supported by some of their parents, took part in two heats and were very successful. They won against strong competition and will go forward to a Regional Final on Saturday 17th May 2014.

The senior Resident Judge from St Albans Crown Court presented the trophy to Presdales and commented on the very high standards of advocacy of the contestants. The girls were all presented with a certificate and a voucher for £10.

Annabelle McCulloch, one of the team who acted as a Barrister said "It was a scary experience but we were all thrilled when we won!"

Mrs Dale



News from Art & Photography

Every month, the Art teachers select a range of students who have shown great progress, enthusiasm and commitment to Art / Photography. This new scheme was started last year with only Year 10 students and has now grown to every year being selected for a prize each month. The prize winners' work is then mounted and displayed in the reception area for visitors, students and parents to admire. The students each receive a certificate and a prize for their hard work.

Artists of the Month for February and March 2014:-

Year 7 Deniz Isingor & Samantha Fisher
Year 8 Renate Lush & Maisie Mautterer
Year 9 Emma Thorne & Millicent Robinson
Year 10 Olivia Hart, Georgina Hale, Elsie Spalding, Lucy Lilly, Jessica Harris & Elizabeth Withers
Year 11 Amy Roberts, Evalyn Golby Solomon & Georgina Bottle
Year 12 Courtney King & Katherine Burgess
Year 12 Photographers: Hayley Warrington & Emily Tingey
Year 13 Bethany Weibel & Olivia Gannon

Mrs Francis

Artists of the Month work for March 2014 (below)



Year 10 Printmaking Workshop

On Friday 14th March, we were very fortunate in having a local print maker, Tania Durrant, come and run workshops for our 51 Year 10 GCSE Art students. She demonstrated dry point etching techniques and assisted the students in making several beautiful prints each to add to their coursework portfolios. It was a very successful day and we were delighted to be interviewed and photographed by the local newspaper to celebrate this occasion.

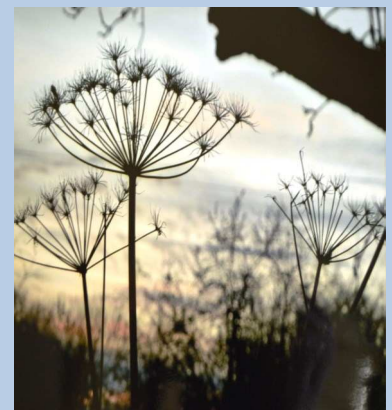


Presdales School Photography Competition for the Spring Term 2014

This competition entitled 'OUR ENVIRONMENT' was open to the whole school and received over 70 entries. We were so pleased by the effort everyone had put into their photos in their free time. Thank you to everyone who entered. After careful consideration, we have chosen 6 winners and have highly recommended 6 students. The winner will have their photo professionally framed and displayed in the mansion house.

The overall winner is KIERA MURPHY YEAR 7 (Kiera's work is illustrated below).

The other 5 winners are:
LUCY HOWELLS YEAR 8
EMMA THORN YEAR 9
SHONA COSTELLO YEAR 12
HAYLEY WARRINGTON YEAR 12
COURTNEY KING YEAR 12



End of Year Examinations

Years 7, 8 and 9 will sit examinations in all their academic subjects during the week of Monday June 2nd to Friday June 6th. There will be no lessons during this week.

Year 10 examinations will take place over 2 weeks from Monday June 2nd to Friday June 13th. Year 10 pupils are given study leave during this period and will only attend school when they have written or language oral examinations.

New Developments in Key Stage 4 Careers Education at Presdales

This year we are again planning an exciting new addition to our Careers curriculum in Year 10. The week of the 16th - 20th June 2014 is to be given over entirely to a programme entitled 'Pathways to the Future'. The week will consist of a whole variety of talks and activities, as well as a day trip to Oxford (free of charge), all of which will be connected to your daughter's future career choices.

We hope to cover a large number of very diverse and different careers and to this end have enlisted the help of many local and national enterprises and organisations who have agreed to come into school during that week, as well as some professional companies who specialise in careers education. Further details will be provided after the Easter holidays.

Mrs Read

Details of the Summer Public Examination Timetable will be available to view on our website by the end of April 2014 . www.presdales.herts.sch.uk

TERMLY PE NEWS

It has been a full packed term in the PE department with excellent effort and commitment from all the girls in a variety of different sports. Clubs have been well attended in preparation for different matches and tournaments against other schools. The Gifted and Talented Club on a Tuesday morning is being well attended and on the 25th of March was visited by Jeanette Kywakye, a GB sprinter, who talked to us about being an elite athlete and took some of the sprinters for a training session at Wodson Park.

School Team Achievements

Our Senior Swimming Team qualified for the Nationals at Crystal Palace earlier in the season. Ashley Ransome (Cpt), Amy Riddick, Hayley Warrington and Beth Fitzimmons competed in the Freestyle Relay and the Medley Relay, where they finished 7th and 11th respectively.



The Senior Rugby Team played in the Berkhamsted Invitational 7'S tournament and finished 8th out of 25 teams. This was a remarkable achievement as there were a lot of players who were new to the sport.

The Year 8 Hockey Team have had a very successful season. They were runners up in the County Hockey League – losing narrowly to Queenswood in the final 1-0. They represented Hertfordshire in the Regional Schools and they have finished off their season with a win at the Lea Valley Hockey Tournament. We are looking forward to seeing what they can achieve next year!

The Year 7 Sportshall Team became County Champions at the Herts School Games on the 18th March at



Wodson Park. Outstanding individual and team performances meant that they secured first place by nearly 30 points over St Albans.



Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders (Years 10-13) are continuing to gain experience in their role by going out coaching and officiating at a number of different events and competitions. They are also going into Primary Schools and coaching different age groups of children in a variety of sports. They have been a credit to the school.

Squash sensation, Amber Marshall (Year 9) is now ranked 10th in England for Under 15s. Alisa De Biasi in Year 10 is competing at Regional Level for Trampoline and National Level for Double Mini Trampoline. Sian Hulse (Year 11) in her golf is currently a 7 handicap playing for Mill Green, playing for the County Junior and Ladies teams.

Nicole Parcell (Year 9) is currently competing at National Level in Athletics. In the East of England she is 1st for Pentathlon, Shot and Hurdles. She is 3rd in the South of England Region for Pentathlon and her aim this year is to compete for England. Watch this space.....

Grace Harvey in Year 11 is currently part of the 'Home Nations Talent Programme' for Swimming and funded through Hertfordshire Talented Athlete Program based from the University of Hertfordshire. She competes for Hoddesdon Swimming Club and is currently 8th in the World for 200m in S7 category, and in the top 15 for her other events. Her forthcoming competitions are the European Qualifying Championships in Glasgow during Easter Weekend and the British Disability Internationals in July at Sheffield. We wish her all the best.

Achievements outside school

There are many more achievements and thanks to our new 'Presdales PE' Facebook page, you will now be able to see forthcoming events, achievements and photographs on a daily basis. Please feel free to join this page so you can keep up to date with what the girls are up to and if there are any achievements outside school that we don't know about, please message me with the information about the tournament/competition (with a photo if you have one) so I can update our pupils' achievements.

Dance Evening

We are lucky to have a lot of talented dancers at Presdales who have recently competed in regional and national competitions with their Dance Troops, in a variety of genres. These exceptional dancers choreographed routines for this year's 'Lights, Camera, Action' Movie themed dance production, which took place on the 27th and 28th of March. A brilliant evening was enjoyed by all.



Miss Seaman

Cultural Day for Yr 12 linguists on Thursday 13th February 2014

This special day for AS linguists was filled with very interesting activities which covered... the history of post-war Germany and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the history and geography of Québec in French-speaking Canada, some important aspects of Russian history from the late 19th century until present, geographical aspects of Spain and a presentation by students about Valencia.

Our very capable modern language assistants had a considerable in-put by delivering presentations and adding their expertise as native speakers to this day "away from the textbook". Thank you to everyone, who made this day such a success.



Mrs Batters

Important Dates/Forthcoming Events

Summer Term begins: Wednesday 23rd April
Monday 5th May: School closed (bank holiday)
Monday 26th May-Friday 30th May: Half Term
Term ends: Friday 18th July, 1:45pm

Thursday 3rd July– String Concert 6pm
Friday 11th July– Sports Day PM
Tuesday 15th July– Summer Music Event

For a more comprehensive list of important dates/events for the Summer Term please visit our website.

Charity update

Presdales School is pleased to announce that we have raised the sum of £1,680 for our new charity Diabetes UK.



Please visit our website for more details of forthcoming School charity events.

Year 7 Residential Adventure Mathematics Trip to Bembridge, Isle of Wight

As I am sure you are aware, residential courses are an invaluable part of the National Curriculum. The Mathematics Activity course is a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for Year 7 pupils. This year we travelled to the Kingswood Centre, Bembridge on the Isle of Wight which provided the girls with the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom and into the world at large. We used adventure sessions as a basis and inspiration for the Mathematics National Curriculum. The pupils took part in many activities, including archery, climbing, 3G swing/ zip wire, problem-solving, quad bikes/go karts, orienteering and numerous mathematical linked activities. Some pictures from the trip can be seen below. A trailer video of the trip can be viewed on the school website.

www.presdales.herts.sch.uk

Miss Clarke



Ski Trip 2014

During the February half term we took over 70 girls skiing to Aprica in Italy. Girls differed in their range of skiing ability, but soon took to the slopes in different groups, some on the advanced black runs and others on the nursery slopes but all thoroughly enjoying the experience. We were fortunate to have good weather conditions throughout the trip, including a couple of snowy days!

The girls also enjoyed the evening entertainment, which included a visit to a pizzeria where there was karaoke and a bingo night at the hotel. We are already looking forward to next year's ski trip to Switzerland which is now fully subscribed.

A trailer video of this year's ski trip is available to view on the school website which was produced by Miss Cheetham.

Visit www.presdales.herts.sch.uk.

Miss Seaman

