



Pensby High School

Irby Road, Heswall, Wirral.
CH61 6XN

T 0151 342 0570

F 0151 342 0571

E schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk
www.pensbyhighschool.org

Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

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Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and New Year and you have had chance to enjoy time together as a family.

The new term has started and we are currently testing students as I write this and we are already seeing positive cases. Can I ask that you please continue to test at home twice a week after the initial test at school. If you test positive, please remember that the guidance around self-isolation has changed and you can test with an LFT on days 6 and 7, but at least 24 hours apart and if both these tests are negative, and you have no symptoms you can return to school on day 8 rather than day 10. We will issue new LFTs for home in the next few days, they will be sent home with your children as normal. Again, thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help carry out the testing at what was very short notice, it is really appreciated, thank you.

Can I also remind you that face coverings are now to be worn in classrooms and communal spaces by students, but they are not required for teachers as the Department for Education recognises that this makes teaching more difficult, however, some staff may choose to wear them. Please send your child to school with a face covering plus spares please. You would be amazed how many a child can get through when we are providing face coverings, but each time we order them we are taking funds away from other aspects of the school and this is not sustainable, please, please send your children in with face coverings.

Can I also please ask for your help with regard to uniform, mobile phones and general behaviour. Nose piercings are not accepted, we do still want students to wear the correct uniform, we will still confiscate phones if we see them, as they and their use are the most common challenge to behaviour and students are expected to wear their PE kit, and take an active part. We have seen some challenges in the last two years around the norms within the school, but I have to say that these have been far fewer than I expected and your children have really worked with the school, and supported the whole community. I think that they do this because they see the benefit in knowing what the rules are. See that we apply them as fairly as we can and that as a result we have a safe, supportive environment for them in school. In my experience the vast majority of students just want to know where they stand and why we do the things we do and it is simple why we do what we do. It is to stop the small minority who do not care about others from taking over and wrecking the day-to-day experience of your children in school.

We need your help as parents in maintaining what we have as a community worked hard to achieve. We have a small but growing group of parents who want their children to be able to use their mobile phone without challenge or consequence, to wear what they want to school, to disrupt lessons and to upset other students or staff, with the rationale being that these are difficult times. But they don't want your children to behave this way, just their own. Children see unfairness very quickly, often when it isn't even there, but always when it is. We have fairly simple rules that we sign up to when we join this community, it can be summed up easily 'treat others as you wish to be treated' and to allow this, we have rules so we all know where we stand. They don't always suit every individual at every moment, but as a community we compromise, we give a little and

we get more back. The school has not changed its expectations, its values or its ethos, because now more than ever we need to be true to who we are.

If we allow individuals to simply say no to the rules they don't like, then everyone will suffer and the students know this, because they tell us when they think something is wrong and we need that, we need you to talk at home and we need your help to keep what we have.

I think what we have suits the vast majority of our community for the vast majority of the time and I want to thank you all for your support, it makes a difference, thank you, because without support from home our students simply would not get the outcomes they deserve and that starts with attendance. Despite the highest numbers of COVID cases we have seen as a school last term, your children have had as a whole fantastic attendance:

Dates	16/09/2021	30/09/2021	14/10/2021	21/10/2021	11/11/2021	25/11/2021	09/12/2021
DfE National State funded Secondary	90.20%	86.30%	87.60%	85.70%	89.50%	87.50%	87.30%
Pensby	93.50%	92.20%	92.16%	89.23%	91.55%	91.65%	91.80%
Difference	↑ 3.3%	↑ 5.9%	↑ 4.6%	↑ 3.5%	↑ 2.1%	↑ 4.2%	↑ 4.5%

Dates	25/11/2021	09/12/2021
Wirral Secondary Schools	89.30%	87.90%
Pensby	91.65%	91.80%
Difference	↑ 2.4%	↑ 3.9%

This will make a difference, this will help our Year 11 students get further than some of their peers, please talk to your children in Year 11 as it is difficult and they do not always see what they have achieved.

This attendance will mean that gaps in other year groups are smaller and quite simply, the more a student attends school, the easier they find it, the more friends they have, the stronger the relationships, the more they learn and the more they get from school. To do this we need your continued support to ensure they are here onsite at 8.35, so they are on time and ready to learn.

There are around 650,000 students in any given year group in English schools and they are competing for grades, post 16 places, apprenticeships and work. In terms of attendance your children are more than holding their own at the moment, so in terms of school and you at home, we must be doing something right together, but even more so, your children are. Thank you, for your support for school and that which you give to your children, it makes a difference and whilst I would like every child, in every school to be in everyday, it is your children who are my responsibility and they are doing brilliantly.

It is going to be a long term and we are going to see children and staff away from school, we might not be able to teach all the children all of the time, we might lose the canteen service, things might not go smoothly, but on the other hand, we have you and your children. I would have this school over any other school I have been a part of, every day of the week and it is because of our school community. So, whilst it might be a long term, we will get through it, we will be stronger at the end of it and we will hold to our values, because every member of our community is equally valued and we can rely on so many of you for support and because our students, your children are brilliant, thank you.

Yours faithfully



Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher