



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

17 December 2018

Dear Parent and Carer

As this term draws to a close and we are reaching the end of 2018 I would like to thank you for all the support you have given to the school over the last year.

Pensby High School is now in its fourth year as a mixed school and during this time we have made considerable strides in improving the school. I feel very fortunate to be the Headteacher of a school with such good pupils, a dedicated and capable staff and I am well supported by the governing body who give so freely of their time. The pupils in the school continue to respond positively to good quality teaching and standards are rising as a result. Academic progress in the school has improved markedly and the 2018 GCSE outcomes for our pupils were better than their peers nationally, the majority of local schools locally and the top third of schools nationally. Progress in the key subjects (e.g. English, maths, science, history and geography) were above average. The progress made by disadvantaged pupils, students allocated additional resources via the 'pupil premium', were much better than similar students locally and nationally. The good academic progress of pupils in the school is of vital importance as it directly impacts on their ability to pursue their chosen career choices. As a result of the improved progress being made more pupils than ever are able to pursue their chosen career pathway when they leave Pensby.

Our students made fantastic progress in the GCSEs this summer. They achieved progress that was better than Weatherhead Girls (when comparing the progress of our girls), Neston High School, Woodchurch, South Wirral, Prenton, Oldershaw, Ridgeway, Bebington, St Mary's, Hilbre, Mosslands, Birkenhead Park and Kingsway. This was as a result of the hard work of all the staff in the school, you as parents and most importantly by yet another brilliant group of students who worked very hard to achieve the results that they deserved, congratulations to all of them again.

Once again I want to take this opportunity to tell you, and the students in the school, how proud of them I am. The overwhelming majority of the students have shown themselves to be a credit to both you and their school. They conduct themselves in a mature manner, are generous and considerate and these qualities are key ingredients in what makes a life successful. GCSEs are only one measurement and we are fortunate to work with some really lovely young people.

As I am sure you will be aware, schools and other public services are continuing to go through a period in which the financial resources available are reducing significantly in real terms. As I have written to you recently there is a real concern that schools will think only of their own needs rather than what is good for the community as a whole as resources are reduced. As Headteacher my priority is to ensure that I have the best quality teachers in front of classes in the school so that academic standards continue to rise. However, I would ask for your support in understanding that

the school will not be able to fund all the activities that have been possible in the past, hence asking for contributions to trips and visits and other additional activities. I would urge you to contact local MPs, councillors or sign any petition you see. It is hard to imagine what education will look like if the government's priorities do not change, a return to the 1980s and the offer made to my generation seems to be the aim. I want much more for your children, they deserve better.

However, students in the school have continued to benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular activities that have enriched their learning and increased their enjoyment of school. I believe passionately that students who participate in, and contribute to, the wider extra-curricular life of the school enjoy their time at school more and are more successful academically. Examples of these extra-curricular and cultural activities over the past year have included: The Year 11 Prom at Leasowe Castle, pupils going to Spain, a history trip currently in Berlin, Year 7 Residential, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Bronze and Silver, Futurechef, DT Stem competition, theatre trips, science competitions including reaching the final in London, visits by authors and touring theatre groups and a wide range of sports fixtures.

The last day of term is Friday 21 December 2018 and students will leave the school to go home at 12.30pm. Normal school uniform will be required on the last day of term. On the last day, students will have an opportunity for 'brunch' at breaktime and so will have had the chance to eat before they come home. It is important to note that there will be no school buses when students leave school at 12.30pm, so it is vital that arrangements for travel home have been made in advance. If any student cannot travel home I am more than happy for them to stay in school until the normal finishing time of 3.15pm. (Please let me know if this is required for your child).

Can I remind you that the new term starts on Monday 7 January 2019 at 8.40am.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all of your family a happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher