



## Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

16 December 2019

Dear Parent and Carer

As this term draws to a close and we are reaching the end of 2019 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 fifth 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 students, a dedicated and capable staff and I am well supported by the governing body who give so freely of their time. The students 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 2019 GCSE outcomes for our students were above average when compared to 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. Additionally, the latest information from the Department for Education identified that in 2019 GCSE:

- The EBacc element of Progress 8 (history, geography, science, Spanish) was significantly above the national average and in the highest 20% of all schools
- Progress in science was significantly above the national average and in the highest 20% of all schools nationally
- The percentage achieving grade 4+ in science (78%) was in the highest 20% of all schools nationally
- Progress in humanities (history and geography) was significantly above the national average and in the highest 20% of all schools
- Mathematics and English Progress 8 has improved markedly over the last five years
- The average point GCSE points score was in the highest 20% of schools nationally in child development and sport studies.

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. It is amazing how your support for even the most simple of things: phones 'not seen or heard', no energy or high sugar drinks, correct uniform and attendance to school, adds significantly to the outcomes for your children. Your children are in effect in competition with over 600,000 other children for results, places at post 16 and 18 education, apprenticeship and jobs, and the way that you send them out of the house every day is such a big component of their success. I know saying no, trying to stay on top of homework,

supporting and inspiring our children to take on challenges and not to give up is hard work, but as a headteacher I am really lucky that I have so many parents and staff who follow what is sometimes a more difficult path. It does mean though that the vast majority of our students are more than holding their own against their peers and compete at the highest level.

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.

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, students visiting Iceland, students going to Spain, a history trip to Berlin, Year 7 Residential, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Bronze and Silver, Futurechef, science STEM competitions, theatre trips, visits by authors and touring theatre groups and a wide range of sports fixtures.

The last day of term is Friday 20 December 2019 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 6 January 2020 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



**Mr K Flanagan**  
**Headteacher**