



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

End of term arrangements and key dates for August and September 2019

I want to start this letter by thanking you for all your support over this year; can I ask you to pass on these thanks to your children as well.

The year has had many highlights which have included:

- Amy Bennett finishing runner up in the Frank Moran Young Writers Competition, competing with students across the whole Merseyside region
- Hannah Pyle and Will Croft represented the school at the national 'Big Bang' STEM competition at the Birmingham NEC
- The Christmas talent show featuring pupils from every year group in the school
- The continued expansion of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, leading to many complimentary emails and contact with regard to your children
- A group of Year 7 and 8 pupils undertaking the scholar's programme through the Brilliant Club in partnership with Sheffield University and Manchester University
- The Year 11 Prom held at the Leasowe Castle Hotel
- A successful year 10 work experience with our students receiving wonderful feedback
- Year 7 rugby and athletic success, with the Year 8 hard on their heels and then really marvellous individual success at Wirral School Athletics, with students beating all their peers across the schools including in events they had never entered before
- The largest number of pupils wanting to join the school in Year 7 since the schools merged to form Pensby High School
- Not to forget the trips and visits in the UK and overseas, theatre performances in school and out, plus one in Spanish and the endless, boundless, enthusiasm and energy that so many young people together bring – to be honest, it is the life they bring every day that keeps schools across the country moving forward; it is a privilege to work in a school.

Funding of schools continues to be a significant pressure and the school has to compete with everyone else to obtain our 'fair share' of the resources available. It is really pleasing to be able to let you know that I met with Mike Woosey from the local authority and he has confirmed that the local authority will replace the roof at a cost of around half a million pounds and we are currently in the process of obtaining quotes to have all of the old windows replaced by the local authority, again this will be at a significant cost. This is a substantial investment in the site by the local authority and I am very grateful for this.

End of Term Arrangements.

Term ends on Wednesday 24 July 2019, students will finish at 12.20pm and make their way home after being registered. Please would you be aware that the only buses that will be available will be normal service buses; school buses will not run at the time students are departing for home. Therefore, it is essential that all

students have made appropriate arrangements for their journey home on the last day of term. If for any reason these arrangements present specific difficulties then please would you contact the school in advance so that appropriate provision can be made for your child. We will of course keep children in school and safe until 3.15pm. However, I am sure that every student would want to begin their summer holiday as soon as that final bell goes.

KEY DATES:

Examination Results:

External examination results will be available for students on the following dates:

- AS and A Level Examination: Thursday 15 August 2019
- GCSE Level Examinations: Thursday 22 August 2019

Result slips will be available for collection from 9am in the Sixth Form block on these dates. Can I remind parents/carers that the school cannot give out results over the phone or email results. If you are away on these dates and you would like the results posting to your home, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope and confirmation letter into school and we can post these out for you.

We wish everyone the best of luck with their examination results this year. I have to say that the way students in every year group conducted themselves in end of year and external examinations has been a credit to them and if commitment, and application are anything to go by, results will be strong again this year. The Year 11 students in particular were outstanding in their attitude to the examinations.

New Term Arrangements

Year 7 start school on Tuesday 3 September 2019, please make sure that students are in the main school hall by 8.30am on the first day. Year 7 will spend the day getting to know each other, find their way around the school and make sure that they understand routines such as the dining hall. Year 7 will then go to early lunch for the remainder of the week so that they have time to get to know our systems.

Years 8 – 11 start school on Wednesday 4 September 2019 at 8.40 am and they will go to form for the first periods of the day and then go straight into lessons from period 2.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind you of my letter dated 25 June 2019 and with regard to the Tour of Britain in September. The Tour may mean that we need to make changes to the start and finish times of the school day on Wednesday 11 September; however, we will not know the details of the route, the time they pass close by school, road closures etc. until late in August. Please do mark your calendars for possible changes to the school day or indeed an enforced closure.

As we return to school I would be grateful if you would ensure that we have the correct uniform and equipment ready to start the new school. Your support in this matter is very much appreciated. Full details of the school uniform can be found on the school website: <http://www.pensbyhighschool.org/search/school-uniform/58942.html> . The tone for the year is set in those first few weeks back and we face another long term, 15 school weeks. Students will be tired by Christmas, but what we bring to school as our attitude and commitment in September is what carries us through; you are absolutely key in setting the tone. I cannot overstate the importance your support plays in the success of our children.

There is a very simple, but direct correlation when we map out students results with our data on attendance, students' and parents' engagement with school and learning, support from home for uniform etc.. Uniform is important for a shared sense of community, an obvious pride in who we are as individuals and the school

we go to, but at an even more basic level it is about routines and preparation. If we cannot put a pair of shoes on, or we want to argue about the length of a skirt, this tends to be a precursor to arguing about lessons and learning. I have to say that our students do, on the whole, look great and they take this into everything they do at school and it is a testimony to the effort that you put in as parents and I am grateful, thank you. I do know though that the expense of uniform can be a barrier and I am more than willing to help. Please just write to me and explain how we can help, and whilst we do not have unlimited funds, I do set aside a small amount every year for this purpose.

Your engagement with your child's education, asking them questions, challenging them to do better and the interest you show are a huge part of the success of the school. We cannot as parents 'fix' things for our children, we cannot do the learning for them, but I promise you that your children tell us about the difference your interest in them and their learning makes to them.

I have to say that your children are an absolute credit to you. I have never received emails from random members of the public praising students on Duke of Edinburgh before this year, the Year 11s who attended the prom were a delight – just really lovely young people, I was so proud of them. We have had positive feedback about your children from every event we have hosted or sent students to this year, and that includes every year group. As a Headteacher it is lovely to see the hard work of our staff, parents and children acknowledged in this way. It isn't measurable, there are no percentages for manners and care for others, but your children have these qualities and we are much better as both the school community and our wider community for it, thank you.

I am proud and privileged to have the opportunity to lead the school your children attend. They are a credit to you and themselves, we are all immensely proud of them and they deserve a good summer, as do you. Being a parent isn't easy and there are no quick answers, but the support we have, simply being left to do our job, from the vast majority of our parents helps to let all of your children grow to be successful adults in our care.

I hope that you have a lovely summer and enjoy all the time you have together as a family.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher