



## Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

This is just a short note to keep you up-to-date with where we are at the moment. Obviously last Monday's announcement from the Prime Minister sits in stark contrast to all the information shared with parents and schools right through Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2021. As you can imagine, the constant changes and demands made by the Department for Education mean that we are slightly on the back foot, with most of the last two weeks being spent on plans for mass testing. However, this is nowhere near the change that primary colleagues or you as parents have had to endure in the last few hours.

Lessons started this morning on TEAMS at 8.50am and will follow the normal timetable pattern, there are though a few complications. We are spending hours and I do mean hours resetting passwords for TEAMS, not all of these requests will be completed by the end of the day. Can I ask please, that when your children reset their TEAMS password, you write this down and keep the new password somewhere safe.

We also have a growing list of staff who are unwell, self-isolating or who have contracted COVID19. This is an ever changing picture and staff will try to teach from home as long as they are well enough to do so, but there will inevitably be lessons that staff cannot teach, this should, however, be kept to a minimum. Please bear with us and use the Oak Academy or any of the resources we have shared with you previously if this happens at short notice. Equally core PE lessons will be worksheets and not interactive, so please follow the work set on TEAMS.

Tesco vouchers will be ordered for all students in receipt of free school meals and sent out via email. Unfortunately I cannot support a wider group of parents via pupil premium as we previously did, we simply do not have the resource to do so.

I also just wanted to touch on the examinations for the current Year 11. It is not clear to me what was meant with regard to examinations in last night's announcement. **We have not been told that examinations have been cancelled**, just that there will be some form of 'alternative arrangements', currently we do not know what this means. Equally, vocational examinations over the next few weeks are to go ahead in schools, under normal exam conditions – **SO PLEASE ENSURE THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE EXAMS TO SIT NEXT WEEK ATTEND SCHOOL FOR THAT EXAM.** If there are any changes to this series of examinations or confirmation with regard to the summer, I will write to you.

Lastly, I asked for volunteers to help with mass testing yesterday afternoon. Whilst sometimes I despair at the decisions made by our politicians and I fear for the education of our children when left in their hands, I am always comforted by the kindness and generosity of the people in our community. By yesterday evening 34 people had volunteered, this included Grandparents in their 70s, NHS staff and care workers who offered to give up their days off or take annual leave and what seemed impossible for the school to do, became possible.

So much of my time and that of other senior and pastoral staff is taken up by a small group of people that are determined to grab more for themselves, but yesterday serves as a timely reminder for me, that it is not politicians that will get us through these times, it is our community and the kindness of strangers. It

is so many of you doing the right thing, offering support in so many ways and thinking of others. I am always proud to be the Head here, but the aspect I am most proud of is always our community and the people within it.

Thank you again for all your support. Please take care in the coming weeks and hopefully we will all be back in school by the end of February.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr K Flanagan  
Headteacher