



## 'Head' Lines

*Headteacher's welcome - Friday 24th November 2023*



*1 - Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan*

Welcome to this week's newsletter 'Head' Lines. We hope that you found the first edition useful and informative.

We have had a very busy week with lots of events going on. It was great to see staff and students marking Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week. This was alongside various events supporting our drive to improve standards in literacy with Book week and Spelling Bee.

In addition, we often hear in the news of young people getting it wrong and sometimes it seems that they get little praise. I just wanted to share some news where Year 8 students from Pensby High School who were praised for their exemplary conduct after an unfortunate incident saw the Shakespeare North Theatre cancel the production. We have had several members of the public contact us with commendations on how well they behaved and even entertained themselves and members of the public with an impromptu show. I have attached the correspondence from members of the public below.

Parents and students often ask about what happens on In-Service Training days or Inset Days or in twilight sessions.

In the section called 'Behind the lines' we will try to give you a taste of what staff both teaching and support do here at Pensby High School. On Tuesday, in our twilight session, staff undertook a wide range of training from SEND to Positive Behaviour Management.

#### [Important Events in the month of November](#)

Our students in Year 11 are preparing for their Mock Examinations starting on Monday 27th November. You will see that there is a section in this newsletter for parents and we have links to the mock exam timetable.

I wish you all a very good few weeks ahead and all the successes that they can bring!

Have a great weekend,

With kindest regards,

Mr K Flanagan  
Headteacher

Good afternoon,

I would be most grateful if you will please pass my comments on to your Headteacher, staff and pupils who were recently (8/12) on a trip out.

On Wednesday 8th December, with my brother, I visited the Shakespeare North Theatre in Prescott to see The Book of Will. We had already been very impressed by the way the pupils entered the auditorium and settled quickly in their seats. No-one could have foreseen that everyone would shortly be asked to leave their seat and the matinee performance would ultimately have to be cancelled.

We simply had to make contact to say how hugely impressed we were by how the pupils and staff dealt with the situation. No one knew it would be well over an hour before the show was cancelled. Aided by dry weather, it was a master stroke of the staff to take the pupils to the outdoor ready made Ken Dodd tiered seating area. Moments later they were staging their own show. They did this with obvious enjoyment, enthusiasm and great respect for the unusual situation and each others' efforts.

We were able to get evening tickets and returned to see a magnificent show but we were just so sorry your brilliant pupils didn't get to see it.

By chance, we met and spoke twice with Mr Hogg, before and after events, but wished to put our comments in writing. As two retired teachers, we well understand the need to be able to field curveballs! Huge [congratulations](#) to the staff and pupils involved.

Kind regards,

Jan & Bill Wolfenden

#### *2 - Praise for Pensby Pupils*



The Headteacher,  
Pensby High School,  
Irby Road,  
Pensby,  
Wirral.

Dear Mr Flanagan, I am writing to you after attending The Shakespeare North Theatre, in Prescot, this afternoon ( I am now enjoying the delights of part-time working after 40 years in education). Obviously, you will know from staff that due to a medical emergency the play was unfortunately cancelled after a long delay and that must have disappointed the pupils greatly, especially as, for many, this would have been their first real taste of the theatre. However, I must commend the behaviour of all the pupils who entertained themselves in good spirits in the outdoor space at the side of the theatre whilst being fully monitored by a very professional group of staff.

I know that far too often people are quick to criticise and so it is only fair when you see good things then these are commented on as well. I hope that there is some way that your Year 8s can be rewarded in some way to make up for their disappointment.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Patrick White".

Patrick White (Secretary, St Helens National Education Union)

## ***Useful Information***

[Term dates 2023-24](#)

[Key diary dates](#)

[Letters home](#)

[School uniform policy](#)

[Employment opportunities at Pensby High School](#)



## *Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week*



Last Friday 17th November we marked Odd Socks Day as part of our focus on Anti-Bullying.

It was great to see both staff and pupils taking part.

Our approach at Pensby High School is to remember the **STOP** approach.

We approach incidents of Bullying as...

**Several**

**Times**

**On**

**Purpose**

We encourage anyone affected to then..

**Start**

**Telling**

**Other**

**People**

If you have any concerns about bullying and or any forms of racism, discrimination, intolerance then please contact the school. The first point of call should be the Head of Year or the Form Tutor.

Mr C Griffiths (Assistant Headteacher) is the lead designate for Anti-Bullying.



# TACKLE BULLYING

## Remember STOP

**Bullying is behaviour that:**

- means to hurt, frighten or upset someone
- keeps happening (STOP)
- happens on purpose
- targets someone because of who they are, how they look or what they do.

**Several Times On Purpose**

**Start Telling Other People**

**STOP Bullying**

If you are a target of bullying behaviour or you witness it, Report this in confidence to our email address  
Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors  
Or to any member of teaching staff. You could start with your form tutor or a member of the Pastoral Team.

**How can YOU help someone?**

TOGETHER - WE WILL TACKLE BULLYING.

**ONE KIND WORD**

At Pensby High School, we have incredibly high standards and do not tolerate poor behaviour. The standards and expectations below are to ensure good order within our school so that all pupils are able to learn in a safe and secure environment.

**PENSBY HIGH SCHOOL**  
Pursuing Progress

At Pensby High School we support RIGHTS, RESPECT, EQUALITY

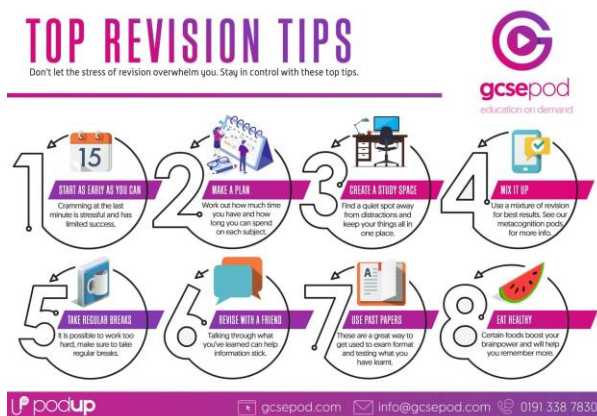
### 3 - STOP Bullying

*Several Times On Purpose*



## Mock Examinations Monday 27th Nov - Wed 13th Dec 2023

### #mocksmatter



Mock Examination timetable: [Click here](#)

[Mock Exam Schedule](#)

GCSE Information for Year 10 and 11 Students:

<https://www.pensbyhighschool.org/parents/gcse-information/>

Here are the top 10 ways to help your child revise for GCSE.

10 GCSE revision tips for parents

### **1. Help them create a revision timetable.**

Having a revision timetable helps the student cover the content in the syllabus (exam specification). They will need to organise their timetable by including not only their GCSE subjects but also the specific topics in each subject. This is a good way to ensure they've planned their revision so they can cover all the content over time. If they are struggling with creating a revision timetable, help them with it.

We have gone through revision timetables / schedules in last Friday's assembly (Friday 17th Nov).

Parents....Keep a copy of the revision timetable for yourself or just ensure that it's boldly displayed where they study. Then occasionally, check in to see that they are following the timetable.

### **2. Bitesize Revision**

You cannot revise Maths. Think about how big the topic is.

You can revise Algebra or Trigonometry.

You may remember, for those of a certain age...the BBC adverts of how would you eat an Elephant... ?

It is a bit bizarre but experts advise that you should break revision into small and manageable chunks.

Clearly...you wouldn't eat an elephant - but you get my point. Revision should be in bitesize chunks.

If they are studying History - Get them to say to you that... I am revising 'Hitler's rise to dictatorship'.

### **3. Ensure they have a distraction-free study space**

Exam time is highly stressful. With huge specifications to cover over several different subjects. Plus, students getting to grips with learning how to revise. Your child will need a quiet space where they can focus. Whether it's in their bedroom, a study room or living room table. Make sure they have a designated space they can revise during their revision hours and there's no distractions like kids running around, television on loudly or video-games.

Just a tip....sort the revision playlist of tunes ready before they start the revision and try to avoid clicking on different songs.

### **4. Work with them to create a study routine**

Create a simple plan where your child knows what activities will be happening at different days and times of the week. It could be that they have dance classes on Tuesday, a science tutor on Thursday, English & French homework on Monday for example. Having a routine helps the child instil good habits and but also means you can check in occasionally to see how they are getting on. Many students leave routines until the last year of GCSE but I recommend starting this habit from as early as year 8.

### **5. Make sure they have all their study equipment**

During exam period, every second count. The child will want to ensure they maximise the limited amount of time they have to revise. So, it is important that not only do they have all their equipment available, but they can easily find them. Have student books, revision books, notebook, pens, highlighters etc in a place where they can easily reach them. This really helps with organisation and focus.

### **6. Make sure they get a good night's rest**



Sleep is more important than many of us think. In the long term, a lack of sleep is linked with disorders like obesity and Alzheimer's. In the short term, sleep helps your child process the study material they have learnt and improve their memory. [Research](#) has shown a relationship between sleep length and exam performance in students. Make sure your child has a night-time routine. They should stop working at a set time each night so they can unwind and relax before bed. You may also want to turn off phones and TV before bedtime as these can be huge distractions. The [national sleep foundation](#) recommends that teenagers should sleep between 8 to 10 hours a day.

## **6. Make sure they eat well**

As a busy parent, it can be easy to send your child to school with a quick pack-lunch or rely on the school's canteen. But, the last year of GCSE and the months leading up to the exams are particularly important. If you give them pack-lunch for school, make sure that they have a balanced and varied meal. If you rely on them to buy their own lunch, make sure they know the importance of healthy eating so that they make correct food choices.

## **7. Make sure they schedule in relaxation time**

With the stress around GCSE and all the studying the child has to do, we can forget to take breaks and relax. Relaxing is very important as helps the child achieve a calm and clear mind, recharge and get ready to start again full of energy. Make sure your child has scheduled in breaks in their revision timetable. It is important to have at least 5 to 15 minutes break between each study session, depending on how long they study for. They also need longer breaks so they can have dinner and spend time with family. And of course, they need times during the week for extracurricular activities or for spending time with friends. Make sure these are scheduled in the timetable also.

## **8. Instil a growth Mindset**

People having either an external or internal locus of control. People with an external locus of control tend to blame the environment ('external factors') such as their teachers, their school and other's around them for their circumstance. People with internal locus of control take responsibility for their life and make changes within themselves to effect the change that they want.

You can guess which mindset many teenagers have. Help your child to develop the right mindset. Make it clear that there are always obstacles in life but it's how we push to overcome them that matters.

## **9. Make studying fun**

Sometimes, everyone in a household can get tense and anxious around exam period. But it doesn't have to be that way. Learning can be fun! Especially with increasing online learning tools in today's day and age. Learn together with your child. Play educational games and quizzes with them.

Use post it notes - Keyword that you as a parent can see. Then you use clues for your child to guess what the keyword is.

Kahoot is a common one used in schools that students love, but there are others. This becomes fun and exciting as you both try to improve your scores to win. Offline, you can use a flashcard that your child has created to ask them questions. If you can, try and link what's going on in the world, on television and around us to what they are learning. And don't forget to reward them. If they've done well in the quiz or questions you've asked them. Give them something they like as a reward. It could be something small like their favourite drink for example. Children respond positively to rewards and it pushes them to try even harder next time.

## 10. Support them

Mocks matter! However, they are not the end of the world. They help the teacher to assess where students are at this point of the GCSE course. There is time to put it right.

It is a marathon and not a sprint!

### GCSE revision tips for parents: Final Thoughts

Good revision techniques are essential to help your child pass their GCSEs. This post is focused on GCSE revision tips for parents. As a parent, you can use the strategies here to help your child revise for their GCSE. By working with your child to use the strategies in both posts, they'll be well on their way to passing their GCSEs.

Parents make a massive difference.

## *Christmas Toy Appeal*



It is that time of year again when we are thinking about Christmas, as you know Cash for Kids run **Mission Christmas**.

Mission Christmas collects new toys to give to children who wouldn't have anything to open on Christmas day

If you can support Mission Christmas by buying a gift and bringing it into school that would be brilliant, we know that times are tough so we understand if you are unable to.

The link to their website is below, so you can have a look:

<https://cashforkids.org.uk/mission>

If you bring a gift in, please either drop this off at reception or get your child to bring it into school and hand to your form tutor or head of year.

Members of the charity action team will come and collect your gifts.

Thank you

Miss K Simons

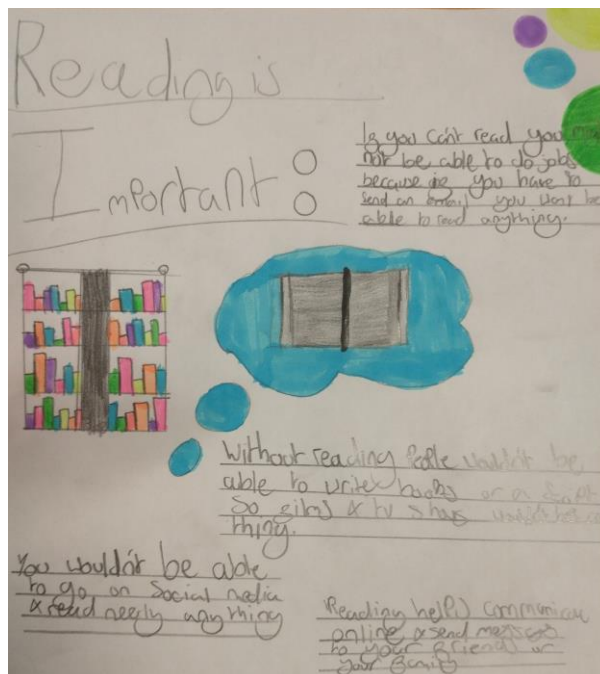
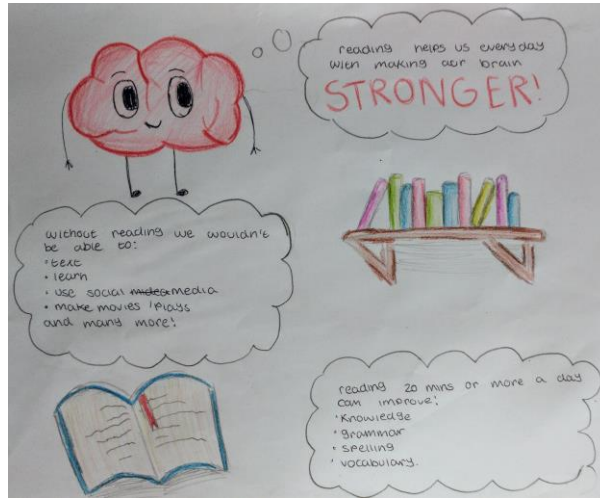
## ***Scholastic Book Fair***

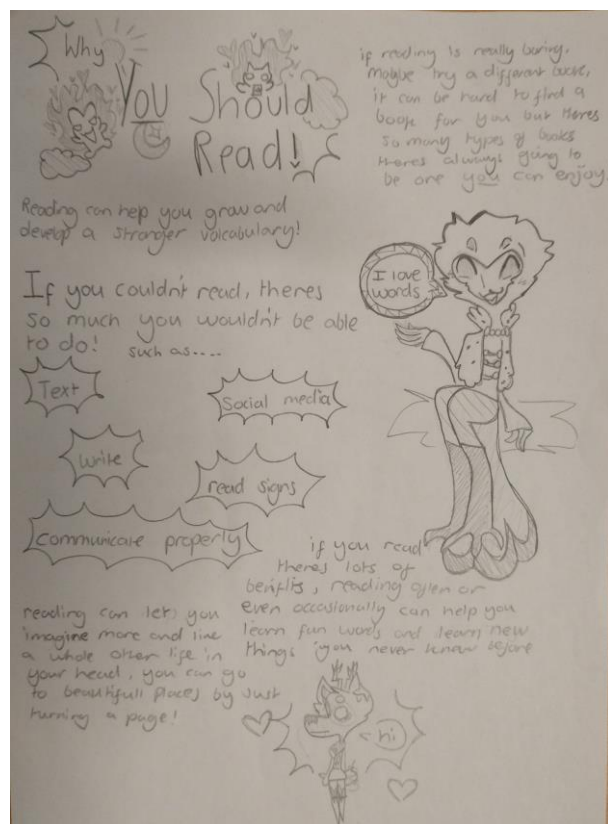
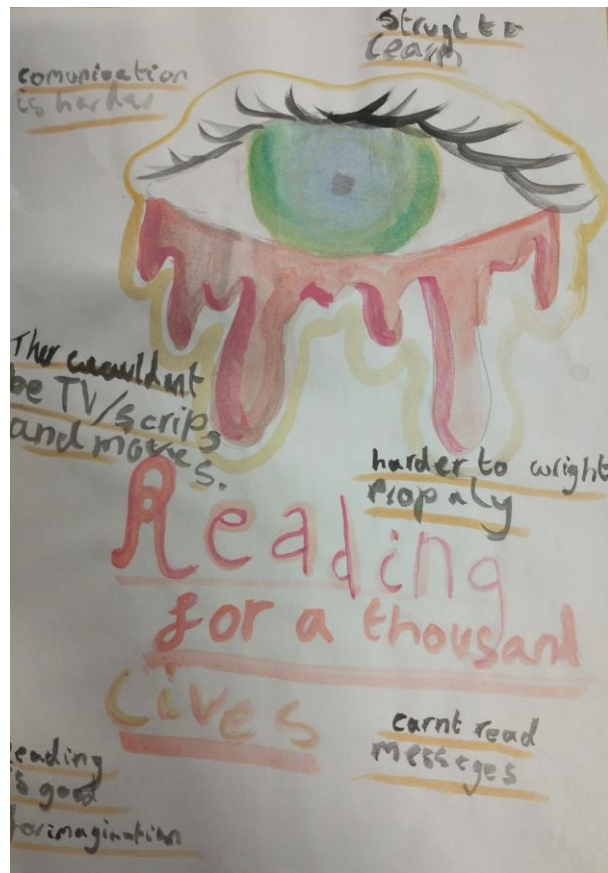
Every November we hold the Scholastic Book Fair in the Library. Three display cases of books and stationery arrive, and are available for sale all week. The fair is open at break, lunch and after school, and students are encouraged to browse and discuss what's on offer. Each sale from the fair earns the school a percentage in books for the library!

We are also given £5 vouchers to run a competition, and the lucky winners can spend them on books at the fair. This year students designed posters that included reasons why everyone should read, and they had some very valid points!









## *Poppy Appeal 2023*



This year a group of ten students were involved in the Poppy Appeal for The Royal British Legion. They worked really hard and raised £138.34. Thank you to everyone who donated, the money will make a difference.



## Spelling Bee

This week we held our first Year 7 Spelling Bee and the students did us proud! They all received a certificate for participating, and the ones that got theirs right, are through to the next round!



## Attendance focus - You may ask, 'what can I do to help?'

**Achieving excellent attendance is essential to achieving success and as such, we seek to work closely with parents, students and staff to ensure this can be realised.**

### You may ask, 'what can I do to help?'



#### Parent or Carer

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality
- taking an interest in their education – asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities
- discussing any problems they may have at school and inform their Student Support Officer to pass on concerns quickly
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during school holidays will help to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance



#### Student

- speaking to a trusted adult about the reasons why you might not want to come to school
- trying hard every morning to get up and get to school, unless you are really unwell
- getting an early night, feeling tired on a morning can make getting to school harder
- make sure you get to school on time every day

#### What do I do if my child is not well enough to come to school?

If you feel that your child isn't well enough to come to school, you need to phone and leave a message on the Student Absence Line (0151) or email us on the following:

before 8.40am. for each day a student will not be attending school with your child's name, year group and the reason why they are not in school.

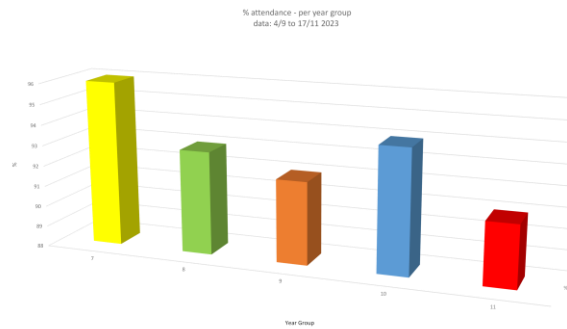
Medical appointments should be made for after school wherever possible. We will ask to see evidence of medical appointments, if your child's attendance is poor.



**PENSBY**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
Care Respect Inspire

**Attendance matters.**  
Every school day counts.





### **Attendance 2023**

School attendance 93.9%

Year 7 have an overall attendance % since 4th September 2023 of 96%

Year 11 are just above the 90% mark.

### ***British Sign Language***



"British Sign Language (SBL) club were having conversations this week coordinated by Miss K Simons. These included the topics name, emotions and weather."





# Pensby Parent Voice

As a school we aim to work in close partnership with our parents and carers, and listening to parental feedback is an important aspect of this work.

We want parents to get more involved with the school and are introducing a Parent Voice group. From January 2024, a group of parents will meet to discuss the issues that matter at Pensby High. It is envisaged that the group will meet once or maybe twice a term.

There will be a senior member of staff present at every meeting, ably supported by a dedicated secretary who will handle the communication and administration for the group.

The Parent Voice Forum will also be used by teaching staff to gauge opinion or feedback about ideas or initiatives. You can be sure that when new directives from the government or Ofsted are introduced they will be shared and discussed at the Parent Forum.

Here are some of the areas that might be discussed:

- Reporting system
- The curriculum
- Communication between school and parents
- Teaching and learning
- Behaviour
- Rewards
- Fundraising ideas
- Schools long term vision and values

**We cannot accommodate every wish....but we will use the...You Said.... We did .... approach**

You Said...	We did...
<i>We need more information that highlights the success of the school...</i>	<i>A termly newsletter will be introduced</i>

**If you are interested – please register your details on this online form.**  
**<https://forms.office.com/e/xNtd4n7h7A?origin=lprLink> or scan the QR Code**  
**Closing date 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**



Pensby High School is a great school. Our students are ambitious, our staff are specialists in their subject areas, our parents/carers are supportive and our partners enrich what we offer in and beyond the curriculum.

Link to form to sign up

<https://forms.office.com/e/xNtd4n7h7A?origin=lprLink>

## *Behind the lines*

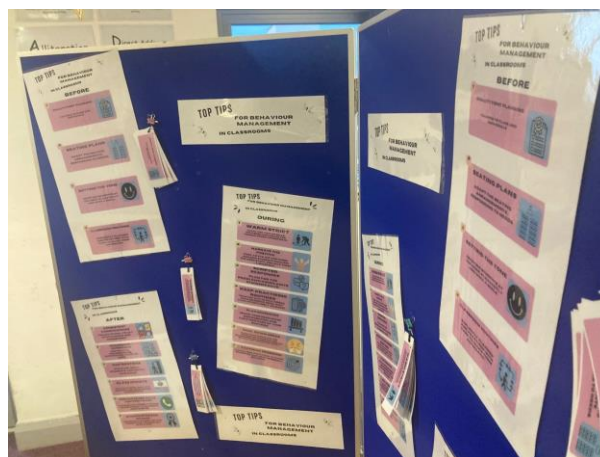


Each week we will try and take you behind the scenes here at Pensby High School with a look at what we do to improve outcomes for students.

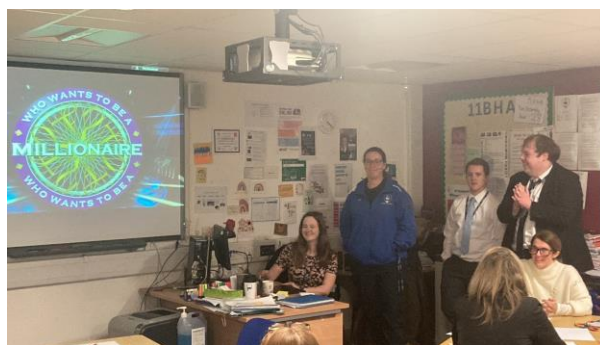
Staff training and development is wide ranging and focuses on school and wider education priorities here at Pensby High School.

Staff undertake further training and updates on Safeguarding, Child Protection, SEND, Behaviour Management and much more.

On Tuesday, staff from across a wide range of departments focused on Positive Behaviour in our monthly twilight session. You can see some of the work that staff produced.

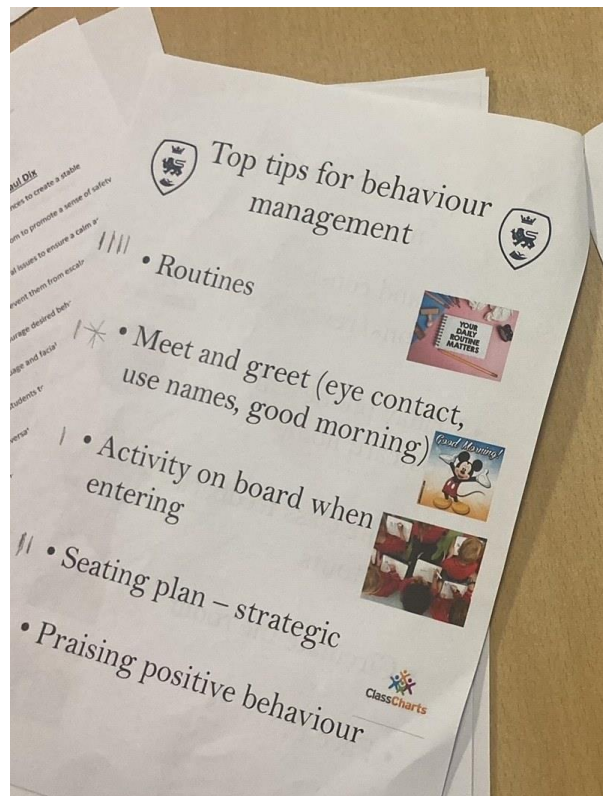






4 - Miss Grimshaw (English), Mrs Plunkett (PE) and Mr Griffiths (English) (Trainee Teacher) creatively working on how to use a popular game show in the classroom.





### ***Pensby Social Media platforms***



At Pensby High School we strongly encourage all parents to become involved in the education of their children. We are always ready to listen to suggestions for new ways of stimulating parental interest and we contact and involve parents in many ways.

**For example:**

**Newsletters** – will be sent out on a termly basis to keep parents and carers informed about the work of the school.

We will also put out a weekly 'Head' Lines newsletter.

**Letters** – further information which requires a response may be sent out in letter form.

**School website** – will contain a great deal of information about the school. It is a good idea to check this regularly.

<https://www.pensbyhighschool.org>

**Social media –**

We have a School X account formally known as Twitter account @pensbyhighsch

<https://twitter.com/pensbyhighsch>

**Instagram** <https://www.instagram.com/pensbyhighschool/>

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/PensbyHighSchool/>

**App** – We have Class Charts school app that we will use to send information and alerts.

Please download it.

There are also various planned opportunities throughout the year when parents can discuss their child's progress with school staff at parents evenings and information evenings.

Parents and carers are welcome to other events throughout the school year e.g. workshops, information evenings, class performances, award ceremonies, religious and other assemblies.

The school newsletter, X, Instagram and Facebook pages, App and website will keep you informed.

Strong communication links between home and school ensure parents and carers can confidently address any concerns they may have about their child's education with pastoral care staff and the senior leadership team.

## *Careers Guidance and Support*



On **Saturday 9 December 2023** Airbus will be holding an Apprentice Careers open day at their Broughton Site. This event is the perfect opportunity to learn all about a career with Airbus.

The event is aimed at learners over the age of 12.

### **What to expect on the day**

Airbus has a wide range of exciting apprenticeship opportunities - giving employees the opportunity to gain globally recognised qualifications all whilst learning and earning on-the-job.

The event will allow attendees to discover the wide range of programmes available from their craft and technical programmes, to degree apprenticeships.

They would like to welcome anyone with an interest in pursuing an apprenticeship with them into their impressive North Factory (home of the revolutionary A350 wing), where you will be hosted by a number of their current Early Careers population of apprentices, graduates and interns - who will be on hand to share their experience of the application process and what it's like to be part of their world leading Early Careers programmes.

Their education partners will also be there to help you understand the academic side of the apprenticeship programme, as well as the recruitment team who can support you with any application queries.

**Date: Saturday 9 December 2023**

**Time: 13.30 - 16.30**

**Venue: Airbus Main Entrance, Chester Road, Broughton, Flintshire, CH4 0DR**

**Please note:**

- **No one under the age of 12 is permitted on site**
- Limited number of places per application (please bring no more than four additional people with you)
- There is no access on site before 13:00 on the day

