



Pensby High School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Department for Education Provisional League Tables

I am writing to thank and congratulate all of last year's Year 11 and their parents for the success in their GCSEs. Students have again found that their hard work and efforts have been rewarded and there are some figures on the second page to illustrate just how well they have achieved compared to their peers.

There are though some changes in the 'league tables' this year that are in place for this set of results, summer 2025 and next summer, 2026. For the last few years, the key measure to compare schools has been Progress 8 which measures how far students have moved from their relative score in the Key Stage 2 SATS test to their GCSEs. As a result of Covid, current Year 11 and 12 did not sit the Key Stage 2 tests. As a result, the headline measure has fallen back on to pure attainment, the grades that individual students achieve and then as an average or percentage.

There is the added complication in our local authority of six fully selective schools, all girls, all boys and a school that traditionally took some of its cohort via a musical ability test; the Wirral is both a complex and unusual authority. In reality, we live in one of only 11, out of over 150 education authorities in the whole of England, that have more than 25% of students attend a selective school. In our authority it is around a third, 33%, of students in the authority in a fully selective school. This skews the number of looked after children, children in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium children and the general demographics, especially with the additional girls schools, and therefore the distribution or concentration of boys in mixed or boys only schools. In effect, we are very different to schools in the Liverpool City Region and Chester and Cheshire West, where schools tend to have a more even spread of ability, gender and challenge, making it very difficult for parents to compare across local authorities.

I have tried to simplify the most important attainment figures and collate them in a table. The absolute key measure is the **attainment 8 score** (A8). This tells you the average grade over the eight key subjects and ours is 4.47, so broadly a 4.5 as an average GCSE grade across all those students and all of the exams. This is the highest of the fully non-selective schools. Remember a (standard) pass at GCSE is a 4 and above.

In the table below, I reference our place in terms of 21 schools as I have included Neston as our nearest neighbour. The 21 also include the six fully selective grammar schools, one partially selective, three girls schools, one boys school and all the rest of us; it is very difficult as a parent here. The link to the Department for Education's data is below; I hope the table simplifies things before you go to the site.

In simple terms, your children performed extraordinarily well. Children of all abilities, both Boys and Girls and across all different groups, outperform their peers. Pound for pound the highest performing non-selective school and for the last few years we have beaten at least one grammar in terms of Progress 8. Last year we had a progress 8 figure of +0.28 and our Attainment 8 was 43.7, our attainment 8 this year is 44.7. I know that this is a small, but positive change and for siblings in the two-year groups, hugely important, but I also think it indicates more than your children's success in terms of attainment, but where their Progress 8 figure might

have been. It is not just how well your children score in terms of GCSE grades that needs to be recognised, it is how hard they work, how well they attend (the best attendance of similar schools), how low our suspension/permanent exclusion figures are, how many of our students get into apprenticeships or the Sixth Form College, how few are not in education and training and on and on. There is an enormous amount of work put in by my staff, but we do not get them up in the morning, we do not model for them as parents and you should be proud of the huge part you have played in their success. Most of all though, your kids are brilliant and it was a pleasure to have them here. There may be rose tinted glasses for one or two, but as a year group as a whole, they smashed it.

Thank you for all of your support and for Year 12 parents, please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your children.

Yours faithfully



Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher

Pensby relative to similar schools, plus Neston, column 3. All schools, including selective, plus Neston.

Key measure	Point score or % value	Our ranking to similar schools on Wirral, plus Neston, 14 schools	Our ranking to all, including 7 fully/partially selective and Neston, 21 schools
Attainment 8	44.7	1	8
Attainment 8 Girls	45.4	1	5
Attainment 8 Boys	44.4	2	5
% 9-4 English & maths	71.9	1	7
% 9-5 English & maths	42.7	1	8
5+ GCSE 9-4 including English & maths	67.8	1	8
% 9-4 English & maths PP	52.2	1	7
% 9-4 English & maths Girls	74.6	1	4
% 9-4 English & maths Boys	70.5	1	4
% 9-5 English & maths PP	39.1	1	7
% 9-5 English & maths Girls	44.1	1	5
% 9-5 English & maths Boys	42	1	4

Wirral as a whole can be found here on the DFE performance tables:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools&geographic=la&for=secondary®ion=344>