



Pensby High School

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Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

3 December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to both ask for your help and support, and to raise awareness of two areas of focus for the school after Christmas; both of these have been flagged by staff and more importantly by students as areas of focus for the school. Firstly, the disruption to the initial few minutes of learning when a pupil does not have the right equipment and secondly, concerns have been raised by the impact of litter on the site, damage to the living world and how it makes the pupils feel.

From January 2026 we are going to review and support pupil preparedness for learning in a different manner and we will be checking on basic equipment more regularly and formally, as both staff and pupils have raised concerns about the impact of pupils not having all their equipment at the start of a lesson on the learning of others. There will be a consequence for lack of equipment going forward, but we will look to make this new process as easy as possible for pupils. We will provide the basics (pen, pencil, ruler and eraser) to any pupil who does not have them at the start of the New Year. In addition, it would be helpful if students had their own maths set: compass, protractor and set square.

Pupils do require a calculator for maths lessons and whilst they are not used every lesson, we need to build fluency and understanding around the use of a calculator, because ultimately two of the three GCSE maths papers are calculator papers. The school will support Pupil Premium pupils in purchasing a calculator. The calculator can be either of the two below, with the second being suitable for A level maths as well:

- Casio FX 83 GT CW
- Casio FX 991 CW

A list of equipment can be found here towards the bottom of the Webpage: <https://www.pensbyhighschool.org/parents/uniform-information/>

We do realise that there are other 'GCSE' calculators, but the process for using calculators differs across models and brands, and we need to try to limit the methods that pupils are required to learn, because speed, accuracy and fluency will make the calculator papers less daunting and that is very important. Maths is not an easy subject and three two-hour papers come with their own barriers for pupils, anything we can do to make the exams more accessible is a positive for our children.

Finally, we are going to manage lunch and break a little differently and I would ask that you please talk about this at home if possible. Our two canteen areas are not big enough to seat all of our children unless we effectively run two sittings. This is always an unpopular process for whomever is in the second sitting as there is a delay in getting your food. However, food being taken out of the canteens is leading to more rubbish around the site and pupils via Student Council, have raised this as both an aesthetic issue and more importantly an environmental issue. To help with this, we will only allow food taken from the canteen to be eaten under either of the canopies in the main playground from January. If this does not

help, we will need to review the use of separate, rotating sittings. Key Stage 3 first on Week A and Key Stage 4 first on Week B. I am sure though that we can all work together to protect the environment we share.

Form tutors will go over the contents of this letter before Christmas and then we will explain the changes in assemblies in the first week back after Christmas, with the first week being a period of change and reflection.

As ever, your support is both invaluable and much appreciated.

Yours faithfully

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

Mr K Flanagan
Headteacher