

# PENAIR SCHOOL

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14 July 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to ensure that you are fully informed of our end of term arrangements and to also thank you for your support over the academic year which I know has been challenging for students, staff and parents. We have had an extremely busy end to the year at Penair.

I am also writing to inform you of arrangements for next term including start of term dates and also asymptomatic testing. I apologise for the length of the letter but I want to make sure parents are well informed so that they can help prepare children for the start of the new term in September.

We have been returning to normality in school and are hopeful that the children will continue to have a positive experience in September.

Last week our year 8 and 9 students participated in 'Prison me- no way! workshops.' Penair has long been working with this organisation as a way of continuing to raise awareness amongst young people, aged 8 to 18, about the causes, consequences, penalties and impact of crime. Our students, like the thousands of other pupils across the country, have worked well with the workshop leaders and they gave very positive feedback about the day.

Our Year 10 students also took part in Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) days during the last week of term which gave students the opportunity to explore in a safe environment some of the significant issues that we face both in school and in our wider community.

In addition, this week we are running our year group sports days and we hope that these days allow the students to take part in sport in both a fun and competitive environment. All students must take part in at least one event and our fingers are crossed for good weather.

The last day of term is Friday 16 July and the school day timings are as normal.

## **Free School Melas over the Summer Holidays**

Cornwall Council are providing schools with funding to continue to provide Free School Meals through the summer holidays.

We will therefore be purchasing a voucher to the value of £90 per pupil for all families who are eligible for free school meals. The voucher will be issued to you in the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> July

Penair School – Headteacher – Mr J Davidson  
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2021 and you can choose to redeem it at ASDA, Aldi, Iceland, Morrisons, Sainsburys or Tesco. The voucher must be used to buy food and not tobacco or alcohol.

The voucher will be issued to you by text or email, so it is important that you let us know if you have recently changed your mobile phone number or email address. You can do this by emailing [enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk).

### **Staff Farewells**

I wanted to thank the staff who are leaving us this year for their hard work and support. Miss Rae our Inclusion Manager is leaving us to train as a teacher and we wish her well. Ms Henry our Head of Geography who has been with us for 17 years is retiring. Finally, Mr Withecombe PE Teacher and Leadership Team member is also retiring after being at the school for 36 years. I know Mr Withecombe and Ms Henry have inspired many young people who have then gone on to achieve great things. We wish them both the very best and they will be missed by staff, students and parents.

### **Uniform from September**

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we are aware that a lot of parents buy new uniform for their child ready for our next academic year. All students including year 11 are expected to be in full school uniform for September.

Compulsory items: Penair Aspire Blazer/Suit matching Navy style Trousers and or Pleated skirt, Atlantic Blue Shirt, Penair School Tie, black, navy or white socks, black leather formal shoes (no trainers, Vans style skate shoes and or canvas shoes).

Optional item: Penair V-neck jumper, tights black or navy in colour.

All of the items can be purchased at Keywear, Church Walk, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1JH. Their website and online sales are at: <http://www.keywearuniforms.co.uk/>

PE kit is supplied by A-Game. Further information, including sizes, is available via the following link where orders can be made either on-line or with the attached order form.

<https://agamesports.co.uk/section/510/0/penair-school>

**Shoes:** Both boys and girls must wear 'formal shoes' to school. **These must be black** leather/leather type school shoes (Boots/trainers/'skate shoes' /pumps are **NOT** allowed). Girls' shoes must be flat soled.

**Nails:** Nail varnish is not allowed in any year.

**Earrings and jewellery:** Jewellery including facial piercings are not allowed in school and does not form part of our dress code however, we do allow pupils to wear one stud in each ear.

I am sure that you understand the importance of both the school and home working together to help ensure that your son/daughter has a positive and productive time at Penair School. In order to promote a happy and healthy learning environment we must jointly uphold the standards that the school has set and expects from all of its students in preparation for life beyond Penair.

### **Start of Term Return Dates**

We are already preparing for next academic year and return to school in September. The first day back in school for year 7 and 11 students being Tuesday 7 September with years 8, 9 and 10 returning on Wednesday 8 September.

## **Lateral Flow Testing**

The Government have stated that testing for children and staff not attending school over the summer holidays can be paused. However, they have asked secondary schools to roll-out a program of Covid-19 rapid testing for all staff and pupils on their return in September. We are again setting-up our test centre to accommodate this. We were very pleased with the response to our testing earlier this year with 98% of our students taking part. We will not seek further permissions from parents from years 8-11 and assume that if your child took part in testing in March 2021 you are happy for them to do so again. If this is not the case please do make contact with us. Year 7 parents should have received a separate letter which explains how to give consent for the testing in school.

Testing will initially be within school with pupils receiving 2 lateral flow tests 3-5 days apart, this is to give pupils the opportunity to carry out the tests under the supervision of a trained member of staff. Testing will then move to home testing which will continue until the end of September when we await further government guidance.

### **Is the testing compulsory?**

We would encourage all pupils to take part in the testing programme however this is a voluntary testing programme. Any pupil without consent will not be tested in school and is not required to carry out a home test. If your child is not taking part in testing and does develop symptoms they should self-isolate and arrange to take a PCR test.

### **Who should carry out the test?**

Pupils aged 11 should have the test carried out by a parent/carer. Pupils aged 12-17 can carry out the test themselves supervised by a parent/carer.

### **How do I carry out the test?**

**We would like parents to continue to carry out the test on a Sunday and Thursday evening with their child.** The YouTube link below provides "how to" videos on lateral flow testing produced by NHS Test and Trace. Parents will also receive a step-by-step guide with the test kit.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvaBZskxS7tzQYIVg7lwH5uxAD9UrSzGJ>.

### **What do I do with the test result?**

Once you have carried out the lateral flow test you will need to report the result to NHS Test and Trace by visiting [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result).

### **What if my child tests positive?**

Firstly, please make sure you have informed the school. Pupils who test positive from a lateral flow test must not come to school and will need to take a further 'PCR test' on the same day (or as soon as possible).

Parents can book a test at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119. You can also visit one of the drive-through test sites as it is faster than requesting a home test. They are located in:

- Truro - Tregurra park and ride
- Falmouth - 51 Wellington Terrace

During the time while they are waiting the PCR result pupils will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result the pupil should self-isolate for 10 days from the positive test date and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

**What happens if the test is negative?**

Pupils will be able to return to school and resume their activities as normal.

**What if a close contact at school tests positive?**

From 16 August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, they will be informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

**What if my child develops symptoms?**

Pupils, staff and other adults should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate and what to do. They should not come into school if they have symptoms, have had a positive test result or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine). If anyone in our school develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, parents will be contacted to come and collect their child and they should then follow public health advice.

**If my child has previously had Covid-19 do they still do the home tests?**

If your child has had a confirmed positive *case* of Covid-19 they should not have a lateral flow test for 90 days following the positive result. This includes in school and home testing. However, if your child develops symptoms or is identified as a close contact, they should self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

**If my child has had a Covid-19 vaccination do they still do the home tests?**

Pupils who have received the vaccination should continue to be tested.

If you do have further question that are not covered above, please email them to [enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk)

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, staff and students for their support over the course of this academic year. I feel incredibly privileged to lead Penair School. We have a wonderful school with young people who amaze me with their gifts and talents on a daily basis. May I take this opportunity to wish all our families an enjoyable and safe summer break.

Yours sincerely,

**James Davidson**  
**Headteacher**