

PENAIR SCHOOL

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7 December 2021

Dear Parents,

I am writing to wish you a very happy holiday and New Year for 2022. May you and your family be safe, healthy, and joyous throughout the festive season!

As we reach the end of this extremely busy term, I would just like to take this opportunity to express my pride and admiration in how brilliantly everyone in our school community is continuing to work together in the face of the continued challenges that we face in school. We have worked extremely hard to ensure that our children's education has not been disrupted but staff and student absence has been much higher than a normal year. Thank you to parents for your understanding of this.

I would like to thank the students for their hard work and achievements so far. I would also like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to excellence, as well as parents and carers for your continued support of Penair School and our students.

Once again, we have many success stories to share and good news items to celebrate together. Some highlights have included the introduction of the girl's rugby and football teams with regular training and fixtures. The year 10 boys' rugby team who have gone undefeated all year until narrowly losing their County Cup Semi-final last week. In fact, all of our Rugby and Netball Teams have performed phenomenally well all season and a fixture against Penair is one to be taken very seriously by the opposition. The wonderful dance and drama showcase evenings that have seen the first live performances at Penair in quite some time along with the rehearsals for this year's school production of *Bugsy Malone*. Year 10 Art, Photography, Graphics and Textile students went on a trip to St. Ives to visit the Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth Sculpture Garden. Our Student Leaders including our Sports Leaders who have run a series of high-quality events for our partner primary schools and also our Science Leaders for their interesting Science Advent Calendar on the schools Facebook page. Well done to our brilliant cadets who have grasped opportunities such as the overnight camps over the course of the term, whilst also being the very best ambassadors for Penair at events such as the Remembrance Parade. Congratulations to our Duke of Edinburgh students not only for their expeditions but also for their service in the community through the volunteering that they are doing on a weekly basis.

Penair School – Headteacher – Mr J Davidson
Company registration no: 07557657 Charity no: XT31925

I hope that parents have had the opportunity to see these successes and more on our social media platforms. Most importantly with your support we have remained open as a school to all year groups and the students have been able to focus on their learning in class and beyond through extra-curricular provision.

I am also writing to inform you of arrangements for the start of term including return dates and asymptomatic testing.

Covid rates remain high within our local community. We will continue with our systems of infection control to reduce the risk of staff and students becoming unwell and disruption to schooling. We are seeking continued support from all members of our school community in this regard.

Lateral Flow Testing

The Government have asked secondary schools to encourage all students to continue to test over the Christmas holidays in line with Public Health Advice. In addition, they have asked schools to roll-out a program of Covid-19 rapid testing for all staff and pupils on their return in January. We have set up our test centre to accommodate this as we have successfully previously done so. We were very pleased with the response to our testing in September with 98% of our students taking part. We will not seek further permissions from parents and assume that if your child took part in testing in September 2021 you are happy for them to do so again. If this is not the case, please do make contact with us.

Testing will initially be within school with pupils receiving 1 lateral flow test. This is to help identify positive cases of COVID19 and reduce transmission, to support the continuity of education, particularly as increased social mixing is likely over the Christmas and New Year period. Testing will then continue to be conducted at home twice per week on Thursday and Sunday with results reported to the NHS and the school informed in the event of a positive result.

Return of students in January

In order for us to carry out the testing students will return over a staggered start with year 7 and 11 only in school and being tested on Wednesday 5 January and all year groups returning on Thursday 6 December with years 8, 9 and 10 being tested on this day.

Face Coverings

All members of our school community should continue to wear a face covering when moving around the building in corridors and communal areas for example toilets where social distancing cannot be maintained. Students will mainly use the external walkways to access classrooms, therefore will very rarely have to wear a face covering. Students are not asked to wear a face covering in the classroom, but this will be kept under review throughout the new term. They should wear a face covering on entry to the dining hall but may remove it for eating and drinking. All students should also wear a face covering while travelling on dedicated school transport this is in line with Cornwall Councils guidance.

If you do have further question that are not covered above, please email them to enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, staff and students for their support in advance of the students return we are looking forward to an exciting year full of opportunity for our young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JD', written in a cursive style.

James Davidson
Headteacher