

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back

We have welcomed back Year 11 to their final school year. I hope they had a restful Christmas break and are ready to give this year their all. Many students have now applied to their chosen college course and this will give them additional focus. It is important that students gain the best grades they are capable of, even if this is more than their entry requirement grade for their course, as these grades can open doors in the future to other competitive courses or to gain jobs. It is vital that the students have balance in their lives and they make time to look after their wellbeing, this is very much a marathon and not a sprint.

February Trial exams

The students experienced their second set of trial exams in November. How these trial exams were communicated and ran by our exams team were greatly impacted by factors out of our control. The students did react well to this and it was important they controlled the controllable. The February trial exams will be our official Ofqual trial examinations. The students will receive a full timetable with exams sat for all subjects this week, with specific seating arrangements sent home at the end of January after exam access arrangements are confirmed. The trial exams are over two weeks which straddle the February half term. Should you have queries regarding exam access arrangements please ensure these are brought to the SEND and examination teams in adequate time to act.

Perform better together evenings

There will be three Perform Better Together evenings this term. They run from 6 – 7:30pm on Mondays. There will be a form to complete shared to state your intention to attend the session, providing information on dietary requirements for the pasty order and numbers of those attending so, we can ensure the sports hall is ready to cater for the number of parents and students attending.

Monday 27th January 6 – 7:30pm - English

Monday 24th February 6 – 7:30pm - Science

Monday 31st March 6 – 7:30pm - Maths

Revision

The students should by now have a solid plan for their revision. The key is little and often. They should aim to cover all topics in all subjects, create their revision materials, answer practice questions and consider how much time each subject has on their plan and that they don't neglect certain subjects. Attendance to after school revision sessions are an excellent place to start (revision timetable below). If students require additional access to practice papers or questions they should speak to their class teacher. Some students have been placed into a HOT tutor group. This is for the core subjects where additional revision and help is given daily during tutorials. Specific students are selected for this considering their needs and it is likely they are close to a key grade boundary for them. The HOT tutors are also there to support students and deal with pastoral matters during this time.

Uniform

As I stated in my September letter, it is important that the students have high expectations of themselves in all areas including their uniform and in Year 11, they play a key role in role modelling to younger students. Mr Hocking has also sent a letter specifically detailing our rationale for being strict on uniform. Do remind your children to continually get the basics right and ensure shirts are tucked in, top buttons are done up, skirts are worn correctly fully unrolled as designed) and students have black unbranded socks. Some students have been seen wearing jewelry, our policy on jewelry is that only one pair of studs are permitted. Hooped earrings, rings, bracelets and facial piercings are not part of the uniform at Penair School. As a reminder, nail varnish, nail extensions and acrylic nails are not allowed ([Penair Uniform Procedure 2024](#)). Failure to comply with these expectations will result in a 2-point detention on the first occasion.

Attendance

Attendance to all lessons becomes ever more critical in Key Stage 4 and evidence shows that attendance is highly related to better outcomes for your child. Students in Year 10 last year who had attendance above 96% were on average 1.1 grade higher across all subjects compared to those under 96% and 2.1 grades higher than those who had attendance lower than 90%. Any missed learning from absences is difficult to catch up on and subjects that complete Non-Exam Assessments complete sections of work each lesson. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to come to school please see guidance from this NHS ([Is my child too ill for school?](#)). The guidance states that children with minor coughs and colds are well enough to attend school. However, if your child is too ill to attend, please continue to report this through Study Bugs. Please see below from the Department for Education regarding leave of absence.

If you decide to take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who as the issuing officer will may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a penalty notice for each parent of £80 if paid within 28 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. Fines are issued per parent/carer, per child. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences. Please refer to our Attendance Policy on our website.

Updates to the tutor team

Mr M Ripley has now taken over 11R following Mrs Rogers departure and Mrs M Anderson will be co-tutor for 11A following Mr Collins' departure from Penair. For pastoral issues throughout the year, your child's form tutor is best placed to first offer support as they see your child daily and we have a great team who are here to help support your child. Mrs A Toms, remains the Student Welfare Officer for the year group. This year, we will be running an appointment system for SWO support to assist the efficient use of our SWOs and ensure that students can see Mrs Toms without interruption from other students. This also prevents missed learning opportunities from students being out of lessons.

11P	Miss J Carlyon jcarlyon@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	11I	Mr L McKinnell lmckinnel@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
11E	Miss S Higman shigman@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	11R	Mr M Ripley maripley@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
11N	Mrs L McCarthy lmccarthy@penair.cornwall.sch.uk Miss K Bunt kbunt@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	11S	Mrs S Romero sromero@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
11A	Mr A Shirley ashirley@penair.cornwall.sch.uk Mrs M Anderson manderson@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	11C	Mrs S Cartmill scartmill@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
11H	Mr G Blackburn (Maths) mblackbourn@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	11O	Mr I Buzza-Blackwell (English) ibuzza-blackwell@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
11T	Ms T Hall (Science) thall@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	Careers	Mrs L Sherwood lsherwood@penair.cornwall.sch.uk
PDL	Mr R Edworthy redworthy@penair.cornwall.sch.uk	SWO	Mrs A Toms atoms@penair.cornwall.sch.uk

Revision timetable

Year 11 Revision Sessions 24-25 Week A - All revision session run 3 – 4 pm (unless stated otherwise)						
	Mon A	Tues A	Wed A	Thurs A	Fri A	
After School	Geography	Religious Studies	Art, Craft and Design, C26.	English		
	History	French	Week A only.	8 th May		
			Science	15 th May		
			Spanish	22 nd May		
			Maths	Business Subjects & Computer Science	5 th June	
				Design Tech: Food/Engineering/DT		
				Sociology		
			German			

Year 11 Revision Sessions 24-25 Week B - All revision session run 3 – 4 pm (unless stated otherwise)						
	Mon B	Tues B	Wed B	Thurs B	Fri B	
After School	Geography	Religious Studies	Science	English		
	History	French	Business Subjects & Computer Science	Dates: 8 th May		
			Spanish	15 th May		
			Maths	Sociology	22 nd May	
				German	5 th June	
				Textiles, Graphics and Photography T31/A28 Week B only.		

Key Dates

27.1.25 English Perform Better Together 6 – 7:30pm	25.2.25 – Year 11 Data Report
10.2.25 – Year 11 Trial Exams 2 (two weeks)	23.4.25 – Art, Graphics & Photography exams
24.2.25 Science Perform Better Together 6 – 7:30pm	12.5.25 – Year 11 Exams Start
31.3.25 Maths Perform Better Together 6 – 7:30pm	11.7.25 – Leavers' Ball Tregenna Castle

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Edworthy
Year 11 Personal Development Leader