

Dear Pupils, Parents and Guardians,

I would like to welcome you to our Open Evening . This evening provides us the opportunity to share our vision and values for the school we're so passionate about and the changes over the last year that have supported school improvement. Most importantly you will be able to meet pupils and staff and have an opportunity to address any queries you may have.

The information published in this pack provides you with key information relating to school performance during from the GCSEs this summer and also the views of a selection of pupils, parents and teachers. We have also provided you with information relating to the vast array of enrichment activities available to pupils.

Like all schools, we have received some preliminary information providing an initial idea of the school's performance. This will be finalised in January but we can now confidently forecast significant improvement in the progress made by our pupils this year and these improvements will represent the best results for 3 years. 40% of our pupils achieved 7-9/A*-A grades and our pupils achieved over 300 7-9/A*-A grades – over 100 more than in the previous year. Essentially, more of our pupils achieved higher grades this year and achieved more of them. Our departing year 11 should be congratulated for these achievements and we wish them all the very best for the next stage of their lives.

These successes were built on a foundation of hard work and commitment from pupils to their studies. We invested a great deal last year embedding high expectations across the school, changing the culture so that there was a greater degree of learning focus. Our pupils are exceptionally capable and it's important to me that the expectations of our school are aligned with these capabilities.

The work to raise standards continues in earnest this year, but the success of both pupils and staff in improving our climate for learning last year means that this becomes something we maintain as a school, whilst looking to make further developments in other areas.

Staff are dedicated and passionate about the school, our pupils and the community that we serve and their desire to drive improvement at the school and provide better opportunities for pupils is evident.

I won't apologise for the school employing high standards and I know parents wouldn't ask me to as I'm certain that you want to send your child to a school that has high expectations and aspirations of and for pupils. I believe that it's vital that pupils are challenged to meet the high standards that we set, not only because they are capable of doing so; but also because this supports their personal development which will facilitate greater successes when they have to operate more independently at college, university and ultimately in the work place.

We have a shared goal which is for our pupils, your children, to be successful both in their exams in Year 11 but also beyond their time at school we are therefore very clear with the reasonable expectations that we anticipate pupils will meet each day. These expectations will help to facilitate success. We also recognise the crucial role that the relationship and partnership between school and our families plays in securing this success and it's important these relationships are established early in order that we can work together to ensure that our outstanding young people reach their potential.

At Open evening, the staff and I look forward to meeting our potential new pupils and to start the process of transition as they become a welcome part of our school community.

Like all schools, our Open Evening is a showcase of the very best aspects of school life but, I'm sure, you'll be keen to experience the school during it's normal operation. As a school we offer the opportunity for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 to tour the school along with their parents across the week that follows our Open Evening. This year our tours will run between Monday 15th of October and Friday 19th of October, with tours being available each morning. To book a tour with a member of the leadership team please email tours@penketh.warrington.sch.uk or contact reception on 01925 722298.

We understand how important it is to make the right decision about the future education of your child and realise that experiences and opportunities to collect information to help inform this decision making is crucial. We want to give you as many forums to engage in open and honest dialogue with the school as possible to help you make the best choice for your child.

It's a pleasure to welcome you to our wonderful school this evening and I look forward to discussing how, together, we can best support your child to be successful both during their time at Penketh and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

Year 11

'I think the school has changed and created a more positive learning atmosphere between pupils and staff. Behaviour has also massively improved.'

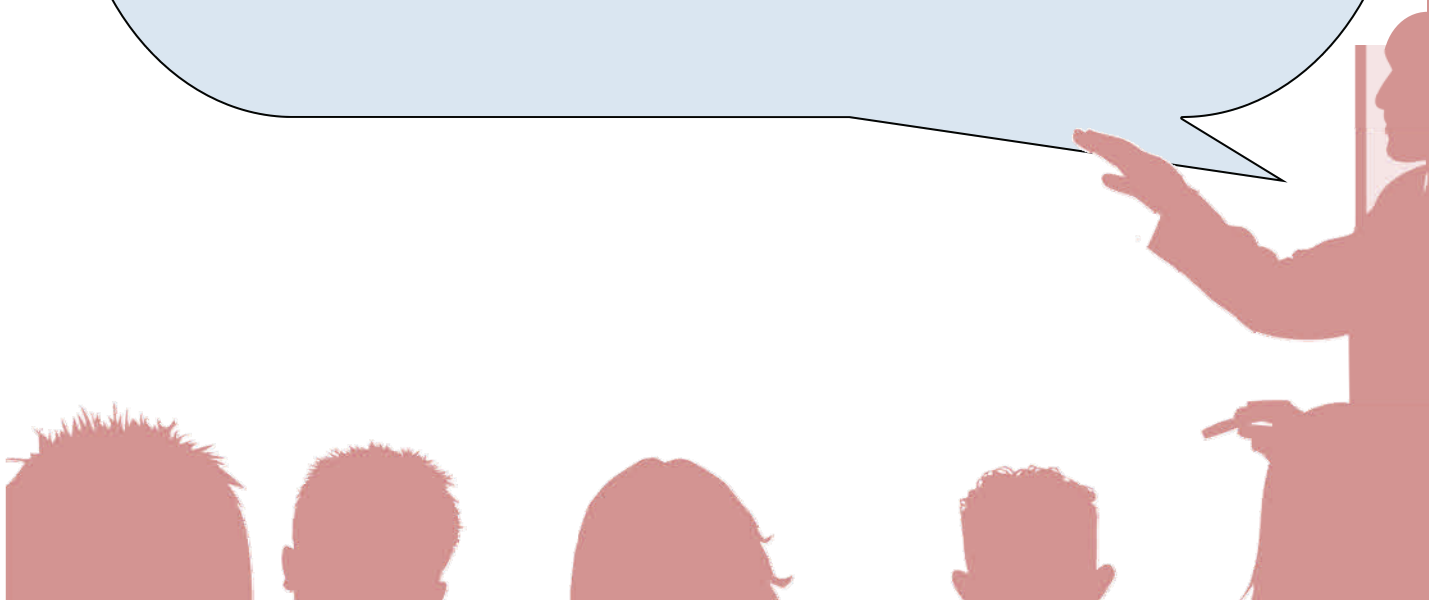
Sarah

'I think that the school has changed for the better and pupils have a more positive attitude to their learning in classes. I also think Mr Farrar is very positive about my progress.'

Chloe

'Its very different, and a lot more serious about our education and making progress to pass our GCSE's. I like the new school day as the day passes quicker, but still being very productive. I like the fact that there are enrichment sessions at lunchtime. It offers a more productive way of occupying pupils at lunchtime. Teachers are very inspiring this year, I enjoy lessons and I feel like I have come out well educated. Lessons are always productive!'

Adam



Year 10

'The Staff and teachers at Penketh High School are 100% committed to our progress. The opportunities every student gets are amazing and so varied'

Ewan

'There has been a positive change in Penketh High School. The new lunch times means we now have an extra 15 minutes to talk to friends and enjoy the Enrichment clubs. I also like the way teachers treat pupils, and encourage us to learn independently as well as always being there to offer support'

Lucy

'School has become a lot sharper now Mr Carlin is head teacher. Lessons aren't always out of textbooks.'

Ben

'Penketh High School has improved amazingly since Mr Carlin has become head teacher. The staff are happier, and the students are influenced by their happiness. Pupils have progressed ten-fold since Mr Carlin has come to power.'

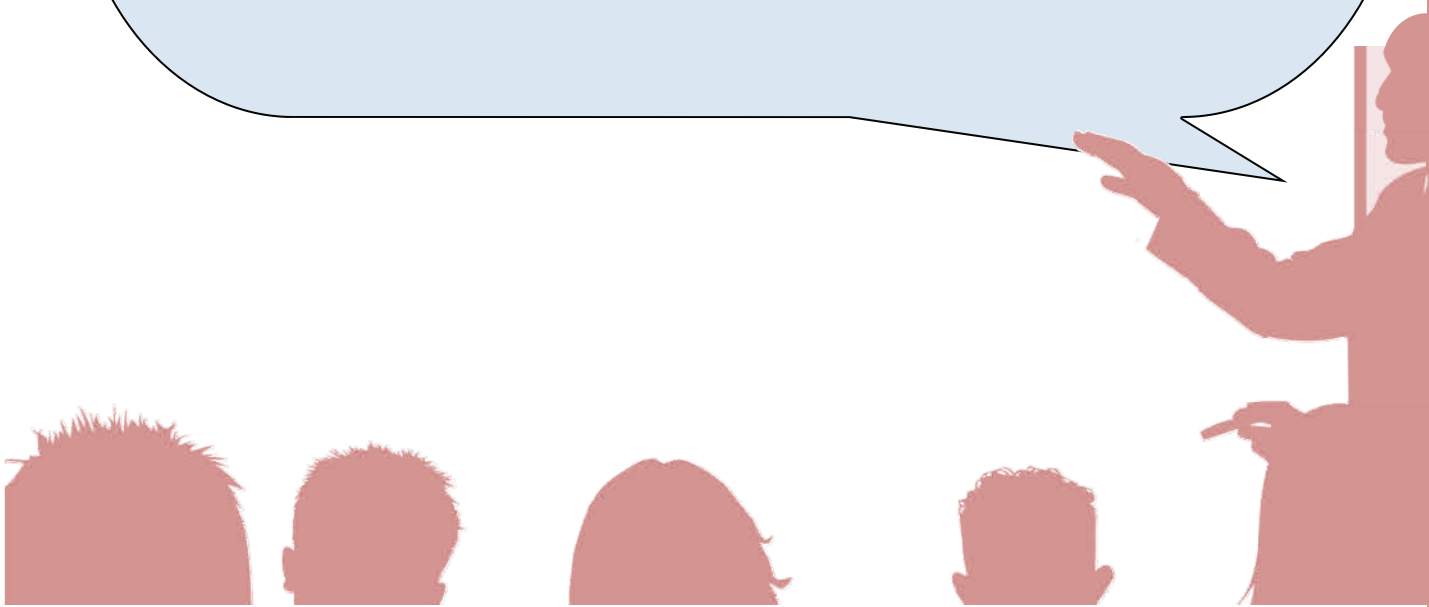
Cameron

'I think that the teachers have a great attitude towards the students and they offer great support.'

Hannah

'I think that the clubs during lunchtimes are very fun to attend. They're very interactive and are definitely a great improvement'

Dominic



Year 9

'Since starting in year 7 the school has improved in many different ways, including Spark, enrichment clubs, engagement in lessons and much more. Spark gives us students another way to experiment in lessons. It provides us extra training opportunities to find our path to what we want to do/be when we leave school. The Enrichment clubs ensure all students have somewhere to go at lunchtimes, instead of roaming around buildings, it also provides pupils opportunities to try new things and complete any extra work.'

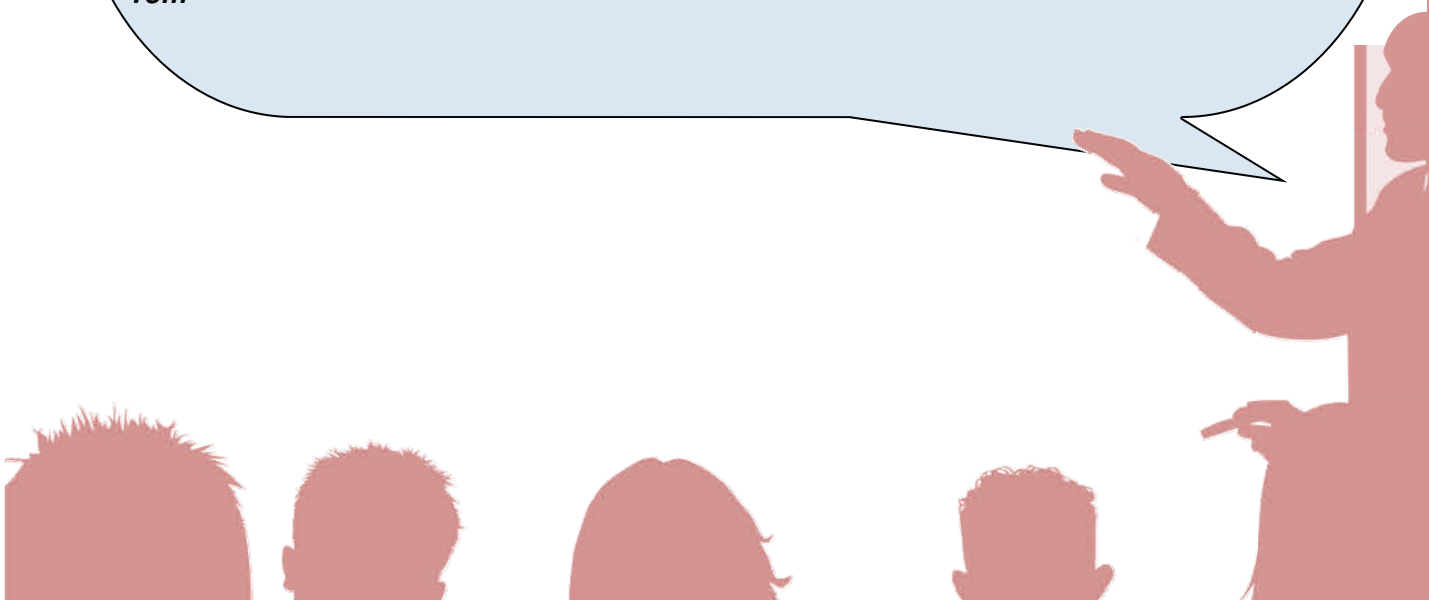
Laetitia

'Since year 7 the school has improved and changed in lots of ways. First of all the focus has moved to pupils who now do the right things in school rather than choose to do the bad. Also there is now Enrichment clubs which gives pupils the opportunity to learn and try new things at lunch which gives us a chance to do things that we wouldn't normally do in our usual school day. The teachers are so helpful and they push you in the right direction to help you learn and make progress. The lessons are made fun and they are enjoyable.'

Ethan

'In my opinion the school has become more serious and more focused which helps me to get on with my work in my lessons. This is something I really value as I believe because of the changes my work has improved. I also believe the Enrichment clubs allow more enjoyment in the day, they help you learn even more and you have a refreshed attitude. I also like the crackdown on behaviour as it helps me to concentrate in lessons rather than have people disrupting lessons.'

Tom



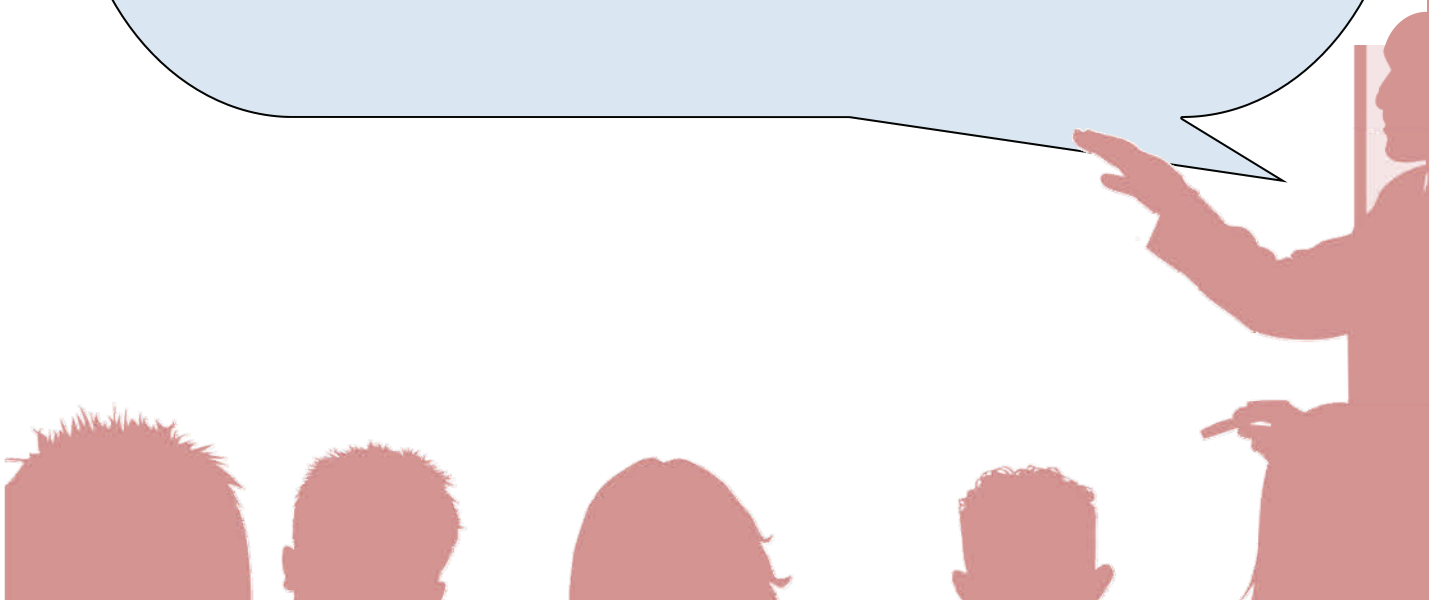
Year 9

'I think the school has changed for the better as there are more opportunities outside of lessons, for example the Enrichment activities. These also help students to become more sociable and get to know others in the school better. I also feel that there is more support for pupils inside of school'

Anna

'Since year 7 the school has definitely changed and improved. For example this year the school has introduced project based learning where we research and develop ideas around certain subjects. Project based learning allows students to step up and manage their own project. It is good that the school has done this because it engages pupils and allows them to use and develop skills. Another thing that has been introduced to our school last year was SPARK. Penketh High School was the first school to launch a makerspace. We were invested in by John Moores University Liverpool. SPARK is similar to the Project Based Learning except it allows us to expand our learning even more. SPARK has all of the materials we need to be able to develop any ideas that we can think of, from picture frames to fully functioning drones. Penketh High School has created so many different things to help students love lessons whilst still learning and making progress in them.'

Joe



Year 8

'The Enrichment clubs are a great idea and open up another way of learning new skills. My favourite thing about Penketh is the staff in terms of their energy and positivity, I am also very happy with the progress I am making.'

Charlie

'There have been a couple of changes such as the school day, but for the best. I feel like I am very happy with the progress I am making in school, and I love it when I get a 1 in lessons!'

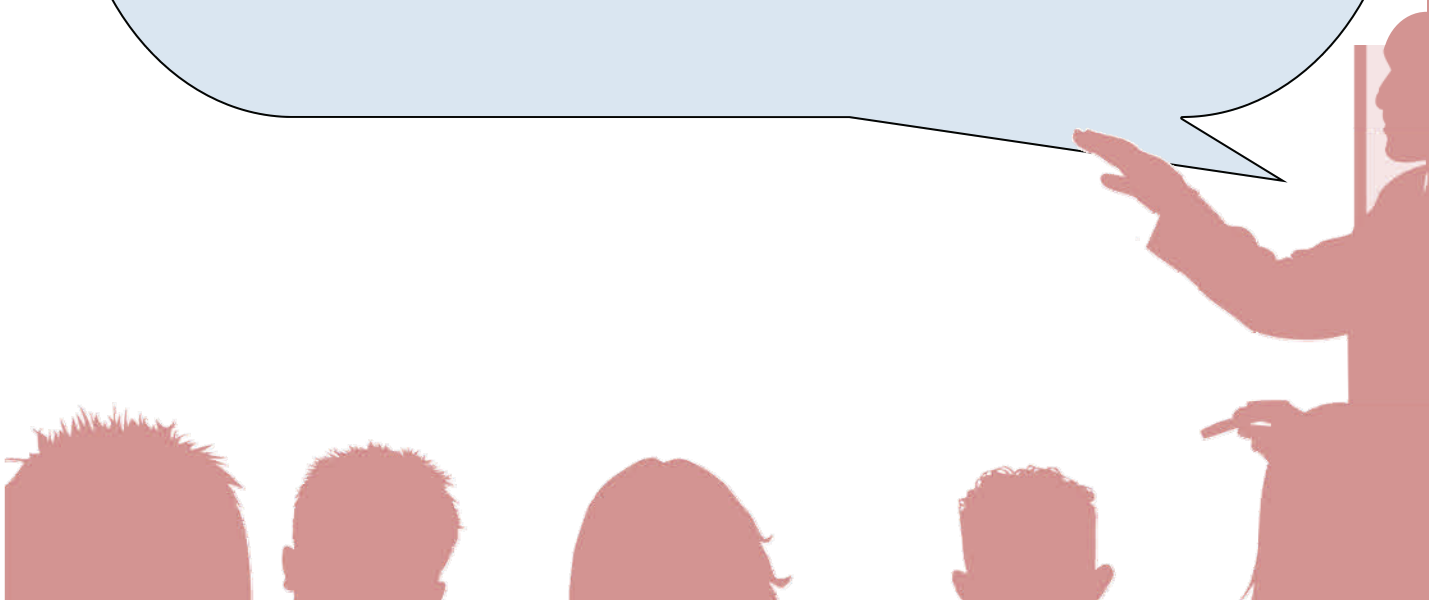
Owen

I am happy with all the changes in the school. I enjoy all the Enrichment clubs I have signed up for. My favourite part of school is getting awards for working hard. At the end of last year I received a £25 voucher!'

Kyra

'I think the school day has changed in a good way, because the enrichments are fun and a good way to make friends. Lessons are better because the 7 pillars make you want to achieve more. The awards school offers are well deserved. I also like form at the end of the day because it is a good way to celebrate learning scores. The school deals with problems in a fast way and also can help with things going on at home.'

Ella



Year 7

'Penketh High School is very welcoming and the older pupils are really nice. You can also join Enrichment clubs at lunch and make new friends.'

Katie

'This school strives to make children achieve their targets and they don't mind if you make mistakes, you can always learn from them.'

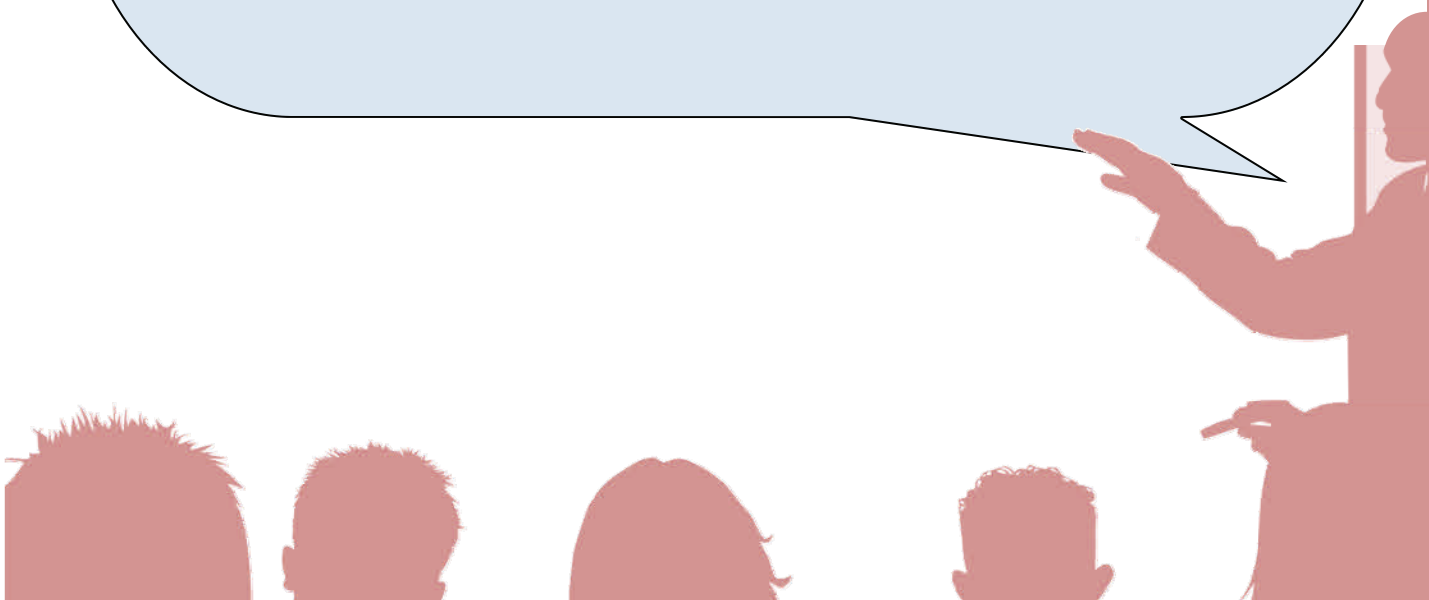
Amber

'It can be tough, but it is worth it. The teachers are kind and fun and help you to achieve. When you do well in lessons the sense of achievement is amazing!'

Lucy

'The main thing I think about this school is that the teachers really want to support you and for you to achieve and make progress. I also love the food in the canteen!'

Emily



As a parent of two pupils (Year 10 and now Year 7) we have been delighted with how well they have become members of Penketh High School. We spent time looking at all the high schools in the area for both of our children and were drawn by the high expectations and challenge, personable staff and commitment shown by the school.

For the past four years our eldest child has made excellent progress and been challenged to make sure that he meets the high targets set to him by the school. We have had regular updates and feel the staff know our child well. He has also enjoyed the enrichment opportunities offered, being a member of the school football team and most recently, a trip to Germany.

Our youngest is new to the school but we could not have asked for a smoother transition. She was able to attend the summer school which helped to ease any anxieties, meet staff and familiarise herself with the buildings prior to starting in September. She has already tried out for the netball team, joined the choir and is enjoying the many new subjects secondary school has to offer. Already school have contacted us to share how proud they are of her start.

It is good to follow the school on Twitter to see daily updates as well as receive the termly update from the Principal. Staff are approachable and want the best for the pupils, ensuring they are safe, happy and learning, which is exactly what we want as parents.

Mrs V Briggs, parent and Head teacher - Great Sankey Primary School



My daughter has attended Penketh High School since September 2015 (currently in year 9) and I have been absolutely delighted with her progress.

We moved to Warrington in January 2015 having no real prior knowledge of the town or the schools. So, as anxious parents, we actively sought feedback from neighbours and parents of the girls in our daughter's football team and anyone else we could engage.

Much of the feedback about Penketh High was pretty negative (although we were surprised at how loyal parents who had an elder child at the school were to Penketh and how determined they were to send their other children). Naturally, the negative remarks weighed heavier than the positive and we had formed a fairly fixed view before we visited.

We had been unable to go to the open evening, so we arranged to go on the "school walk round". What a revelation that was!

We were left in absolutely no doubt that the drive and passion of the leadership team was building a caring and nurturing environment where our daughter could thrive in a disciplined and structured way. No one disguised the fact that the school's results and track record on discipline were not where the school had to be and frank conversations over the achievability of the plans went a long way to easing our concerns.

We have not regretted our decision for one moment.

Following the appointment of a new Principal, Mr John Carlin, Penketh has gone from strength to strength. There is structure and discipline for the pupils, with clear parameters regarding what is expected from them with regards to learning and behaviour. Mr Carlin has high expectations of all staff at Penketh and his students which has ensured a much better "Climate for Learning".

We believe that all staff at Penketh give over and above to the school in time, effort and care. Mr Carlin and his team still ensure there is a nurturing environment for all pupils and rightly expect high standards from everyone.



From an 'extra-curricular' perspective, there are lots of sports in which students can take part and a recent innovation is the launch of "enrichment" sessions at lunchtime. Pupils can sign up for these (if they want to) and the subjects are as varied as Chinese Mandarin, Film Club, Badminton, Latin, Art, Countdown and various choir opportunities. The uptake for these has been huge which shows the calibre of the students and their desire to learn more.

We would encourage every parent to take a close look for themselves at what is happening at Penketh and visit the school on a working day. The school are also very active on social media too and their twitter account provides parents with daily updates as to what is happening at school. The school is a joyous place to be full of lively pupils, caring and challenging staff and a senior leadership team who are ensuring their students achieve better results and emerge as better adults each and every year.

Mrs L Muir, parent.



As the parent of a recent Penketh student, and as a Parent Governor, I would wholeheartedly recommend the school to you as parents and carers of prospective pupils.

My experience has been that the school values the all-round development of its pupils and takes time to nurture pupils of every level of academic ability. No one is left behind, all pupils matter. I have seen school staff spend enormous amount of time and energy ensuring each pupil has the right provision for them. Pupils at the school are challenged to raise expectations and provided with the necessary help and teaching to achieve this. Penketh High has pupils who have reached the highest academic achievements. The pupils are encouraged to be "out of the box thinkers" and think independently, which can only assist them in their adult life.

I have found the staff to be genuine in their desire to do the best for each pupil and will offer their own time willingly outside of normal teaching duties, meaning that the enrichment programme is now one of the best available in any school.

As parent governor I have been able to see the vision for the future of the school; it's planned improvements are not just empty words but clear action is being taken.

As a mum, I felt reassured in being able to approach the staff about anything, however small, that was concerning me or my daughter and that those concerns were listened to and acted upon.

Should you choose Penketh High school for your child, then my experience has been, that you will not be disappointed.

Mrs L Murdoch, parent.



I started my teaching career here at Penketh in September 2015. As a Maths specialist I could be quite fussy with where I began my career. After meeting with various school leaders, including Mr Carlin, I knew that Penketh was the right move for me. Mr Carlin had a clear vision to where he wanted to take the school and displayed passion and belief in his pupil's, your children, that together the vision would become a reality. Three years later there has been significant change in the climate for learning and the 'success feels good' agenda - our pupils now know that they can achieve the top grades and be amongst the best performing pupils nationally - which they are! It is a very exciting time be part of the Penketh High School community as we continue our journey to provide the best education to the young people of Warrington.

Niall Smith (Assistant Principal KS3)

I started working at Penketh as a Teaching Assistant in 2007. The kids are amazing at the school and staff just want the very best for them. They do anything they can to help them and the pupils really appreciate it.

Anne McNally (Higher Level Teaching Assistant)

I joined Penketh High school a few years ago as an NQT not knowing what to expect. As soon as I joined I felt that Penketh is a community - I was supported and made to feel welcome straight away by both staff and students. Our community has a buzz about it - more and more people are learning what we are about and it makes you proud to be part of something special like that.

Lisa Hutt (Teacher of History)

A fast paced enjoyable working environment filled with a community of employees who work collaboratively together to successfully aide pupil progress. Within the short time I have been at Penketh, not only does it provide an education but a home where children can feel safe and experience new opportunities.

Aimee Fleming (Teacher of PE)

I have worked at Penketh high school for 15 years and I can honestly say I have witnessed some pupils grow into outstanding young adults who have become an asset to our community. Penketh staff have always worked well as a team to enable each student to have the best education and outlook on life. I am proud to be a member of the staff at this school and proud to be part of a well-developed and supportive team.

Liz Hutt (Inclusion Manager)



Climate of Improving Results



Progress 8 outcome path 2016-19



The number of A*-A/7-9 grades improved by 33% in 2018 with pupils securing over 100 more of the top grades

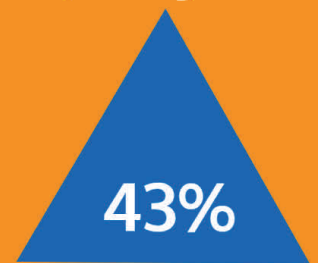
More pupils accessing higher grades & achieving more of them



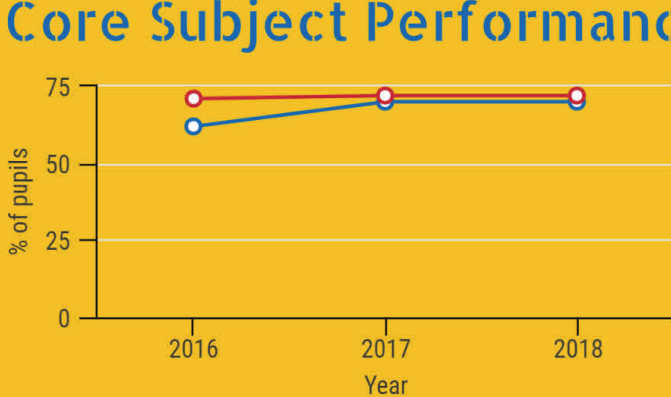
90%
of subjects

improved the proportion of pupils accessing the higher grades A*-A/7-9.

Pupils accessing 7-9/A*-A grades

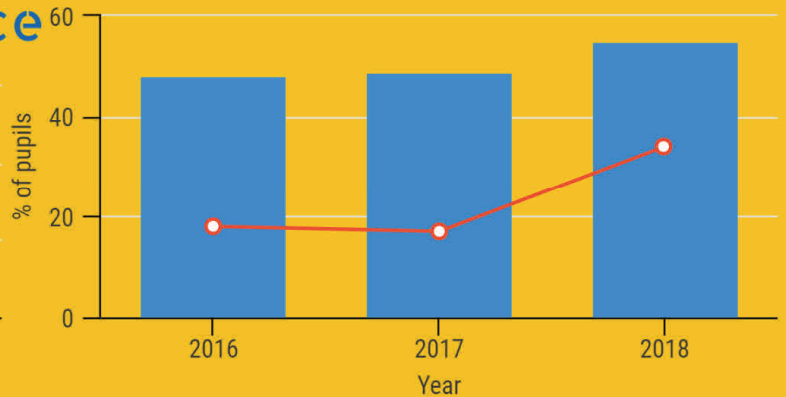


Core Subject Performance



Maths & English outcomes 2016 - 2018

● Maths A*-C/9-4% ● English A*-C/9-4%



Science outcomes 2016 -2018

● 2 X Science A*-C/9-4 ● Av. A*-A/7-9 Separate Science

* Based on current projections

Enrichment Clubs

- Writers Club
- Lego Club
- Film Club
- Board Games
- Author Club
- Dance
- Table Tennis
- Short Tennis
- Badminton
- Running Club
- Drama GCSE
- School Play
- Digital Art
- Art Club
- Monsters in a Jar
- GCSE Art
- Wool Craft
- Design Drawing
- Model making
- CAD club
- Stress Relief
- History Club
- No Girls Allowed - Boys Choir
- Eportfolio Club
- Girls design and Engineering
- Music Technology Club
- Harmonix
- Chamber Choir
- Build a Band
- Languages games
- Linguistics Club
- Foreign Film club
- Beginners Latin
- Mandarin/Chinese
- Dead Poets Society
- Faith Club
- Geography Club
- Unity
- Knitting Club
- Politics/Debating Club
- Word/board Games
- Memory club
- Strictly Penketh
- Physics Equations Practice
- Cards/Chess club
- Girls Rugby
- Golf Club
- Science Year 7 club
- Jigsaw Club
- Foodie Club
- Ultimaker
- Spark
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Full Stack Development



