

Penketh Pages

July 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we reach the end of another exciting and rewarding year at Penketh High School we look back positively on the further improvements that have been made across the school this year.

In September we introduced a wide ranging enrichment programme across the school, offering pupils the opportunity to immerse themselves in activities that extend their usual classroom curriculum. I'm sure parents will be aware that over 50 enrichment clubs have been operating across each half term of the year, giving pupils the opportunity to engage in a variety of experiences related to academic, cultural, STEM, arts or sporting pursuits. This agenda has been driven around supporting the holistic development of pupils and providing them with experiences that help to spark lifelong passions. We're pleased with the high levels of engagement from pupils and would like to thank the staff for their dedication and commitment in running these sessions; predominantly during their lunch period.

In addition to school based experiences we have been pleased to enhance our offer of residential trips to pupils to support their wider understanding of their cultural and academic pursuits. These have included a Year 7 residential trip, a languages trip to Spain, Duke of Edinburgh, university residential trips—including one to OxBridge - and also the World Challenge expedition to Costa Rica for some Year 10 and 11 pupils.

This wider development of pupils is really important to us as a school as we recognise that it's these aspects that can enhance engagement of pupils in their academic endeavours and also help to set them apart when applying for college, university or employment. We plan on continuing to build on this wider curriculum offer for pupils next year and look forward to discussing this with pupils in September.

We've been extremely pleased with the development of our school library ready for September. Most of you will know that whilst I've been Principal for two years, I've been at the school for a considerably longer period. During this time I've never felt that the library provision at the school has been good enough and it's essential for a school driving improvements in academic standards to have this resource. It allows us to support pupils with literacy which is a key skill to ensure success in their academic pursuits, but also ensures that we can secure a love of reading which will serve our young people well beyond their time at Penketh. The new library has thousands of books available for pupils, so it really is a great resource - but we'll always find a place for more books. If you are perhaps getting rid of some books we would be grateful if you'd consider donating these to our school library and we have installed a book drop off point in reception.

The academic development of students is of paramount importance to us as we look to ensure that pupils have the best opportunities available to them beyond their secondary education and we're looking forward to sharing results day with our Year 11 pupils in August and celebrating successes with them. Pupils will be able to collect their GCSE results between 8:30am and 11am on Thursday 22nd August.

I'd like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication across the year. Improvements that have been driven through the school have been as a result of their hard work and commitment to providing the best educational provision for our pupils. It's also as a result of the pupils rising to the challenge and meeting our high expectations, for which they should be congratulated.

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Parents will know that I regularly reference our shared goal which is simply wanting the very best for our outstanding young people. The staff are passionate about securing this for our pupils and your ongoing support is also crucial to us collectively achieving this goal. We have raised the standards and expectations at the school and it's pleasing that the vast majority of parents recognise that this has been a positive step in improving the school. I'd also like to thank parents who have taken the time to provide us with feedback across the year which has been overwhelmingly positive; it's important for us that parents recognise the positive developments at the school.

Every decision that we make is centred around being able to add value to our school community and the educational experiences of our pupils. Your support helps us to maintain and improve the high standards and expectations that we set, whether that be in relation to uniform, conduct or academic development.

We're excited about the next phase of improvement that commences next year. Lots of work, planning and preparation has already been undertaken to ensure we are well prepared for delivering our objectives for next year. One aspect has been a complete redevelopment of curriculum delivery across all departmental areas and this work has included developing a new approach to homework, which we think will be welcomed by both pupils and parents; we look forward to sharing this with you in September.

I would always recommend parents follow the school's Twitter account - @PenkethSchool. You don't have to be a member of Twitter to view this, and you can find this by simply searching for "@PenkethSchool" through Google. Alternatively our live Twitter feed is shown at the bottom of the school website homepage. The school tweet on a daily basis so that followers can see what's going on at school each day.

We have had a great deal to celebrate over the last term and the latest edition of the school newsletter, Penketh Pages, is attached to this letter. In this edition we have compiled a selection of stories from across the summer term.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chloe in Year 7 who was named Warrington Pupil of the Year at the recent Warrington Guardian Education Awards. Chloe is extremely deserving of this accolade and everyone at the school is exceptionally proud of her. We'd also like to pass on congratulations and thanks to the staff and pupils at Chapelford Village Primary School for their support of Chloe.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of our pupils and families all the best for the summer break. We look forward to seeing pupils on Monday 9th September for another exciting and successful year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Carlin.
Principal.

Enrichment @ Penketh



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As a school we recognise the importance of academically developing our young people in order that they have a solid foundation with which to continue to succeed beyond their time at Penketh. The school have increased our learning focus across last year and it was pleasing that we achieved the school's best outcome for 3 years. We're also extremely committed to developing our pupils holistically, providing them with opportunities and experiences that extend their learning beyond their standard curriculum, this helps with engagement and to prepare them for life at college or university. These experiences can also help to broaden horizons and cement life long passions.

Calculator Camp

As the school broke up for May Half term 58 Year 11 students and 5 of the Maths team headed down to Anglesey for the annual pilgrimage to Tyn Y Felin and 'Calculator Camp'

Following the non-calculator paper in May the students are left with the two calculator papers to complete in June. This weekend provides an invaluable boost for those students who attend in terms of exam practice and confidence building. On average pupils completed 6 papers and a range of calculator based skill development tasks across the weekend. Even with all that maths we still also managed some much needed down time including an afternoon at the beach, a dip in the bracing Irish Sea and an outdoor cinema viewing of Bohemian Rhapsody (which led to some questionable singing being heard across the Holyhead bay area!)

This is now a staple of the Year 11 readiness programme and 'Calculator Camp' 2020 is already booked for the next crop of intrepid mathematicians.



Army Career Experience

Seven year 10 students were given the amazing opportunity to spend 4 days at Swynnerton Training Camp, learning the skills necessary to become a member of the armed forces. Each student did an exceptional job of working in a team to complete a number of challenging tasks. These included how to survive on the battlefield when under attack, patrolling from door to door in a hostile environment, and learning crucial first aid. The dedication and commitment of our students was commended by all army leaders, who believed they had great potential.



Summer Concert

The Summer Nights Concert was a lovely event to be at that allowed pupils from the school to showcase their talents. The relaxed setting was welcomed by the audience and was a great beginning to summer. The performances were outstanding and ranged from singing acts to comedy! It was wonderful seeing new and regular faces on the stage, showcasing their talents and being supported by everyone attending the event.



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Elite Rowing

Penketh High School's Rowing Team took part at the Inter-Schools Rowing Competition at Warrington Youth Rowing Club on the 2nd of July. Our team, AKA the Penketh Paddlers, consisted of a group of nine Year 8 pupils, who have worked hard all year round learning this new sport through weekly training sessions. Throughout the year the pupils have been challenged to learn everything from understanding the specific techniques of rowing, improving fitness and new terminology. As a result of the opportunity they have had this year we have had 3 of the team scouted by Warrington Youth Rowing and are now members of the club and attend training sessions and race for WYR in events in their own time at the weekends.

The Team:

Poppy
Amelia
Rachel
Jessica
Callum
Callum
Kiera
Shane

The results were for the competition were: **Mixed Quad - 5th**

Callum
Callum
Kiera
Shane

All Girls Quad - Champions!

Poppy
Amelia
Rachel
Jessica

The pupils have worked incredibly hard representing school throughout the year at WYR and have received high praise from the staff at WYR. On behalf of the pupils I would like to thank Richard Sinnott from WYR for helping provide this opportunity for the pupils with his hard work throughout the year.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the finals myself, but Miss Fleming took the pupils to the event and had this to say:

"On the day of the event, pupils were excited yet nervous. We waited over 2 hours to get on to the water. Having watched all schools compete our pupils knew what they had to do when it was their chance to race. We stayed positive and had the mind-set that we were going to win and if we didn't they had done their best. Both Teams did fantastically well, the open quads missed out from the finals by just the nose of the boat, however they showed great team spirit and stayed for the duration of the event to cheer on the four girls who won their race and were into the finals against Culcheth. The four girls remained calm and pulled off an amazing performance, putting them in 1st place out of 8 schools. It was an honour to watch all pupils. They did Penketh High Proud."



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Our New Library

We are delighted to announce that this month sees the opening of our new school library.

We spent several weeks planning the space, examining plans from various design companies and choosing our final design for the layout and the associated colour schemes. Once the design was complete it took only a few weeks for the space to be newly decorated & our fantastic new shelving systems to be installed.

The first 1000 books arrived, and the mammoth task of organising them was done admirably by our Yr7&8 Pupil Leadership Team Members: Izzy, Evie, Amy, Alice and Amelca. After another delivery of books, Izzy & Evie spent hours helping to scan the now 1500 titles into our new stock management system so we will know exactly who has our books out on loan.

On Thursday the 11th July we were excited to host author Rob Parker who officially opened our lovely new library, where he cut the ribbon, gave an inspirational talk and followed this up with a writing workshop with a group of Yr7s and 8s.

We know that our new library really sets the tone for our school, and highlights our push to raise levels of literacy and foster a love of both reading and learning for our pupils here at Penketh High. We are very much focused on continuing to drive academic standards at the school and a library is an important development to help us build on those improvements already secured.



Future Pathways

Year 9 and 10 have had several college taster days over the last three weeks. Year 9 spent the day at Cronton Sixth Form and experienced lessons in Animal Management, Chemistry, Art, Drama Nursing and more. The feedback from year 9 pupils was that they had an amazing day and couldn't wait to go back in year 10.

Year 10 have been extremely busy attending three different taster sessions at Cronton Sixth Form College, Warrington Vale Royal, and Priestley College. This is in preparation for year 11 and post 16 opportunities. Pupils have now experienced three different college days and will do this once in year 11 too, this will support pupils in deciding on which career path they will take after leaving Penketh High School.



Penketh



PRIDE

Our outstanding young people have achieved some amazing things already this year. Here are some of the things we've celebrated together since the last edition in December.

Year 10 Champions

Congratulations to our Year 10 Boys who were crowned Warrington School's Champions this year. In a tense game against Culcheth in the final, the Penketh team secured victory in extra time, beating the home side 2-1.



MAN>BCN ¡Vamos!

In June our MFL Department left behind the sunny sights of Penketh and flew 40 Year 9 and 10 pupils to Barcelona to allow our pupils to be fully immersed into the Spanish culture. Pupils spent four action packed days in the Catalan city getting accustomed to the Spanish way of life by practising their linguistic capabilities and sampling typical delicacies of the region – (much to the pupils' surprise 'los calamares' were not onion rings)! The pupils took in a variety of iconic tourist attractions during their stay such as La Sagrada Familia where pupils listened to an audio guide detailing the work of Gaudi and his unfinished masterpiece, both pupils and staff alike enjoyed learning about the history of the building and some were even inspired to use photos for their GCSE art projects next year. The second day saw the group visit El Camp Nou, home to Barcelona Football Club where pupils had a tour of the stadium and visited the impressive trophy room (the Everton fans amongst them couldn't believe their eyes). Pupils also visited Gaudi's Parc Güell, a mosaic paradise, and after a mammoth walk to the top of the park they experienced 360 degree views over the whole of Barcelona, a memorable visit for our pupils. Whilst in Barcelona, the group meticulously navigated their way around the city via 'el metro', a cultural experience for all our pupils, living like a local and exchanging small conversations with the people that live there. As the sun set for our last evening in Barcelona we walked up to Montjuic area of the city to witness the extraordinary magic show of 'El Font Màgica', pupils watched in awe as rows of cascading waterfalls were set off in time to popular songs, a brilliant end to what was a fantastic trip!

Duke of Edinburgh

Two groups of D of E pupils from year 9 spent two nights completing the expedition element of their Bronze award. Highlights of the trip included setting up camp, cooking in the wild and toasting marshmallows on an open fire. All the pupils completed the Bala loop (14 miles around Lyn Tegid). Conditions were warm to hot and hats were a necessity! An amazing achievement and experience for both pupils and staff. Congratulations to the 3 Gold Year 12 candidates who assisted the expedition.

Two Dutch visitors to the campsite made a point of saying how gracious and well mannered our pupils were- international credit for Penketh!



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PRIDE

Big Bang North West

Tuesday 2nd July was a first for Penketh High School. It was the day that saw some of our learners (Years 7 & 8) attend the Big Bang North West STEM festival, not as visitors, but as competitors. Two teams of learners from Penketh (Abbi, Amy, Alice, Amelka, Sophie, India, and Chloe) took their projects from the Big Bang@Penketh Science Fayre to the Liverpool Exhibition Centre on Kings Dock to showcase what they had done. The competitors had to explain every detail of their projects to the judges (delegates from local STEM industries) and discuss how they worked as a team to reach a common goal. I can honestly say that I am immensely proud of our learners because of the way they communicated and presented their projects. This was clearly evident by the non-stop visitors to our stands, and our team of Year 7's were even told to apply for an apprenticeship at a local nuclear engineering company. Well done to all involved.



OxNET @ TCAT

On 1st May Penketh High School, as part of TCAT, began a long term project with Oxford University. The purpose of this project is for Year 8 learners to work with researchers from Oxford University around the STEM subjects and showcase the abilities and understanding that our learners have. Activities on the day included critical thinking, analysis of exercise data, and programming Sphero robots to tackle a maze. All Penketh learners performed incredibly well and it was a team from Penketh that received the most points for the tasks that day. The OxNet@TCAT project will be continuing over the next 6 months with the second session happening at Beaumont College Academy on Monday 15th July.

Well done to our team:

(Aldric, Mohana, Jamie, Mahmood, Ben, Freya, Lee, Kacy, Lucy, Luke, Luke, Adam, Aidan, and Rachel)

Penketh



PRIDE

Year 11 Prom

This year Friday 28th June saw one of the most hotly anticipated events on the school calendar: the Year 11 Prom. The event was held at Hallmark Hotel, Warrington and, as the sun shone down on a glorious evening, over 170 pupils and staff gathered for an evening of fun and dancing to celebrate the departure of our Year 11s. As well as a two course dinner and disco, sweet treats were provided by The Enchanted Candy Cart while many attendees had a ball using the selfie mirror. Needless to say that, as well as looking absolutely stunning in their prom finery, Year 11 once again showed they were a credit to the school with the hotel and photographer commenting on their impeccable behaviour and polite manners. The only thing left to say to Year 11 now is "Good Luck for your exam results in August. You have been an amazing Year Group and deserve every success for the future!"



Year 7 Bushcraft

A group of 48 year 7 students took on Bushcraft at the start of July. Students were away from technology & experienced a camping experience like no other! They learnt bush survival skills such as making fires, first aid and working together with their tribe. Students found their teachers abandoned in the woods and had to use their skills to rescue them. Some students took on the gruesome bush tucker trial, whilst other students displayed their amazing talents at 'Tribes Got Talent'. A brilliant few days with lots of memories that will last forever!



Year 11 Examination Focus

Here at Penketh High School we are always proud of our exceptional young people but the way that Year 11 have approached their exams this year has left us speechless at times. There are, as always, some stand-out examples of hard work, dedication and ambition by individuals such as Valedictorian for 2018/19 Beth Bond. The work ethic and drive of the entire year group is what has shone through more than ever this year. We look forward to sharing and celebrating results with them in August and we hope they enjoy a well deserved rest across the summer!

SPARK



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Digital Curriculum AT PENKETH

It's been a pleasure to introduce the digital pathway for all pupils across Year 7 to 10 this year. Pupils within these year groups have had the opportunity to undertake sessions in rapid prototyping, physical computing, 3D printing, Raspberry Pi coding, data visualisation and game design. It's important to us to provide pupils with these digital experiences in a rapidly changing and increasingly digital world. These experiences extend the usual parameters of the classroom and allows us to deliver skills through a bespoke curriculum designed in consultation with industry leaders. This provides pupils with insight as to what can be studied at University but also gives them the chance to see Maths, Science and Technology in action.

Liverpool MakeFest

Penketh High School this year was asked to coordinate all the media and interviews for the biggest digital making event in the UK, Liverpool MakeFest. It's a celebration that explores how science, technology, engineering, arts and crafts are shaping our world. Now in its fifth year, MakeFest has grown into a key UK event which attracts makers, creators, artists and musicians from all across the UK and internationally.

Deputy Mayor of Liverpool and Cabinet Member for Business, Economy and Skills, Cllr Gary Millar added: "Events like Liverpool MakeFest are extremely important for the future of our city. In fact, originally it was my fascination for computers that brought me to this great city. Therefore, I know first-hand that making technology interactive and fun can help ignite a spark in young and old. This could be the beginning of your very own journey of discovery and excitement."

"You will have the opportunity this weekend to find that MakeFest is your perfect introduction to the exciting world of technology, gadgets, games, robots, craft and advice."

Penketh Students worked together with the company We Heart Tech, a pioneering design, tech and media company in Liverpool. Leading the key interviews and showcasing the projects built by makers across the UK, a compilation of this work completed by pupils will be available in the next few weeks and shared nationally.

Mrs Smith and Dr Gardner joined our students in not only showcasing the electronic robotics and Internet of things projects they had worked on over the year, but also got involved with the immersive interactive exhibits including coding drones and using the latest in augmented reality hardware. We were also exceptionally proud of the work pupils have produced to participate in the world's biggest 3D print. The print, known as the "Eagle" rocket currently stands at 20.5ft and will be judged by the Guinness Book of World Records in November.

Pupils who had worked on the Museum project were proud to see their work form earlier on in the year, a 3D scanning and augmentation project on display with Create Education and Hewitt Packard. Congratulations to all our year 8/9 pupils who have been working on this.



SPARK

AT PENKETH



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World ORT Training

Sharing our expertise is important to us at Spark Penketh. So it was pleasing that Ms Keep was asked by The CREATE Education Project to deliver a maker education programme to 20 international teachers at the 16th annual World ORT Hatter Technology Seminar, which took place at ORT House in London from June 24-27.

The World ORT's annual Hatter technology seminar provides an opportunity for 20 of ORT's professional educators from all over the world to explore the latest developments in STEM teaching and learning. Each year a specific pedagogical or technological theme is addressed, recent themes have included STEM Curriculum 2020, Nanotechnology, Robotics, and Integrated approaches to STEM. During an intensive week of themed master-classes, lectures, workshops and visits, delegates get to learn from each other as well as from leaders in the field and build professional relationships that continue long after the seminar ends, often stimulating international collaborations. The theme of this year's seminar was "Bringing the Maker Culture into our schools".

Jodene Pereira from the ORT-affiliated King David High School Linksfield in Johannesburg, South Africa said of the event:

"I feel that the Hatter Seminar has not only impacted me professionally, but I feel that it has had a big impact on me personally too. Professionally, I sometimes face issues as a maker and trying to bring in new ideas into a profession that has been around for centuries has its difficulties – but I know now that I have a very big support system, not only in my school, but thanks to this last week, around the world. We laughed, we learnt, we collaborated, we shared, we failed and kept trying. It was the true essence of what Maker Culture is all about and I am truly fortunate to have been a part of it all thank you so much."



The participants worked together on projects throughout the week.

DOIT Heroes

We were delighted to hear that SPARK has been listed as a DOIT Hero. This is a list of relevant organisations/projects from the fields of education, social innovation and entrepreneurship, maker movement and maker/STEAM and digital learning. Heroes are identified by their aspiration to produce work that benefits and inspires young people, promoting shared values.

This is part of the Europe wide "DOIT" project which aims to deliver entrepreneurial skills for young social innovators in an open digital world. So we're very proud to have been listed as one of their Heroes and to be part of such an illustrious group of organisations from across Europe.

SPARK Ed

AT PENKETH

THE OUTREACH PROGRAM OF PENKETH HIGH SCHOOL'S DIGITAL MAKING CURRICULUM

The SparkED at Penketh project is well underway with workshops running across the whole of Warrington throughout August in partnership with our librarian partners. The feedback from sessions has been extremely positive and it has been rewarding to widen the reach of SPARK to children across the town. There is clearly an appetite for digital upskilling as the last 5 sessions have been fully booked!

"My granddaughter made a robot, the workshop was amazing and all the staff couldn't have done more. Good work"

"Fantastic workshop. Loved it! Solomon really enjoyed the build a robot workshop. He has made a video of his robot working- Thank you so much!"

Pupil Leadership Team



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London Trip

On Wednesday 3rd July, the 'debate club' and Politics students, along with a few other students, were lucky enough to take a trip to London to explore a range of political landmarks. The trip took them to the Supreme Court, the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament which included an amazing tour by Mr Cordingley! Hopefully, there will be more trips like this next year, everyone certainly experienced an excellent insight into politics within the UK. (Amelia Stuart Year 9)



The WAYV (Warrington Youth Voice)

Over this term pupils from all years have come together in a series of meetings with Stef from Warrington Youth Voice to discuss various cultural activities in Warrington. We were given the challenge of getting as many people as possible to complete a survey about the cultural activities available in Warrington. After analysing the feedback we have identified that the children of Warrington aren't aware of a lot of the cultural activities on offer. We also learnt that the cultural activities aren't seen as fun or exciting. So our aim is to work together to improve this. Another event we are keen to get involved with is the Warrington Music festival, so we will be working with their team and supporting with stage design and logistics during the event. (Aj Howell Year 9)



Dinosaur Day

Cameron Mathieson, the younger brother of Guy in Year 9, was a boy who had Cystic Fibrosis and

Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy. Cameron sadly passed away when he was five years old, after spending three of those years in hospital. He loved dinosaurs - or as he called them, Dowsers - and his favourite Dowser was a green triceratops called Troy. Contact is a charity that supports families like the Mathiesons to ensure that they can make every moment count, whatever the disability, and live life to the fullest extent they can. To support this charity Guy led assemblies across the week to inform pupils of the meaning behind Dinosaur Day—and on the 19th June pupils held a coffee morning to raise money for Contact. In the future the Pupil Leadership Team will be continuing to support charities like Contact so that we can help more families and do our best to support them through the challenges they face every day.

