



Friday 17th April, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Monday marks what would've been, in normal circumstances, the resumption of school following the Easter break. Unfortunately we remain in the midst of a national crisis and schools nationally remain closed to the vast majority of pupils. The school has remained open across the Easter break to our most vulnerable pupils and to the children of key workers; and this will continue to be the case in the coming weeks. We're pleased that we can do our best to support the local and national effort during this uncertain time.

Whilst we haven't been issuing lesson content to pupils in the same way during the weeks of the Easter holiday, I hope that the project booklet that we issued has helped to support pupils during the period of lockdown. Staff have been planning and preparing for the coming term across the last two weeks as we look to enhance our remote learning offer for pupils so that we can provide them with a more comprehensive experience. This update is focused on what our remote offer will look like for pupils across the next half term and how they can access all aspects of this offer from home.

### **Accessing the remote resources**

All of the resources that we issue to pupils will be done through Teams. Pupils access Teams using their Office 365 login. We know from monitoring the login data that the vast majority of pupils have been logging in to Teams on a regular basis to interact with lessons. Pupils were shown how to access their Office account and how to access Teams before school closed; there are help videos available via the school website to support parents and pupils should these be required. In addition, should anyone have difficulty accessing their Office 365 account, you can email [remotelearning@penkethhigh.org](mailto:remotelearning@penkethhigh.org) for assistance.

Using Office 365 allows pupils to access the Office suite of applications such as Word, Excel or PowerPoint to complete the work set by staff.

### **Following the timetable**

When logging in to Teams pupils will see that they are members of several Teams, one for each of their classes in school. Staff will be logging in to set work and, where possible, be available in the class Team during the normal lesson time that pupils would have. So the expectation is that pupils follow their usual timetable during the day, accessing the Team for their timetabled class, completing work set for that lesson and interacting with the member of staff to discuss the work or seek support or help with the work set. Staff will respond in "real time" where possible.

This is the method that was employed prior to the Easter break and lessons will commence again in this way from Monday at 9am.

Where pupils don't appear to be accessing Teams to complete work or to interact with staff, we'll contact parents to ensure there are not some barriers that are preventing access that we could possibly assist with.

**PART OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST | NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE**

THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





## Curriculum enhancements this half term

We know that the unusual nature of the situation in which we find ourselves can mean that, for some of our pupils, maintaining sight of the bigger picture is difficult. It's important that pupils maintain structure and receive an educational input, but it's equally important for them to see where the learning they are undertaking at home is leading, how it fits in to the bigger picture and that they are working towards something.

Staff have been working hard, remapping curriculums so that we can deliver a series of lessons that lend themselves to remote learning but allow progress to be made within programmes of study. In short, staff will be continuing to drive a curriculum albeit in a different way than "normal".

Departments have therefore identified learning criteria to be achieved in the coming weeks, ahead of what would've been May half-term. This criteria will be shared with both pupils and parents in the coming days so that you know what it is pupils will be covering and working towards. This will be issued to parents in the form of the curriculum bulletin that we usually issue at the start of each term.

Staff will be setting assignments for pupils in each class to complete via Teams at the end of the half term so that pupils can identify the progress they are making against the learning criteria identified in the curriculum bulletin.

## Enrichment

As I'm sure you know, enrichment and wider opportunities are a key feature of school life, with over 60 clubs operating during enrichment sessions at both lunchtime and after school. Of course, pupils don't have access to these clubs at present; nor will they be able to access clubs they attend outside of school. From Monday, and on a weekly basis going forward, we will be issuing pupils with an Enrichment bulletin. This will signpost pupils to enrichment resources allowing pupils to engage with activities outside of their usual curriculum. The bulletin will be shared through Teams and other platforms. Each week there will be a range of activities for pupils to engage with including sporting challenges, musical tasks, recipe ideas and creative arts activities.

## Rewards

Our pupils have continued to demonstrate wonderful commitment to their studies despite not having access to school. We've already shared fantastic examples of work produced by pupils at home during their lessons on Twitter. Ordinarily in school pupils would be rewarded for their efforts with Going for Gold postcards, we feel that it's important that we continue to recognise these efforts despite pupils working from home. We will therefore be issuing e-postcards to pupils next term where their application and work merits this recognition. Each e-postcard will contribute to a pupils' current total in school so that they can continue to work towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards this year.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



International School Award



Healthy School



INVESTOR CAREERS



MUSIC AMBASSADOR SCHOOL





## Year 9 options

Next week we will be issuing information through our school website and via email to parents and pupils in Year 9 regarding the process for selecting the humanity subject that pupils wish to study across Year 10 and Year 11. This year there is the opportunity for pupils to choose to continue to study both History and Geography should they wish, details of which can be found the documentation we issue on Monday.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. We recognise how difficult this period must be for all pupils and their families. We can't offer our usual provision but we've been working hard to develop our remote learning offer to pupils so that they can continue to engage in education, have a clear and structured curriculum to work through and have an array of activities to undertake during what, I'm sure, is a frustrating time for our young people.

We also know that some of you will have been impacted directly by the coronavirus and those families who have tragically lost loved ones or who face the anguish of having a loved one who is ill are in our thoughts. The sense of community has become even more important over recent weeks, it's essential that we do all we can to support each other during this period and we remain committed to supporting our outstanding young people, their families and our community. Please do get in touch with us if you have any concerns about your child. Our welfare team are continuing to offer support and are providing advice and guidance; you can contact the team via email [welfare@penkethhigh.org](mailto:welfare@penkethhigh.org), someone will get back to you to discuss concerns you may have.

We will continue to update parents on a weekly basis. I'd like to wish you all the very best and hope that you remain in good health.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin  
Principal.

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