

Friday 24th April, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a productive week since school resumed following the Easter break. Our pupils have continued to make us proud with their efforts, demonstrating commitment to their studies by logging into Teams and following the daily timetable. We have been so pleased with the number of examples of excellent work that pupils have produced at home as part of their studies and if you follow us on Twitter you will know that we have started tweeting examples so that pupils receive the recognition that they deserve. Pupils should be congratulated and their hard work and dedication celebrated.

Parents will know from the update that we issued last week that we are going to issue digital going for gold postcards to pupils. These will be issued by staff to recognise the efforts by pupils across their subject areas. To date, staff have issued 168 postcards in the first four days of the half term, which is incredible and these will start to be issued to pupil school email accounts from Monday.

Our intention is to provide pupils with an educational provision that allows them to continue to develop and progress. We are aware that we can't replicate the conditions of school but engagement will continue to support pupils educationally ahead of their return to school. We will, of course, assess pupils upon their return to ensure that we identify what actions we can take to support their future learning.

I mentioned in the update last week that staff have been working hard remapping curriculum documents so that the content we deliver during the period of closure is as conducive to remote learning as possible. We want pupils to understand that the work we set is not tokenistic or random, it is set as part of a structured curriculum phase – albeit one where they are completing the work at home. Pupils are therefore working towards an end point in each of their subject areas over the next few weeks. All departments have set learning criteria that they wish to achieve with pupils over the next half term. We have summarised these and collated them into a curriculum bulletin for each year group. Parents will be familiar with these documents as we issue these at the start of each term to outline what it is pupils will be studying over the coming weeks. We have published these documents through the school website and they can be found through the following link <https://www.penkethhigh.org/curriculum-bulletin/>.

If pupils have trouble accessing their school Office 365 account or accessing the resources set each day by their teachers please contact remotelearning@penkethhigh.org for assistance.

Research from psychologists indicates that providing a structure and routine for pupils during this uncertain time promotes reassurance and a sense of safety. One of the key drivers for providing a structured day that pupils would be used to in school is to support pupils so that they can look to the familiarity of their daily structure for reassurance. Of course, the wellbeing of our young people is paramount and it is only natural that the current situation is one that they are finding difficult and confusing. If you do have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact our welfare team who continue to support our pupils and families during this turbulent time. If you would like to discuss concerns please email welfare@penkethhigh.org and one of the team will get in touch with you. There are also a number of resources being published to support young people at this time, offering advice to parents and carers. There is a link to a useful resource below, the document is a collation of resources to support the mental health and wellbeing of children during this time of crisis.

<https://www.mentallyhealthyschools.org.uk/media/1960/coronavirus-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources.pdf>



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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



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Naturally I'm sure that pupils will be spending an enhanced amount of time using online resources, not only for work during the school day but also for entertainment during this period of lockdown. Parents will be aware that the internet can be a wonderful resource, but can also be a dangerous place for young people. 'Thinkuknow' is an educational programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP command. They have produced a number of resources to support both pupils and parents to navigate the internet safely and avoid these dangers. These can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

Year 11

Parents will know that we are continuing to work closely with Ofqual and the examination boards to ensure that pupils are awarded the grades that they deserve this summer. We have had an update that results will be issued to pupils on the same date as previously calendared, Thursday 20th August, 2020. We will issue further information before the end of term regarding arrangements for pupils to access their grades.

I'd like to wish you all the very best and hope that you and your families remain in good health.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.



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