



Friday 8th May, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We reach the end of a short week as we mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day during the national bank holiday today. The school remained open across bank holiday for both vulnerable children and the children of key workers. Those of us in school took the opportunity to remember a generation of people who made tremendous sacrifice, a generation to whom we remain eternally grateful. Pupils engaged in activities relating to such a momentous occasion in our national history, including a research activity and a VE Day picnic for lunch.

As it is indeed a bank holiday live lessons were not conducted as normal, but these resume from Monday continuing to follow the pupils' school timetable that they would usually follow in school. For more information relating to the learning criteria in each subject this half term please see the curriculum bulletins available on the website <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.

We were thrilled with how successful our virtual careers day was on Wednesday. Whilst we have worked swiftly to ensure that our curriculum offer was in place for pupils during the period of closure, we've also been committed to providing pupils with a wider enrichment offer. You will know how important enrichment and the wider development of pupils is to us as a school; we offer in excess of 60 different enrichment clubs for pupils to undertake, have a comprehensive career programme and a dedicated personal development curriculum. Despite pupils not being able to engage in these things at this time, we feel it incredibly important that we do whatever we can to offer wider opportunities beyond the taught curriculum, despite the obvious challenges we face.

Our virtual careers day was a huge part of our remote enrichment provision and I'd like to pass on my thanks to Mr Musgrove who led on the coordination of this event in collaboration with our partners at the Pledge and Higher Horizons. The day provided a range of interactive workshops and presentations from employers, colleges and higher education providers. The level of interaction from our young people was staggering, with over 1782 messages recorded throughout the day, asking thoughtful and insightful questions. The questions demonstrated that pupils have adopted a wonderfully mature attitude and are clearly thinking about their futures and their next steps. We were so proud of them and how they took advantage of the opportunity and the feedback we received from our external partners was full of praise for our outstanding young people.

Each Monday we also issue our Enrichment Bulletin document, this is distributed to pupils via Teams and is also placed on the school website; the edition from this week can be found at <https://www.penkethhigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Enrichment-Week-3-4th-May.pdf>. This document provides links to resources and activities to widen pupils' educational experiences beyond our curriculum lessons and also includes resources that can help support their wellbeing during what is likely to be a troubling and confusing time for them.

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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



International School Award



Healthy School



INVESTOR IN CAREERS



ambassador school





The wellbeing of our pupils remains our greatest priority and parents will be aware that form tutors have been contacting families of pupils in their form. Our welfare team are also working hard during this period to continue to support pupils and if you do have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact us at school using the email address welfare@penkethhigh.org.

Since we started issuing digital Going for Gold postcards a very impressive 833 have been distributed to pupils in recognition for their hard work and dedication to their studies during the period of remote learning. I'd like to pass on my congratulations to our young people. They have adopted a magnificent attitude during this difficult period, showing a real commitment and dedication to their studies and their own success; which is highly commendable. It's not simply a case of pupils completing work set, but completing it to an incredibly high standard. Parents who follow us on Twitter will have seen examples of this work posted by the school; with staff highlighting an incredible number of examples on a daily basis. This only serves to further demonstrate why we're so proud of the young people in our school community.

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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