

Sunday 6th September, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There are many things that are having to be withdrawn because guidance from the government dictates we can't operate as we normally would. Assemblies, particular sporting activities, cross-year enrichment activities and some school trips/activities have all had to be removed from plans. This is not because we want to penalise pupils but because our operation during this period has to change.

Regardless of the evident health risks of COVID-19, a spike in infections on a local level will likely lead to impact on either individual pupils or groups of pupils which will result in further disruption to their education, something we all want to avoid.

I know there has been a small number of parents enquiring about the decision to ask pupils not to access the school via the footpath at the rear of the school and about our change requiring rucksack style bags for all pupils.

Whilst I'm sure most of the reasons for these changes are fairly obvious in the current climate, I thought it'd be useful to detail some of our rationale beyond that already published in the information issued to parents on the 24th of August.

Footpath;

- The public footpath is an extremely narrow path, often causing "bottlenecking". This is particularly an issue when pupils travelling to school are met by members of the public accessing the path in the opposite direction towards Great Sankey.
- Google maps tells us that travelling to the front gates of school via St Mary's Road from outside the Woodlands pub, rather than via the public footpath, adds 8 mins to a pupils' journey time to school if on foot. This route means pupils have to walk an extra 700 meters compared to the route via the footpath and so, whilst we recognise this is an inconvenience, I'm sure you'd agree that this isn't significant.
- There are many aspects that we feel we might be able to amend as we grow into the year; the footpath is something that we will review, especially as we move into the winter months.

Rucksack style bags;

- This year we are unable to share resources between pupils. We've thought carefully about how we can frame learning for pupils, producing booklets for each of the modules they undertake.
- Booklets will aid pupils with any remote learning they need to undertake on an individual basis or, in a worst-case scenario, because of further school closure and so they will need to keep these in good order.
- Bringing a rucksack will mean pupils can bring more equipment in the one bag (e.g. packed lunch, PE kit) reducing the number of bags that they are bringing into school - especially those using public transport - minimising the number of items with surfaces that can potentially be contaminated.

I'm sure you recognise the amount of change that both pupils and staff will have to get used to and we appreciate your support in helping us to focus on supporting pupils to get used to these changes. As previously stated, we will be reviewing all practices regularly and where we can change or relax certain measures - but maintain the same degree of safety of operation - we will do so.

PART OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST | NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE
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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





Penketh High School

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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