

Monday 7th September, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After our first day of operation with significant changes in place I thought it's be useful to share some of the things we've learned from the day and inform you of some small changes we're going to make, having had the chance to review plans now that pupils have been on site.

School Bus

We are aware that a school bus service turned up late this morning. We have contacted the bus company to raise concerns regarding this issue ahead of the morning service tomorrow. We are also aware of some poor behaviour from a minority of pupils on one of the school buses, we will be taking action against individual perpetrators tomorrow. It's important to emphasis that, if necessary, where conduct is not acceptable on the school bus we will withdraw this service for those individuals so that the vast majority of pupils don't have to tolerate this behaviour when travelling to school.

There were some pupils who did not wear face coverings today, again, we are aware that there was a variance between drivers as to whether or not they challenged this effectively. We have raised this as a concern with the bus company as part of our communication. From the school's perspective, where pupils are not wearing a face covering we will not be allowing pupils to access the school bus service. Where this is the case, we will contact parents to make alternative arrangements for collecting pupils. We would ask that all parents impress on pupils the requirement to wear a face covering when using all forms of public transport.

Lunchtime

We have to give pupils credit for quickly adapting to their new allocated areas for entry, break, lunch and exit from school. Parents will be aware that our initial thoughts are to move to a hot lunch service in a couple of weeks time once pupils have been able to get used to the new arrangements. With the weather remaining relatively warm between now and then we are utilising the yard space allocated to each year; especially as we know that pupils will have less opportunity to move around during the day due to the new year zone arrangements.

We have also been keeping a close eye on the weather forecast and planned for those on Riley yard to able to access the sports hall for break and lunch where the weather is poor. The forecast today was incorrect and some rain during lunch meant we did have to move some pupils into the sports hall. We still didn't feel like we'd got the provision for those pupils on Riley yard right today and so from tomorrow those year groups due to undertake lunch on Riley yard will be able to access the canteen to eat their packed lunch. Those on Rosetta yard for lunch remain with access to the covered lunchtime seating area and an overspill area. Of course, where pupils are accessing these areas, enhanced cleaning will take place before the next year group commence their sitting.

From tomorrow we will also be undertaking a collection process for pupils entitled to free school meals to collect their lunch. We endeavoured to deliver these as efficiently as possible to pupils but again we weren't happy with this aspect today and information will be provided to pupils tomorrow morning with regards the new arrangements.

Like anything where there is significant change to normal operation, there will be some tweaks to arrangements where we feel the experience for pupils is not as good as it could or should be.



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

Penketh High School, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BY

Tel: 01925 722298 Fax: 01925 723812 e-mail: principal@penketh.warrington.sch.uk Website: www.penkethhighschool.co.uk

Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH



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I think the important thing is to react quickly so as to make positive changes for pupils where we don't feel the arrangements are correct.

We were absolutely thrilled with the conduct of pupils today. The general standard of uniform was exceptional and it was great to see pupils enjoying being back in school. They have taken to the new arrangements exceptionally well and were mature in absorbing information that was delivered across the day. We very much look forward undertaking subject lessons with pupils tomorrow supporting their progress going forward.

As we undertake this year in unprecedented circumstances we will keep parents informed of any changes that we consider necessary to ensure the very best provision for pupils each day.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.

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