

Friday 11th December, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear parents and carers,

I'm sure you'll be aware that the Department for Education announced on Tuesday that schools could assign Friday the 18th of December as an emergency INSET day, allowing schools to close to pupils a day earlier than planned. The idea behind this is so that any likely school based contact tracing for cases of COVID that arise after the 18th of December would not extend into the Christmas break.

We feel this is exceptionally late notice not only for parents who potentially would have to arrange for unplanned childcare, but also for schools who use INSET days to deliver staff training. Parents will know that we invest a great deal of time and effort in our professional development offer for staff and didn't feel such a short amount of time would allow us to plan and deliver a training day to our required standard. We would have to make up this day elsewhere in the remainder of the calendar and feel that our already planned professional development programme would be detrimentally impacted by this decision, which will ultimately negatively impact on pupils' experience in the classroom.

The will therefore be open as planned on Friday the 18th of December. I issued the end of term arrangements to parents last week but I thought it'd be useful to share these again. We will be maintaining our staggered times across the day and the departure times for pupils for that last day, Friday 18th of December, are as below;

Year Group	End of day
7	1pm
8	1pm
9	1:30pm
10	12:30pm
11	12:30pm

Parents will know the charity that we choose to support is St Rocco's who provide exceptional care for people in our local community. As such pupils can choose not to wear their uniform on the last day of term and we'd ask that pupils bring a donation of £1 to wear their own clothes.

COVID cases during the Christmas break

As touched on above, given that there continues to be community transmission of COVID-19 in Warrington there is a chance that pupils may contract coronavirus over the next few weeks. Where pupils become symptomatic on either Saturday the 19th of December or Sunday 20th of December and go on to test positive, we have some clear processes in place so that we can engage in contract tracing those in school who would be classed as close contacts of the individual who tests positive. I must stress that if a pupil becomes symptomatic on Monday 21st or beyond, you do not need to contact the school as pupils will not have been in school during the 48 hours where they are infectious prior to developing symptoms. Where this is the case you will need to notify us of your child's positive test upon our return in January and you should engage in with NHS track and trace programme.

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

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

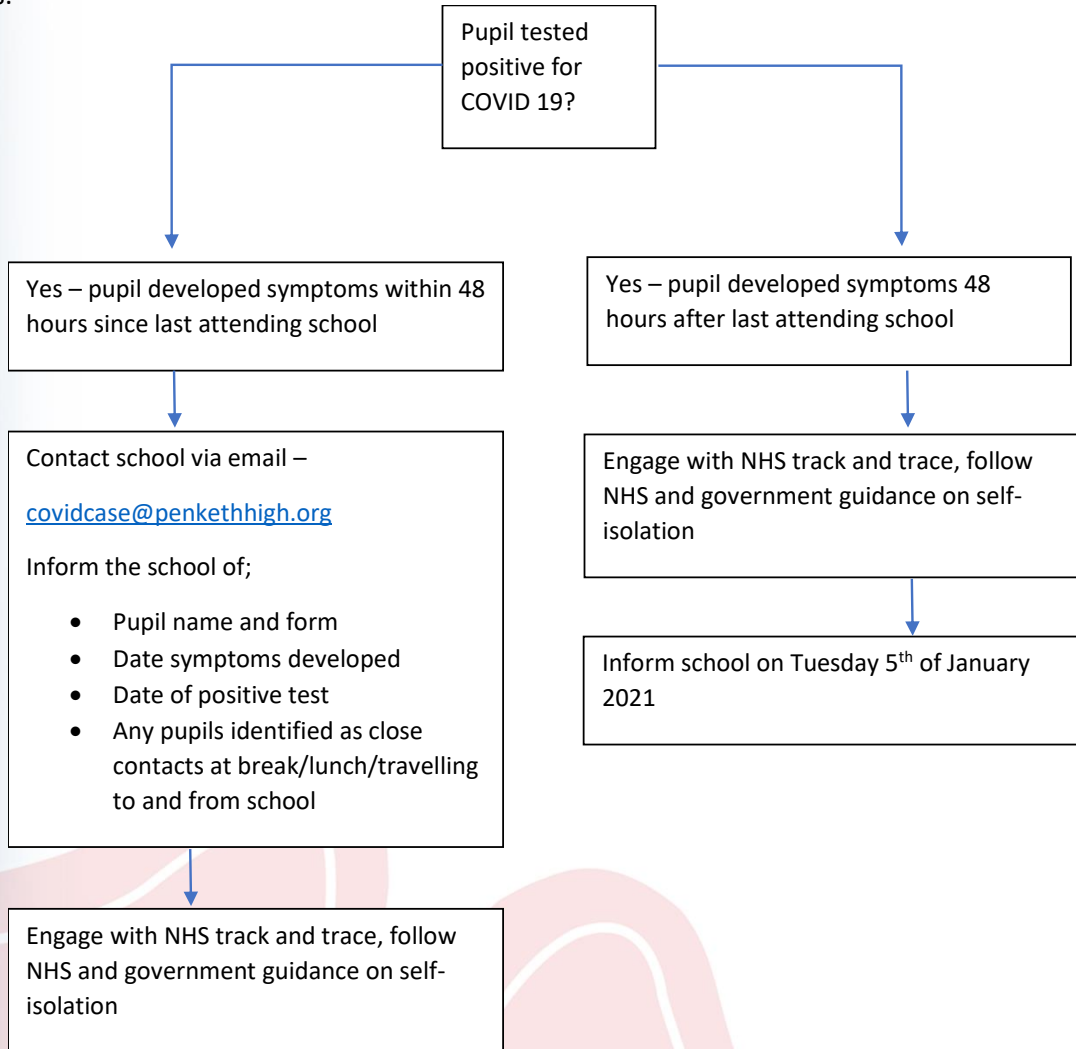
Tel: 01925 722298 Fax: 01925 723812 e-mail: principal@penketh.warrington.sch.uk Website: www.penkethhighschool.co.uk

Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





The diagram below outlines the steps parents should take where pupils test positive for COVID-19 during the holidays.



For any cases that arise where symptoms have developed within 48 hours since the pupil was last in school, we will complete contact tracing identifying pupils who have been in close contact with the individual who has tested positive. We will contact the parents of those pupils who are close contacts indicating that they will need to self-isolate for 14 days as indicated in the current government guidance.

Our senior team will be taking responsibility for undertaking this contact tracing process over the first week of the Christmas holidays where necessary. We will be allocating a time period each day where this will be picked up as suggested in the guidance issued to schools by the Department for Education. You will receive a response within 24 hours should you need to contact the school because your child has developed symptoms within the first 48 hours of school closure and has tested positive for COVID 19.

I know for those identified as close contacts and asked to self-isolate this might be frustrating and may impact on your plans for Christmas, but I'd like to remind parents that we have to deliver this information and instruction as we have been mandated to do so by the government.

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

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





Academic reports

Parents will receive a report via their child's school email address; this report will consist of progress scores based on your child's performance in each subject this term. We intend to use this data to help us ensure that students are in the correct set to make maximum progress. Due to restrictions placed on schools this year, the setting this term was based on combined Key Stage 2 data (CATs scores for Year 7). The setting for the next term will be based solely on the academic performance of your child in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Languages since September. We will review this setting again at Easter so that students are always given the opportunity to move set based on their current attainment and performance across their subjects. We will review Year 10 setting following their recent suite of examinations and what that tells us about their current performance. For Year 11, setting will, in the most part, remain the same as we approach the GCSE exams. We are mindful of the disruption to learning that has taken place across the last 9 months and the benefits that a continuity of teacher can bring to their final preparations for exams.

Winter Grant

I have attached a letter from Warrington Borough Council that provides information about further support available for families through the Winter COVID-19 grant scheme. We're told that families applying for support before the 13th of December are likely to be in receipt of support before Christmas.

Following significant disruption to their education earlier this year pupils need to make the most of every opportunity to engage in learning to ensure that they are well placed to make progress going forward; this means that they need to be in school. We will be continuing to drive learning across the last week of term.

The evidence is clear, pupils who don't attend school regularly suffer from poor achievement in comparison to their peers. Indeed a report from the DfE highlights that pupils who attend regularly are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above compared to those who are regularly absent. Of course, there are unavoidable circumstances that result in absence at this time, but this makes it even more important for pupils to attend school where they are able and circumstances allow them to do so.

We have a shared aspiration and that is for your child to be successful and to have the very best life chances. Attendance plays a significant role in the chances of pupils achieving this success.

I wish you and your family all the very best at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



International School Award



Healthy School



INVESTOR CAREERS



AMBASSADOR SCHOOL



WARRINGTON

Borough Council

Address

Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive

Lynton Green
Director of Corporate Services
& Deputy Chief Executive

East Annexe
Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

30th November 2020

Help with your food and utility bills this winter – are you eligible?

You may be eligible for help from the Covid19 Winter Grant scheme. This is additional funding over the winter months to support with food and basic utility bills.

To be eligible for the grant you must be one of the following status:

1. A parent or carer of a child living with you aged 0 to 16 years;
2. A parent or carer of a young person aged 16 to 18 years living with you;
3. A young person aged 16 – 18 years living independently;
4. A parent or carer of a young person aged 19 to 24 years with special educational needs or disability (SEND) if they have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or have had an EHCP previously;
5. A young person aged 19 to 24 years with SEND if you have an EHCP or have had an EHCP previously;
6. A young person aged 18 - 21 years who has previously spent time in the care of Warrington Borough Council as a child.

Also, to be eligible for the grant you must currently be claiming one of the following financial support benefits (income is based on household):

- Income Support;
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190);
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit;
- Universal Credit.

Please be aware that you commit benefit fraud by claiming benefits you are not entitled to on purpose, for example by providing false information. Action will be taken with anyone found to be making a fraudulent claim.

Young People who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or carer, can claim for themselves, however full household circumstances have to be taken into account.

This grant can be used for food, heating, lighting, cooking, water and sewerage needs. It is not intended to cover debt advice and general financial hardship support which is not linked to food, warmth and/or hygiene. This grant is not to be used to cover housing costs as there are other benefits and support is available to cover these costs.

If you meet both the eligibility status in the list 1-6 AND are currently claiming one of the listed financial support benefits, please complete the following online Winter Grant application form: www.warrington.gov.uk/COVID2020-WG. You will be able to make a claim for each child in your household within this one application. If possible please complete the form by 13th December 2020 in order for us to try and get the first payment of £20.57 for each eligible child to you before Christmas, with a further three payments being made during the January to March period.

If you would like further information on the grant or support completing the form please email: covidwinterpaymentgrant@warrington.gov.uk or call Contact Warrington 01925 443322.

Yours faithfully



Lynton Green
Director of Corporate Services & Deputy Chief Executive

Website address for the Covid19 Winter Grant Scheme application form:
www.warrington.gov.uk/COVID2020-WG