



Thursday 17th December, 2020.

Dear parents and carers,

This evening the Department for Education have announced that the vast majority of pupils at secondary level will not be returning to school in the first week of January, instead they will be undertaking online learning for the first week back after Christmas. Pupils in examination year groups will still be expected to attend school and so Year 11 should return to school on Tuesday 5th of January 2021 and they will be undertaking their normal timetable as they prepare for their examinations in the summer.

We will also be providing a provision for vulnerable pupils or children of critical key workers across Years 7 – 10. The school will be contacting the families of vulnerable pupils to discuss their attendance during the first week back. The children of critical key workers will also be able to attend school where necessary and it's important that parents who are critical key workers and who intend to send their child to school during the first week back get in contact with the school to inform us, this will help support our planning. If you are a critical key worker and do intend to send your child to school we'd ask that you email us at keyworkers@penkethhigh.org notifying us of your child's name, their form group and the days that they will be in attendance during the first week.

I want to remind parents that the first school week following Christmas runs from Tuesday January the 5th to Friday January 8th 2021 as Monday 4th of January is an INSET day. This will serve us well as the Department for Education have also announced that mass testing will be available in schools from January. I want to reassure you, as I'm sure you've seen reports relating to mass testing in schools, parents will need to opt in and consent to the testing process before pupils are tested. At the moment details are only just emerging and so we will be sending out further information ahead of our return to school.

Parents will know that we're well equipped to quickly transition to a remote education offer. This year staff worked exceptionally hard at developing curriculum resources that can be delivered both in the classroom and through online delivery. This means that during that first week back we'd expect pupils to access Teams through their school Office 365 account and undertake lessons following their usual timetable as they would in school.

COVID cases during the Christmas break

Given that there continues to be rising 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 contact 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

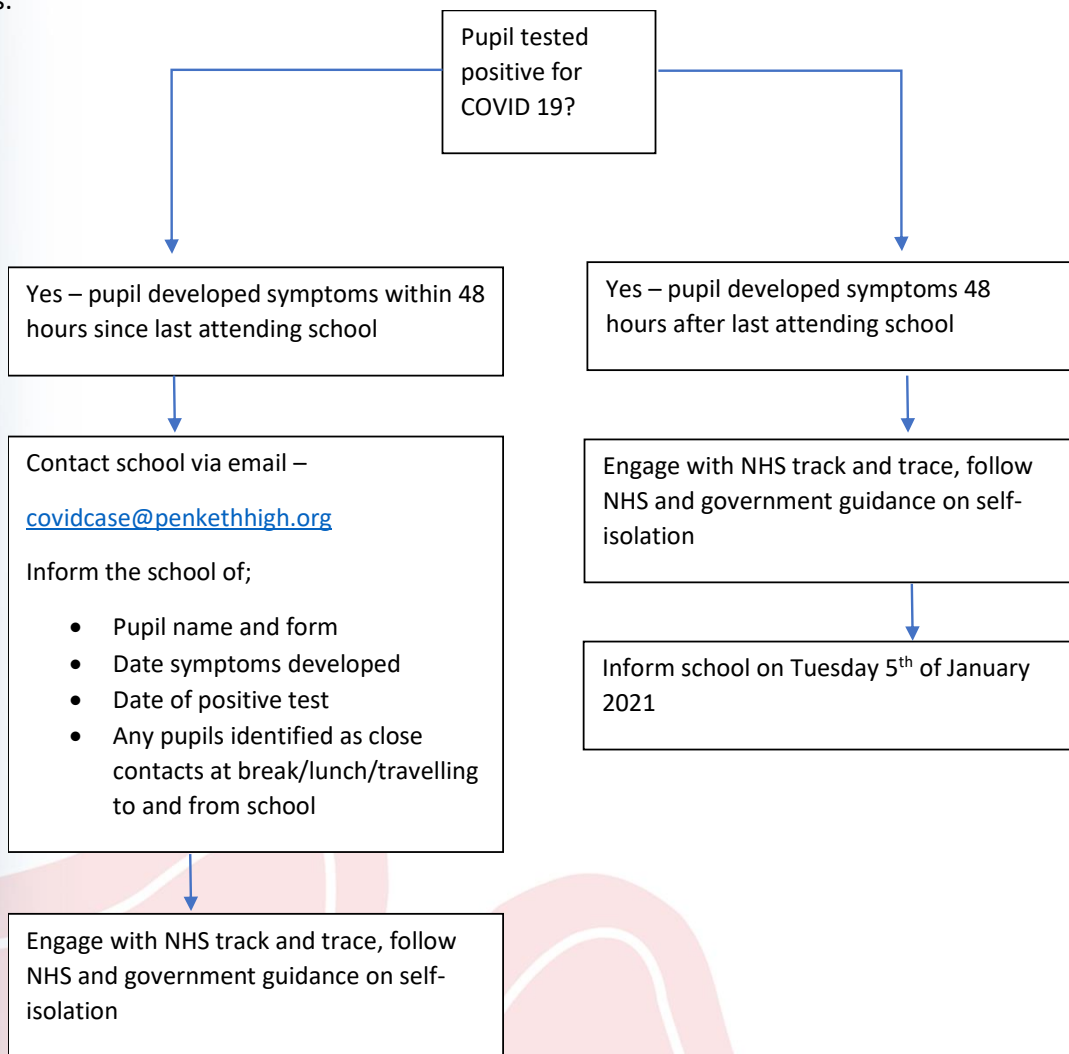


INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



International School Award



Healthy School



INVESTOR IN CAREERS



AMBASSADOR SCHOOL





We've added a resource information pack to the school website. This provides information, advice and guidance on how to support pupils during what is a very difficult time for us all. The pack also includes details of organisations who can support young people during the break from school and links to useful online information and services who can also offer support. This can be found via the link below;

<https://www.penkethhigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Parent-wellbeing-pack-PHS-Christmas-2020.pdf>

2020 has been extremely challenging for us all and has certainly been a year I think we'd all like to move on from as quickly as possible. It's strange that in the midst of a national crisis and a global pandemic 2020 has, in many ways, also been the school's best ever year. This started back in 2019 when we achieved our best ever outcomes and more recently we secured a "Good" Ofsted judgement for the first time since 2007, we've been recognised as a 100 Top Performing and Improving School by Government initiatives IQ, our Maths Department won Maths Team of the year for 2020 at the National TES awards, Miss Harding has been shortlisted for Teacher of the Year and our Leadership Team for Leadership Team of the Year at the Educate Awards.

Despite the challenges that we face we remain focused on doing whatever we can to drive improvement at the school. We want to ensure that our pupils get the best possible experiences so that they are well prepared to be successful in life. I'd like to thank the staff for their hard work and dedication in support of our outstanding young people; they've done an incredible job, undertaking transformational work over the last couple of years and I'm so proud to be associated with such an incredible staff.

I'd also like to thank the pupils who have bought in to our vision for the school and who inspire us every single day. Their approach to this year has been fantastic, taking the challenges of the year in their stride, working with us and demonstrating an attitude beyond their years. They are truly an outstanding group of young people.

Finally, thank you to all of our families for your incredible support. It's fair to say that this year has presented a number of celebratory moments but also some challenges and your kind words and words of encouragement have meant a great deal to us all. We value the relationships we have with our families and look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the new year to best support our young people. Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your family the very best for the Christmas break and for 2021.

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 IN CAREERS



AMBASSADOR SCHOOL