



Dear Parents, Guardians and - most importantly - Pupils,

I'm sure you'll now be aware that you've been offered a place at Penketh High School from September 2024. I am absolutely delighted to welcome you to our school community, of which you'll be a valued member.

In 2020 Ofsted awarded the school our first "Good" judgement since 2007 during an inspection in February 2020. The significant improvements at the school that delivered this also led to us being notified that we had been recognised by Government Initiatives IQ, a company that compile and distribute government reports, as a Top 100 Performing and Improving School for 2020. We were thrilled that a feature on the school was included in their 2020 Education Report.

More recently our Maths department won Maths Team of the Year 2020 at the National TES awards. This is deserved recognition for a department that have demonstrated significant improvement in recent years. Our Head of Maths, Miss Harding, was also shortlisted for Teacher of the Year at the Educate Awards in 2022 and our Leadership Team were also shortlisted for Leadership Team of the Year. Even more recently, Mrs Stanley was awarded last year's Education Hero of the Year award at the Warrington Inspiration Awards.

Whilst this is all exciting and welcome news for the school to receive, the important thing for us is what this recognition represents, significant improvement at the school on behalf of our wonderful young people. For us, the recognition means that we're doing the right things to improve the school and that's what we set out to achieve when I was appointed as Principal a little over six years ago.

I've been inspired, but not surprised, by the transformational work of staff to secure significant improvements on behalf of our pupils. They are passionate about and dedicated to providing the very best educational provision and wider experiences so that our pupils not only have the chance to be successful at school but also in life.

It's an extremely exciting time to join our school. The school is a very different place to the one that it was a few years ago. The positive, purposeful atmosphere is commented on frequently by those who visit the school, they can tangibly see the academic rigour that is now evident. During their visit, Ofsted themselves recognised that since September 2017 "The expectations of pupils are higher. Pupils now benefit from a good quality of education, day in, day out."

We achieved our best ever outcomes in a climate of academic rigour, with 67% of our pupils undertaking the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects (English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Languages) in conjunction with their chosen option subjects. The proportion of pupils undertaking these academically rigorous subjects at Penketh is significantly higher than the average for schools both nationally and across Warrington and now exceeds 70%. This academically rigorous curriculum is a reflection of the capabilities of our outstanding young people, the higher expectations embedded at the school and the quality of the teaching across the school.

This strong core curriculum is supported by a wider offer of creative and alternative subjects that pupils can choose to pursue as part of their options. These subjects routinely perform above the national average with the arts and performing arts subjects securing figures in excess of 90% for those achieving at least a grade 4 year on year.



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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)





Previously, I'm aware that the perception of the school has been that we're strong in creative arts subjects but perform less well in academically rigorous subjects. I think it's important that we address what is now a misconception as the number of pupils achieving at least a grade 4 in both English and Maths, for example, is now above the national average. Of course, our Maths department receiving the Maths Department of the Year award at the TES awards only serves to further emphasise the significant improvements at the school.

The vision for our school is simple. A school that is central to, and serves, our local community. One that delivers the highest standards of education for our young people through a respectful, purposeful and rigorously academic climate for learning; whilst best preparing pupils for life beyond Penketh through holistic education that extends beyond the boundaries of the curriculum classroom – including through enrichment clubs that pupils undertake as part of an extended school day.

This enrichment programme has been an exciting addition to the school, supporting the holistic development of our pupils through experiences that extend their classroom curriculum, providing a wider skill set that helps prepare them for future challenges and lifelong success.

Underpinning all of this is high quality pastoral care that nurtures our pupils and ensures both their physical and emotional wellbeing. A school that meets all of the needs of the pupils by knowing each of them as individuals. We value relationships with our pupils and families and have no desire to recruit large numbers at the detriment of these relationships or the quality of support we can offer pupils on an individual basis. Our school community is incredibly important to us and we want our young people to feel valued and part of what is already proving to be an exciting journey.

I'm sure that you will share the values of our vision as we continue to strive deliver continual improvement in order that our outstanding young people are provided with the very best education and preparation for their lives ahead.

Pupils already at the school will know that the staff are dedicated to providing the very best support for our pupils and are excited about continuing to drive improvement. We are excited about what's happening at Penketh and look forward to not only welcoming our new year 7 pupils in September, but also the transition events that will be undertaken over the next few months.

The home school relationship is crucial to the success of pupils and we also look forward to working closely with all parents and families over the coming years. These relationships, mutual support and shared goals for the future of our fantastic pupils are essential in ensuring their success.

With the prospect of significant investment in our school site in the immediate future, it's an extremely exciting time to be joining our school. Pupils in year 6 will benefit directly from the these exciting developments during their time at Penketh. We look forward to what will be an exciting period for the school and I'm delighted that you'll be part of this journey with us.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all year 6 pupils for the coming year and wish them well on their transition to secondary education.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.
Principal.



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