

PENAIR SCHOOL

<http://www.penair.cornwall.sch.uk/> 01872 274737 | enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk

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Registered Office

Penair School,
St Clement,
Truro
Cornwall
TR1 1TN



December 2017

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you to ensure that you are fully informed of our end of term arrangements and to also thank you for your support over the Autumn Term. We have had an extremely busy end to the year at Penair. Our last day of term is Wednesday 20 December and students will have a final celebration assembly and then be dismissed from school at 12.00 noon. Transport providers have been notified and buses will be available at that time.

As always throughout the term we have had numerous opportunities for students to extend their learning and showcase some of their amazing gifts and talents.

Our sports teams have had some tremendous success including fiercely contested local rivalries and fixtures which have taken students beyond our county; Only last week Penair once again hosted the Cornwall Winter Games and celebrated both individual and team success, our boys swimming team finished second overall and our senior hockey team were narrowly beaten by Truro school in the final.

On 11 December we held our annual Christmas Carol Concert. I would like to publicly thank Truro Methodist Church for continuing to provide such a wonderful venue for this event to take place. It is certainly an evening which I look forward to and gets better and better each year. The performances were stunning and I was proud to be associated with Penair School; well done to all involved.

On 13 December we welcomed back our year 11 leavers to collect their GCSE certificates. It was a real pleasure to be able to formally celebrate the students' achievements with staff and parents and was a fitting tribute to their 5 years of hard work at the school. I would also like to thank our Guest of honour Tim Parker. Tim is an ex-student who is studying at Oxford.....I found Tim's words truly inspirational and he certainly highlighted what can be achieved with hard work and a determined attitude.

In January the 'League Tables for Secondary Schools' will be published by the Government. <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>

I have highlighted to parents previously that Penair continues to perform strongly both in comparison to schools within the County and Nationally on a range of measures and our thanks go to all the dedicated staff who have helped to ensure the school has made tremendous progress. We should also not forget our students who have worked so hard and the support that you, as parents, have given them.

Attendance at Penair continues to be a key focus for the school and the autumn term the whole school figure to 1 December was 95.56% (the figure for a similar period last year was 96.22%). Although this is short of the school target of 96% we, like other schools, have been hit by the dreaded bugs that have laid children low for periods of time. However, we are grateful to all parents who share our mantra of 'soldiering-on' when feeling slightly under-the-weather.

Penair School | Headteacher – Mr J Davidson
01872 274737 | enquiries@penair.cornwall.sch.uk

Up to Friday 1 December 276 pupils (31.5% of the school population) had 100% attendance (the figure for the same period last year was 35% of the school population). These are fantastic achievements and we continue to be extremely grateful for the ongoing support of parents placing a high value on children getting to school.

You will also be aware that we have introduced a new online system called ClassCharts. As explained in my previous letter one of the key benefits of using ClassCharts is that we are able to securely share your child's achievement and behaviour report with you and so keep you up-to-date in real-time each day. In addition ClassCharts will be our online homework platform replacing Show My Homework. If your son or daughter has not received their unique code for ClassCharts please do contact the school.

Students have all been given a presentation through their tutor programme on ClassCharts and as already explained this system allows staff to track and monitor achievement and behaviour throughout the school day.

The introduction of ClassCharts has also allowed us to undertake a wider review of our positive behaviour strategy. This review has included staff, parental and student voice. We look forward to receiving both the support of students and parents in continuing to ensure that positive behaviour is celebrated and that all students strive to do their very best.

In terms of Teaching and Learning and following our highly successful OFSTED inspection in April 2017 one of our key action points was to: 'Develop pupils' resilience so that they can take full advantage of the feedback from teachers.' With this in mind can we actively ask for parents' support in engaging with their child's homework, and in particular responding to teacher comments in order that improvements are made and learning is embedded. Students spend far more time at home than they do at school and we would actively encourage parents to ensure that children establish strong learning habits at home in addition to school.

For our year 11 students they have completed their first set of trial exams and received their results on 13 December. There will be further trials in February 2018 and we would urge parents to ensure that their child is undertaking regular revision at home in addition to attending our programmes in school. We have been particularly impressed with the student response to our 'big teach in science' activity with over 80 students regularly attending the sessions.

In terms of staffing, I would like to inform parents of one change. Mrs Hosking has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher leading on Headstart Mental Health. Mrs Logan has been appointed as the Key Stage Three Progress Lead working with Mrs Anderson and our Year 7 team.

Finally I am grateful to parents for their continued support of the Penair Uniform policy; our students are wearing their uniform with pride and this is being reflected in their approach to life in school. I have received numerous comments from members of our local community commenting on the students' manners and also appearance. I also wish to remind parents if they are replacing footwear at Christmas that students should be wearing black leather formal shoes (no trainers, 'Vans' style skate shoes and or canvas shoes).

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



James Davidson
Headteacher