

# PENAIR SCHOOL

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*Our Ref: JCD/parents/16 June 2017*

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you that over the course of last week and the next few weeks Mr Sharpe will be leading assemblies with students with a focus on respecting the school environment. Within Mr Sharpe's presentation he talks about our plans for student toilets.

As a result of liaising with members of our school council and with other pupils we are endeavouring to respond to concerns about the physical state of some of our toilet facilities. In addition we are responding to concerns from some younger students that sometimes they feel intimidated by groups of students congregating in toilet areas. It is unfortunate that a very small minority of pupils are going out of their way in order to cause damage to toilets around the school site which results in these facilities having to be locked pending repair via our Premises team. We are sharing the concerns and frustrations of this situation with the entire student body in order to engender a greater sense of responsibility and ownership for school premises.

We intend to replicate the physical situation of our most recently installed toilets around the site by removing the external doors of toilets, where possible, and opening-up the hand washing areas. All toilets across the school will continue to have individual cubicles with lockable doors for student's privacy. The rationale for doing so has been fully explained to all pupils, or will be done so in a forthcoming assembly for Years 7 and 8. The pupils have been made aware that this is not an invasion of privacy since all that we are doing is replicating the same physical condition from our 'newest' toilet facilities to other areas of the school. This will also enable us, and pupils, to be more aware of any wanton act of vandalism or unkind/unwanted behaviour that may be taking place and we are looking to pupils to support us in this.

While we are also responding to pupil frustrations we have also informed pupils how we are improving the physical environment of the school; one way in which we have achieved this is by re-locating and bringing into use a number fresh water dispensers around the school site which pupils appreciate.

I hope that this information serves to reassure you as parents and carers that we have a clear rationale for this action and that safeguarding all of our students remains one of our very highest core priorities.

Yours sincerely,



**James Davidson**  
Headteacher