

# PENAIR SCHOOL

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*September 2018*

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

## **Welcome to new Students**

I would like to welcome all new students and in particular Year 7 students starting at Penair this year. Beginning secondary school is an exciting and daunting experience; I am confident our existing students and strong support teams will ensure that all Year 7s settle into school life quickly and smoothly.

## **Results**

We start the new school year by celebrating a fantastic set of GCSE results. 72% of our outgoing Year 11 students achieved 5 or more A\*-C GCSEs, with 69% achieving a grade 4 or above in English and Maths- 6% higher than the national average. 33% of our Year 11 students achieved 3 or more A\*-A. In maths 9% of students achieved the highest possible grade 9 against a national average of 3.5% I am very pleased to report these figures to you as Penair continues to significantly out-perform both local and national averages and are testament to the hard work and determination of students and staff in aiming to achieve their best.

## **New staff**

We have several new members of staff starting at Penair and several staff that will be undertaking different roles within the school. I am delighted to welcome the following staff who join Penair in September and wish them every success in continuing to provide the best education for our students:

Miss Dawson: Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages

Mr Greenwood Teacher of ICT

Mr Kelly: Teacher of Maths

Mr Love: Teacher of Science

Mrs Morgan: Teacher of English and Drama

Mrs Smallwood: Trainee Teacher of Maths

Mr Ireland: Trainee Teacher of Science

Mr Rockley: Trainee Teacher of Science

Mr Casey: Kitchen Assistant

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to thank all parents/carers for making sure our young people attend school regularly and on time. The school's minimum attendance expectation is 96% and by the end of the summer term 2017 we were in-line with this figure. I am pleased to report to you that the number of students arriving late to school went down considerably last year. I would urge parents/carers to help reinforce our message of the importance of education and good attendance, by ensuring that students arrive on time for school (8.30am). We believe that every

lesson is important in your child's education. I wish to remind parents/carers that all family holidays taken during term time will be unauthorised unless there are extremely exceptional circumstances.

### **Uniform/Planners and mobile phones**

The way in which a uniform is worn often indicates a student's readiness to learn and their own pride in the school community. I ask that all parents/carers support the correct wearing of the Penair uniform both in school and on the journey to and from school. Students should wear their blazers with shirts/blouses fully buttoned and tucked into their waistband, with ties attached correctly at the collar; trousers must hold a crease and skirts should be the pleated Penair skirt worn appropriately for school. Shoes should be black formal leather/leather-type with no canvas material or boots/skate shoes permitted. As we approach the winter period, students are reminded that coats and outdoor jackets are to be removed on entering the building. All students are now wearing the new uniform including proper black footwear and I am extremely grateful for parental support with this. I have received many positive comments from staff, parents and members of the community with regard to how smart the students of Penair are looking.

In addition to smart uniform, it is essential that students are fully prepared for their studies each day, with them checking their planners each evening to ensure they have all of the necessary books, equipment and homework for the following day. As parents, you are encouraged to check and sign your child's planner weekly in order to monitor their progress on homework and assigned tasks, and to maintain communication between home and school.

Whilst I am aware that mobile phones are very useful to us all, they are a distraction to learning. I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child that these phones/iPods and MP3 players should be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day, both inside and outside the school buildings. If used in school students will have the item confiscated and stored safely for them to collect at the end of the school day.

### **School Closures**

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind parents of our Inset days and therefore days in which the school will be closed to all students. The dates are 21 September 2017, 20 October 2017, 30 October 2017, July 23 2018, 24 July 2018.

### **Achievements**

There were many successes achieved at Penair last year which were communicated at the two parent's information evenings held in the summer term. With your help we have improved the whole school attendance figure from 93.1% June 2015 to 95.5% June 2017. In lessons we have focused our teaching on improving marking and feedback; we would like parental support with this in ensuring your son/daughter responds to their teacher's comments. Our GCSE results have shown significant improvement every year since 2013. In April 2017 we had a highly positive visit from OfSTED who confirmed that Penair is a 'Good School'. The full report can be found on our school website: <http://www.penair.cornwall.sch.uk/ofsted-reports>. Finally we have made a number of improvements to our school buildings over the summer and are currently replacing lighting, Fire Alarms, doors and have had a perimeter fence erected we hope that this will improve the learning environment for all of our students. We look to improve further in future and aim to provide the best education we can for all our children. I look forward to working with you in ensuring your child has a happy and successful future at Penair School.

Yours sincerely



**James Davidson**  
Headteacher