

PENAIR SCHOOL

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Penair School,
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Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to you in order to welcome back all of our students after the Easter break; I hope they are all rested and raring to go. We are looking forward to a successful summer term at Penair. It was an exceptionally busy end to the spring term with so many activities taking place in and around the school where some of the highlights included Day of Difference in year 9, The Erasmus exchange, our French Exchange and the highly successful Ski Trips.

As parents will know the school received a full Section 5 OFSTED Inspection on the 19th and 20th April, whereby Her Majesty's Inspectors examined every aspect of the schools work. Both staff and students worked incredibly hard over the two days. I personally wish to thank parents for sharing their view via the OFSTED Survey and the support that they continue to give the school. We will notify students and parents as soon as we can with regard to the outcome of the visit, however we have been informed that the report will not be released for 2-3 weeks.

Attendance at Penair continues to be a key factor that impacts on the learning and progress of each child. At this time last year the percentage attendance for the whole school was 95.26% and that for children who are deemed 'Pupil Premium' was at 91.64%. We continue to be pleased to be able to inform you that from the start of term in September 2016 until 17 March 2017 the attendance for the whole school was 95.44% (increase from last year) and that for Pupil Premium was 91.93% (increase from last year). In addition, there has also been a significant increase in the percentage of pupils who have achieved 100% attendance. From Sept 2015 to the end of the spring term 2016 12.5% of the school population had achieved 100% attendance. The comparative figure from September 2016 to 17 March 2017 showed an increase to 15.5%.

We are grateful to parents for supporting us in our work where there is clear evidence that good attendance (meeting the school minimum target of 96%) enables pupils to make progress in line with their expectations.

Alongside all of the fantastic achievements and events in our newsletters, Expressive Arts at Penair continues to go from strength-to-strength. On 9 March I was privileged to attend the Combined Schools' Art Gallery exhibition at the Lander Gallery. The quality of work on display from across the schools was of a very high standard. The work from students of Penair showcased their wonderfully creative talents which are being carefully nurtured by their Art teachers. On 29 March I was very proud to witness Penair's contribution to Carrick Dance, 'Millennium Manoeuvres', held at the Hall for Cornwall. The evening was a wonderful event with primary and secondary school students throughout the County displaying their dance talents. The students of Penair were magnificent and I was particularly pleased to see that we were one of only two secondary schools that had representation of boys and girls in the performance pieces.

Dr Martijn van der Spoel (chartered psychologist) continued to work with year 11 students and parents of students in years 7-10 in the spring term. He explained how an individual can create a 'learning momentum' by focus, motivation and study behaviour. Parents and students were highly positive about his work and he will continue to work with the school over the next academic year.

Once again I would like to remind parents about the uniform requires for September 2017.

The uniform from September 2017 is outlined below.

Compulsory items: Penair Aspire Blazer/Suit matching Navy style Trousers and or Pleated skirt, Atlantic Blue Shirt, Penair School clip-on tie, black, navy or white socks, black leather formal shoes (no trainers, 'Vans' style skate shoes and or canvas shoes).

Optional items: Penair V-neck jumper, tights for girls- black or navy in colour.

All of the items can be purchased at Keywear who also stock our PE kit. Keywear is located at 1 Church Walk, Truro, Cornwall TR1 1JH. Their website and online sales are at: <http://www.keywearuniforms.co.uk/>

School shoes, shirts, tights and socks are widely available at a number of retailers such as Marks and Spencer and other supermarket chains

I hope the reminder of these requirements will enable you to plan your uniform purchases for the new academic year.

Parents will be aware that I am determined to continue to build upon and improve student progress and attainment, and I therefore wish to focus on all aspects associated with learning, eliminating distractions and disturbances. A particular distraction to learning is that of mobile phones, iPods and MP3 players, and I would like to request the support of parents/carers in reminding their child that these items should be switched off and kept out of sight throughout the school day, both inside and outside the school buildings. Can I also politely ask that parents do not contact their son/daughter throughout the day via their mobile phone. If parents need to urgently contact their child, please contact reception and we will of course pass the message on. Students not following these guidelines will have items confiscated and issued with a sanction.

I know all of our students will be working hard this term and at the time of writing our year 10 students are undertaking a 2 week period of trial exams. Soon our year 7 students will no longer be the youngest in the school and are already going out to visit our partner primary schools to tell the current year 6 pupils all about Penair. Year 8 students step-in to their final year of key stage 3 and from September will begin to have conversations about future career paths and aspirations. Year 9 have completed their option choices and are soon to commence their GCSE's and for year 11, this is their final term at Penair and their most important in their educational career so far. We know that they all want to do their best and we will be here to support them in their GCSE exams. We look forward to celebrating more student success and welcoming parents to events throughout the summer term including parent's evenings and celebrations such as Prize Day.

May I take this opportunity to thank all parents for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



James Davidson
Headteacher