



Wednesday 18th March, 2020.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Advice and guidance has been issued this evening that would see schools close to the majority of pupils from Monday. The government have announced that key groups of pupils, including those children of front line workers in the NHS, and other public sector roles, would remain in school so that these services can operate to maximum capacity during what is a time of national crisis. The decision for schools to be closed to other pupils is to support the slowing of infection across society.

At this moment in time, written guidance has not been distributed to schools that would define which pupils this relates to. We are expecting this to be issued to us tomorrow, but we've already begun to do all we can to start the process of transition.

The government have announced that examinations for Year 11 will not take place in May and June and therefore we can assume that qualifications for Year 11 pupils will not be awarded through examinations this year. The government have stated that they will work with Ofqual to ensure that pupils are awarded the qualifications that they deserve. It's crucial at this time that pupils don't feel as though their journey is over, as we don't know what the solution will be from the Ofqual and so pupils should assume that they should keep working and engaging in learning. They should also do so because they need to be well prepared for future challenges at college and beyond; their transition to future education will be impacted if they fail to engage in learning between now and September. In addition, pupils need to realise that learning is so much more than a mark achieved during a two hour window on a single day. It's about development and equipping themselves for the future.

I also want to assure pupils that we don't want their time at Penketh to come to an abrupt end. They are a valued group within our school community and whatever happens during the coming months we will ensure that we have an event to mark their time at Penketh when we're in a position to do so.

For parents of pupils in other year groups I have no doubt that you have concerns about continued learning during this disrupted period. I want to reassure you that we have very clear plans to support the continued learning of pupils so that they not only maintain a structure to their everyday life, but so that they can continue working in consultation with subject experts. We will be releasing information relating to this before the end of the week so that they, and you, are clear on our plans to support remote learning.

For the next two days the current advice to schools remains that we should continue to stay open and that students should continue to attend school. However, students should not attend school for 14 days if they have Coronavirus symptoms, however mild, or if anyone who they live with develop symptoms; these include a new and persistent cough or a high temperature. In this situation all members of the household should self-isolate at home for 14 days from the first day that symptoms presented.

Further guidance on this can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection.

Those staff and pupils who are more vulnerable to infection from Coronavirus have been contacted on an individual basis to discuss the specific guidance relating to supporting their needs.

PART OF THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST | NURTURE | CHALLENGE | ACHIEVE

THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

Penketh High School, Heath Road, Penketh, Warrington, WA5 2BY

Tel: 01925 722298 Fax: 01925 723812 e-mail: principal@penketh.warrington.sch.uk Website: www.penkethhighschool.co.uk

Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





How can you help?

If you suspect your son or daughter has any symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not send them into school. If pupils live with anyone who has any symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not send them into school.

Please let us know as soon as possible if your son or daughter is either ill or is self-isolating because of Coronavirus symptoms within the household.

The email address to report pupil absence is: pupilabsence@penkethhigh.org

We'd appreciate it if you could include the following information in any communication regarding absence of a pupil;

- Year Group and Tutor Group
- Reason for absence e.g.
 - Coronavirus symptoms
 - Self-isolating because of medical advice or because of illness of another family member
 - Other (please state)

We will issue further information tomorrow once the specific guidance has been released, if you have any specific concerns relating to the individual needs of your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.

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