

Headteacher/Pennaeth  
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## Headteacher's Letter Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Letter 1)

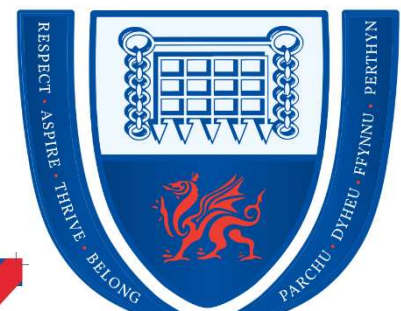
Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the first headteacher's letter of this academic year. I have been delighted with the start to the academic year that our pupils have made. Our Year 7s have impressed all staff with their wonderful manners and their enthusiasm. Over 99% of our pupils are in full uniform and look incredibly smart. We understand that our uniform suppliers have experienced unforeseen issues which has led to uniform delays but I need to thank parents/carers for ensuring that their child has been dressed smartly and appropriately for school. It makes such a difference!

I would like to thank those that attended the parent/carer forum that was held last week on CCTV in the toilets. It was an important evening where I hope that those attended left reassured. I have also had an assembly with every year group to show how CCTV ensures that pupils' dignity, privacy, health and safety is prioritised. The change in the toilets this year has been remarkable. I am proud to say that we have safe and clean toilets for each of our 878 pupils which of course, is their absolute right!

### Core Values

As parents and carers are aware, as a community, we have chosen our 4 core values which we feel are the most important values for our pupils. These values will appear on our new corporate branding which you will see more and more of as the year progresses. Below are our three main ways of sharing our 4 core values:



# Pawb



### **(Core Value) Hot Chocolate Friday**

Once a fortnight, each year team is going to nominate a pupil that they feel has embodied one (or more) of our core values. These pupils will then be invited to have a hot chocolate with me on the Friday afternoon. Pupils will be presented with our new core values 50<sup>th</sup> birthday mug which they take home. I will publish a photo of the pupils in this fortnightly letter.

I have chosen Hannah Beech, Charlie Griffiths, Katelyn Coleman and Gethin Tudor as the first guests for hot chocolate Friday. The four pupils are our Head Girl, Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy respectively. These pupils have lived our core values during their time at Penyrheol and we are very proud they will be representing the school this year.



### **Canteen Changes**

Despite a very busy start to the term, we have managed to work through any issues with the new canteen system and parent/carer online accounts. At the moment, we are capping what any pupil can spend in a single day to £5. This is to ensure that pupils aren't buying food for their friends when they may need that money later in the week. If parents/carers would like us to remove that cap, please let us know in writing and we will remove it.

### **Standards**

Attendance is over 90% and our target this year will be to keep it in the 90s. As always, if pupils are able to come to school, please ensure they attend. We need to work together to minimise lost learning.

Parents/carers can track their child's achievement and behaviour points on the ClassCharts app. The information below shows the average achievement and behaviour points that a pupil in each year group has accrued this last fortnight. This may be a useful comparison when you look at your child's points.

Year	Achievement Points	Behaviour Points
7	19	0.1
8	14.3	1.7
9	13.7	1.5
10	11.8	1
11	9.7	1.6

## Sport

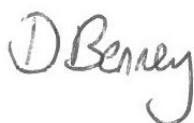
Our Year 10 boys' rugby team have made a great start to the year by beating Morryston 48 – 0 in the Ospreys' League. Da iawn, pawb. As the term progresses, I will have lots more information to share on the sporting front.

## Tuesday & Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September – Further Industrial Action

All secondary schools across Swansea are affected by strikes next Tuesday and Wednesday. This is to remind parents/carers that we have Year 11 in on Tuesday and Year 10 in on Wednesday. Other pupils will have a diet of online learning via Google Classroom. I apologise for the disruption that this is causing but this is a Swansea issue, not just a Penyrheol issue.

Finally, thank to all parents/carers for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney  
Headteacher

## Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks:

Date	Event
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	School Council Meetings (this week)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Geography Year 11 Data Collection Field Trip
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Year 10 Open Evening (5:00pm – 6:00pm)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	PSHE Lesson (Lesson 1) Year 9 Geography Form Field Trip (one form per week for 6 weeks) School Health Research Network Wellbeing Survey (until 13 <sup>th</sup> October)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	European Day of Languages Year 11 Gower College Assembly
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Transition Year 5/6 Design Technology Challenge
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	