

Headteacher/Pennaeth  
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## Headteacher's Letter Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May (Letter 15)

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the fifteenth Headteacher's letter of this academic year. I trust these letters are keeping everyone informed about what is happening at Penyrheol School. This letter covers the last two weeks at Penyrheol.

Since the last Headteacher's letter, our Year 11s have undertaken their Spanish orals and their Art and Photography exams. It was a pleasure to see some of the wonderful work produced by our Year 11 Art/Photography students. Year 10 have had their full report issued and a group of Year 10 pupils attended a day with the Tackle Project undertaking Territorial Army activities in Neath. The calendar at this time of year gets less busy as so much of the school's focus is on Year 11 and the start of their GCSE/BTEC exams. Years 7-10 have all been given activity day booklets. More information can be found [here](#).

I would like to thank all parents/carers for their continued support.

### Sport

The following pupils represented the school with distinction in the Afan Nedd Athletics Championship:

#### Year 8

Ellie Pennino  
Sophie Pennino  
Seren Ellis  
Dylan Palmer-Sweeney  
Sophia Edwards  
Scarlet Bamford  
Ash Harries

#### Year 10

Keira Knight  
Lea Jones  
Ella Foley  
Lowri Dymond  
Kiana Macey-Cloke  
Gethin Tudor  
Jaden Thomas  
Rhys Greenfield  
Jonny Davies  
Bailey Porter  
Logan Williams

## Standards

Attendance for the last 2 weeks has dropped to 84.5%. If you want to know your child's attendance, the ClassCharts App has all the details. As always, if your child can be in school, please ensure that they attend.

The overwhelming majority of our pupils look fantastic in their uniform. I'd like to remind parents/carers that as well as our main suppliers Sew & Sew and Picton Sports, we run a well-stocked swap shop. More details are on the [school website](#). There is no reason why all of our pupils shouldn't be in uniform. Please use the swap shop. The stock is very much as good as new!!

## Penyrheol Mobile Phone Policy – Parent/Carer Feedback

A few months ago, I asked parents/carers for their views on our current mobile phone policy (pupils can use mobile phones before school and at break and lunchtime) compared to the policy of a number of other Swansea schools (phones are not seen at all during the school day). I'd like to thank the many parents/carers for sharing their feedback. This is a brief summary:

50% of parents/carers would support a full ban.

A large number of the 50% had very strong feelings on this topic.

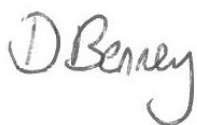
10% of parents/carers were unsure whether to stay or to change the policy.

40% of parents/carers were happy with the current policy.

What was interesting was that many of the 40% stated that they would be happy to change the policy as long as pupils were able to message home during break/lunch if they needed to let their parent/carer know of a cancelled sporting event or club.

As things stand, we don't currently intend to change policy. It is pleasing to see that if we did change, we would have the support of the majority of parents/carers. I can assure all parents/carers that if we did change the policy, we would still expect pupils to have their phones as they travel to and from school for safety reasons. We would also ensure that there was a safe space where they could message family during the day if they needed to. We recognise how important these two points are.

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney  
Headteacher  
Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks:

| <u>Date</u>                    | <u>Event</u>   |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May    | Year Council Meetings (this week)  |
| Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May   | Transition Year 6 HA Maths Challenge   |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May |  |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May  |  |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May    |  |
|                                |  |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May    | Departmental Meetings/Pastoral Support Meetings (3:10pm)<br>Year 10 Prefect/Senior Prefect Election Process Starts |
| Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May   |  |
| Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May |  |
| Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May  | Transition Council Meeting (2:00pm – 3:00pm)   |
| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May    |  |