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Headteacher's Letter Friday 7th October (Letter 3)

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the third Headteacher's letter of this academic year. I trust these letters are keeping everyone informed about what is happening at Penyrheol School. It has been a busy few weeks with Year 11 Art students enjoying a trip to the Botanical Gardens, Year 11 Geographers undertaking field work and Year 7 taking part in an Enterprise day. On Monday 3rd October we had the first face to face parents/carers' evening since early 2020. It was a joy to welcome parents/carers in to the theatre to discuss the progress of our current Year 11.

European Day of Languages

The International Languages Department celebrated the 21st Day of European Languages last Monday. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in a scavenger hunt, photobooth with props to tongue twisters, staff quiz and of course, a competition to see who could build the best Eiffel Tower out of spaghetti! Over 150 pupils enjoyed a free 'Diablo' at our pop-up café at break and it was a joy to see and hear our pupils using their French and Spanish around school. Bravo!

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last Friday and Saturday, 16 pupils completed the two day expedition on the Gower. Horrible conditions on the first day - driving rain and wind. It was thankfully a lot better on the second day. All three groups successfully completed the expedition demonstrating good navigational skills, excellent teamwork and, from some, strong leadership skills. Pupils enjoyed exploring the Gower on their own and cooking nutritional meals on a Trangia.

Student Voice

This week, representatives of our student voice committee attended both the Llŵchwr Town Council Meeting and the Gorseinon Town Council Meeting. The pupils, residents of Loughor and Gorseinon respectively, represented the school with distinction. The Councillors were impressed with their questions and how they responded to questions from councillors in both meetings. The objective of the meetings is to strengthen the link between young people and the local community we live in.

Careers

Careers Wales have produced a newsletter for parents/carers with information and resources to help you support your child with their career decisions. <https://sway.office.com/zkwYUEkTtkFVqGO5?ref=Link>



Sport

The PE department want to say a huge 'da iawn' to all the pupils that have represented the school in the last 5 weeks. Our U15 Girls Football team beat Dwr Y Felin last week and are through to the next round of the Welsh Cup. Congratulations to the year 7 Boys Football team who beat Cwm Brombil 4-1 last week in the Welsh Cup. They now face Cwmtawe on Wednesday the 19th October. Commiserations to the year 10 football boys who narrowly lost to Dylan Thomas 4-2 on Thursday night.

In Boys rugby, our Year 7s were valiant in defeat against Olchfa and our Year 9s defeated Bishopston. Well done, all!

We continue to offer a 'Badminton Breakfast Club' on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:45am to 8:20am in the sports hall.

INSET Day

I am giving parents/carers notice that our next INSET day is Friday November 25th. It is in the school calendar which can be found on our website.

ClassCharts

We have launched the ClassCharts parent/carer app and the pupil app this week for Year 11 pupils and their parents/carers. Information was shared in Parents' Evening. All pupils have been given login details and instructions for their and their parent/carer's account. We are looking at rolling this out across the whole school in the next few weeks. Information videos will be shared to enable parents/carers and pupils to get the most out of the app.

Matilda Jr

From Monday 24th October to Thursday 27th October we have the much-anticipated return of the school show. This will be the first show since October 2019 and we are so excited about the return of a true community event. This year's show is Matilda Jr. Tickets are £7 and are available from school reception.

Standards

Attendance has unfortunately dropped again this last 2 weeks and from Monday 23rd September to today, it was 88.22%. As always, please send your child into school wherever possible. We appreciate this isn't always possible but if they aren't in school, they miss out on learning.

Uniform continues to be very smart. I would like to remind parents/carers that we have a well-established and very well stocked Uniform Swap Shop. An order form can be found on our website. Alternatively, please ring the school office or your child's PSO. We fully appreciate the strain that many families may face this winter, and the stock in our swap shop means that uniform is something our families won't have to worry about. Smart uniform worn by all our pupils has such a positive impact on our ethos at Penyrheol. My thanks to parents/carers for their support in this area.

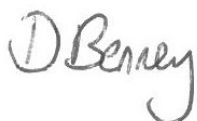
Behaviour is such an important area for us to get right because it allows all pupils to access the education that is their right. 66% of staff feel that behaviour is better compared to last year. Whilst this is pleasing, we still have improvements to make. Our aim is to achieve immaculate behaviour from all the

pupils that attend school, all the time! We will continue to work directly with parents/carers where we feel there are ongoing issues.

Also attached to the website are 2 documents relating to our PTA. Please take a look as we would really appreciate more parents/carers getting involved in our PTA.

I wish all parents/carers a happy and restful weekend

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney
Headteacher

Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 10 th October	
Tuesday 11 th October	
Wednesday 12 th October	PSE Day
Thursday 13 th October	
Friday 14 th October	Key Stage 4 Construction Visit to Local Encon Site
Monday 17 th October	Year 7 Parents' Evening with form Tutors (3:30pm – 6:30pm) Year 9 'Have a Go' Enterprise Workshop 1 (11:20pm)
Tuesday 18 th October	
Wednesday 19 th October	
Thursday 20 th October	School Production Rehearsals
Friday 21 st October	School Production Rehearsals