

Headteacher/Pennaeth
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Headteacher's Letter Friday 11th November (Letter 5)

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Since the last Headteacher's letter, we have had four stellar performances of our School Show 'Matilda Jr' and it was a delight to have the support of the community for this fantastic event. The pupils were simply amazing. We have also enjoyed our Year 11 musical showcase (which had everything from Beethoven to Foo Fighters). On Wednesday 9th November, we held our annual Open Evening for Year 6 pupils and parents/carers and this was the first face to face event for 3 years. Again, it was a joy to welcome the community back into Penyrheol school. It has been too long!

I am delighted that the last 2 letters have been downloaded over **700** times (from the school website). Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Sport

It has been a busy few weeks for our netball teams and here are their results:

Year 8 vs Pontarddulais - Won 7-2
Year 11 vs Pontarddulais - Won 15-8
Year 11 vs Gowerton - Won 11-6
Year 10 vs Gowerton - Lost 8-1
Year 9 vs Bryntawe - Won 4-3
Year 7 vs Bryntawe - Lost 3-0
Year 8 vs Gowerton – Drew 4-4
Year 9 vs Gowerton – Lost 5-1

Well done to all of our netball teams.

Our boys had football fixtures against Birchgrove and our Year 10s were victorious but unfortunately our Year 9s lost. Our Year 9 rugby team lost to local rivals Gowerton in a hard fought match. Better luck next time! We are very proud of the pupils that represent the school.

ClassCharts

We have launched the ClassCharts parent/carer App and the pupil App across all year groups. So far, 63% of parents/carers have downloaded the App and 60% of pupils have downloaded the App. Your child has your login details but please contact the school if you require these details or any help with the App. We have emailed home details on how to download the App. Parents/Carers



may want to watch this video: [ClassCharts Parents/Carers Video](#) to see exactly how the App works.

Standards

Attendance for the last 2 weeks has been 88.75% which is small increase on the previous fortnight. As always, please send your child into school wherever possible.

We are seeing an issue of punctuality with a minority of our pupils. We have set up an alert so that if your child is late 3 times in one day, you will be informed via a notification on the ClassCharts App. This will help home and school work together to improve the punctuality of a minority of our pupils.

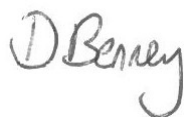
In these letters home, my intention is to share lots of the positive activities, achievements and developments at Penyrheol School. However, I think it is important to share with parents/carers some of the challenges we are currently facing. In recent week, we have had a spike in vandalism of the school toilets. On occasions, this has led to some of our 6 sets of toilets being locked while they are repaired. Sometimes they are locked because the vandalism means the toilets aren't safe to use. We are spending a considerable amount of money repairing the vandalism. As always, the vandalism is being carried out by a very small minority of pupils.

This isn't something I can accept. It isn't fair on our cleaning staff, our site team and of course, the overwhelming majority of our wonderful pupils who should expect to be able to access any one of our toilets. I would like to reassure the community on three things. Firstly, our pupil toilets are only ever locked when we are repairing issues of vandalism. Our policy is that toilets are open all day, every day for our pupils (though of course we encourage them to go at break and lunch time). Secondly, we are doing all we can to identify the pupils responsible. We are checking the toilets regularly and viewing corridor CCTV in an effort to identify those responsible. It is taking many hours every week. Thirdly, we are having a zero-tolerance approach to this vandalism. It has an impact on all our pupils so our sanctions for pupils who are caught will reflect that fact.

I would like to remind parents/carers that we have an INSET day in a fortnight (Friday 25th November). We also have a non-uniform day for charity next Friday (Friday 18th November).

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 14 th November	
Tuesday 15 th November	
Wednesday 16 th November	Year 11 Mock Interviews
Thursday 17 th November	Year 11 Mock Interviews
Friday 18 th November	Non-Uniform Day for Children in Need Y11 Music Practical Exam
Monday 21 st November	Year 7 Summative Assessment Period (to Friday 2 nd December) Year 11 Geography NEA (This week) Charity Week Interim Assessment Week for Year 10 Y11 Music Practical Exam
Tuesday 22 nd November	Year 11 GCSE Drama Unit 1 Performance Assessment
Wednesday 23 rd November	Year 9 'Have a Go' Enterprise Workshop 2 (11:20pm) Awards Evening (7:00 – 9:00)
Thursday 24 th November	Years 8, 9 and 11 Interim Reports Issued
Friday 25 th November	INSET Day