

Headteacher/Pennaeth
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Headteacher's Letter Friday 20th January (Letter 9)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!

This is the ninth 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 a Tasty Careers Challenge for Year 9, we have had a face to face Year 7 Parents/Carers evening and we have had a 'Females into Construction' event for Year 8 girls. For most pupils and staff, the last 2 weeks have been about settling back into the rhythm of school life after the 2-week Christmas break.

Thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Sport

On Thursday 18th January, 46 pupils across Years 7-11 competed in the Afan Nedd Tawe Schools Cross Country Championships at Margam Park. All pupils showed excellent effort and commitment, racing in very difficult weather conditions. A number of pupils finished in the top 20 - Amy Besley (Year 7), Sophia Edwards (Year 8) and Jacob Hills (Year 11). The most notable performances of the day came from Emanuel Sidorenko who finished 2nd in the U17 Boys race and Callum Johns who finished 12th in the same race. Both boys will now go forward to represent the County at the Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships next month.

Last week our Year 7 boys football team drew with Gwyr 1-1. The recent weather is the reason for so few matches across all sports and year groups. There are lots of fixtures scheduled for the next 2 weeks.

On Thursday 19th February, our Year 8 boys rugby team beat local rivals Pontarddulais 47-7 to advance to the plate final. This will be held at St Helens next month. Congratulations, Year 8!

Standards

Attendance for the last 2 weeks increased to 89.93% 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.




I know a lot of parents/carers are using the ClassCharts App on a regular basis to monitor the number of achievement and behaviour points that their child is being awarded. If you want to see how many achievement and behaviour points your child has been awarded since the start of September, this can be done by clicking on the calendar icon in Behaviour and then setting the dates by clicking on custom. As a means of comparison for your child, the average pupil in each year group has attained the following since September:

Year	Achievement Points	Behaviour Points
7	73	9
8	65	16
9	69	25
10	62	16
11	34	14

School Strikes

I am sure that parents/carers are aware that there is planned industrial action taking place in schools across the UK on Wednesday 1st February in the first instance. Not all teaching unions are striking on this occasion but I am not clear yet what school will look like on that Wednesday. As soon as I have more details from the local authority, I will let parents/carers know. It is likely that school will be open but we are unlikely to be able to have all year groups in because of a reduced staffing capacity.

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney
Headteacher

Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Monday 23 rd January	
Tuesday 24 th January	
Wednesday 25 th January	Year 9 'Have a Go' Enterprise Workshop 3 (11:20pm)
Thursday 26 th January	
Friday 27 th January	Year 11 Reports Issued
Monday 30 th January	Year 11 Virtual Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm) Year Council Meetings (this week) Year 9 Option Programme Starts
Tuesday 31 st January	Health and Wellbeing Session (Lesson 1)
Wednesday 1st February	Year 11 Gower College Interviews
Thursday 2 nd February	Year 11 Gower College Interviews Year 9 Options Fayre (3:10pm – 4:00pm) and Presentation for Parents/Carers (4:00pm – 5:00pm)
Friday 3 rd February	