

Friday 18th September 2025

Headteacher's Fortnightly Letter – Number 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy but very vibrant start to the new year. Despite the weather, our pupils seem to be happy to be back in school. Our Year 7s have settled brilliantly and it is so heartening to see what lovely manners they have. We are delighted to have them as part of our family.

We started the term with two INSET days and staff had training from Show Racism the Red Card and from the YMCA on LGBTQ+. I am delighted to report that our LGBTQ+ pupil group have feedback that the training has had an instant impact and as a consequence, they have a stronger sense of belonging at Penyrheol School.

As regular readers know, I will be sending out a letter like this every two weeks.

Year 10 and 11 Open Evenings



On Thursday 11th September we held our Year 10 Open Evening and on Thursday 18th September we held our Year 11 Open Evening. The evenings were a chance for us to share some key dates and key messages for the year ahead with pupils and parents/carers. Our Year 11 Pupil Senior Leadership team closed the Year 10 evening

talking about their experiences of year 10 and offering advice to parents/carers and pupils. The Year 11 evening was closed by Emily Matthews and Josef Nisbett, last year's Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy. Again, they shared their experience of Year 11 and shared their wisdom with the audience.



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The turn out on both evenings was exceptional. One of our core values is Aspire and it was the embodiment of aspiration across the community that the events were so well attended.

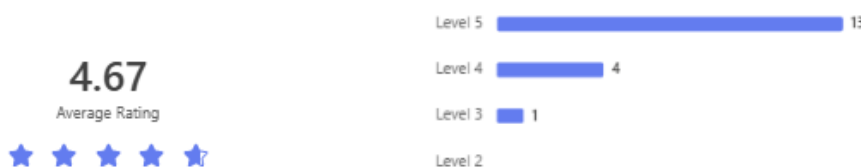
Mobile Phones

As parents/carers are aware, we have, like most Swansea schools, implemented a mobile phone ban. We originally called it a bell to bell ban but we did communicate to pupils on the first day that it was actually a 'door to door' ban. The response across the school has been absolutely amazing. We just don't see phones in school anymore.

Pupils are using the thrive room at break and lunch if they need to text home or if they are expecting a message. This is working really well. We are changing the relationship that the pupils have with their phones during school time. This means they are thinking less about their phones and notifications, and more on their learning and socialising with their peers.

School is actually busier and more vibrant as a result of pupils not being on their phones. Many of our pupils are already seeing the wellbeing benefits of a digital break from their phones. This is a snapshot of staff feedback that we had last week:

1. To what extent is the mobile phone ban working in us striving to be a mobile phone free school?



Comments (selected)

Nice to see groups of Year 9 boys chatting together in the mornings rather than sitting on their phones.

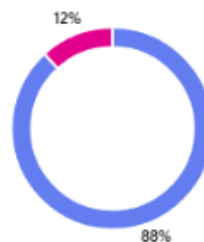
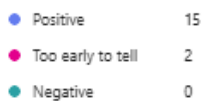
Less distractions in class. I have not yet had to confiscate one mobile phone. Pupils are interacting with each other more during break and lunch.

Pupils settle much faster in the morning and at the start of the lesson.

It is great to see pupils playing and interacting. The queue seems alive again and I have noticed a drop in social media related lesson refusal

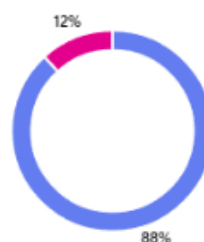
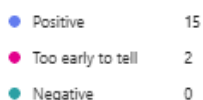
It is positive to see so many of our pupils welcome the ban and I hope they are seeing the positive improvements on their focus and engagement in lessons. I have personally really enjoyed my lessons since we have been back.

2. What impact has it had in the classroom



3. What impact has it had to the general ethos of the school

[More details](#)



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We continue to confiscate phones when we see them but the numbers are decreasing each day. We really appreciate the support we have had from parents/carers.



Child of Wales Awards 2025

We were incredibly proud that two of our Year 7 pupils were recognised for an award at the Child of Wales Awards 2025. This prestigious award ceremony was held at the Swansea Arena on September 12th. The Child of Wales Awards recognises the efforts and achievements of courageous children, their families and the charities that support them.



Congratulations to Jayden Paton who won, along with his younger brother Jackson, the child of courage U13 award and to Sienna Allen-Chaplin who won the Young Sporting Hero Award.

Sporting News

Fixtures start next week so there will be lots to share in the letter in 2 weeks.

Ex pupil Olivia Francis's Wales Womens Football shirt is now proudly displayed on the first floor for our pupils. We hope it inspires them nurtures their aspiration for sporting success.



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Core Value Hot Chocolate Friday

Back in July, I was joined by Bailey (Year 7), Isaac (Year 8), Jack (Year 9) and Jack (Year 10). We celebrated their Hot Chocolate Friday on a non-uniform day.

Congratulations to them all for embodying our core values.



On Friday 12th September, I was joined by Jessika (Year 7), Harrison (Year 8), Keegan (Year 9), Paige (Year 10) and Annabel (Year 11)

Keegan was nominated for the Core Value of **Respect**.

Harrison and Paige were nominated for the Core Value of **Aspire**.

Annabel was nominated for the Core Value Thrive.

Jessika was nominated for the Core Value of **Belong**.

These pupils have embodied our core values over the last 3 weeks. Congratulations to all our winners.

Who will it be next time?

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Standards

Attendance in the last three weeks has been over 92% which is brilliant! Wherever possible, please ensure your child attends school. Missing school means missing out on 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 **over the last two and a half school weeks**. This may be a useful comparison when you look at your child's points.

Year	Achievement Points	Behaviour Points
7	31	0.5
8	32	2
9	35	2
10	26.5	2.2
11	14	2.5

Over the last two and a half school weeks, the average Penyrheol pupil has achieved over 14 achievement points for every behaviour point awarded. This is the best ratio I have ever reported!!

As always, thank you to all parents/carers for their continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Damian Benney

Headteacher

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Appendix

What's happening in the next two weeks

Monday 22 nd September	
Tuesday 23 rd September	Year 11 Gower College Assembly
Wednesday 24 th September	Senedd Year 10-WBQ Talk (Lesson 1) Transition Year 5/6 MAT Design and Technology Event (1:30pm - 3:00pm)
Thursday 25 th September	PTA Meeting in LRC (3:10pm -4:30pm)
Friday 26 th September	Senedd Cymru Training – Penyrheol Parliament Careers Bites Lunchtime Sessions (LRC)
Monday 29 th September	Numeracy Mock Exam 1
Tuesday 30 th September	Health and Wellbeing Lesson 1
Wednesday 1 st October	Transition Year 6 Open Evening
Thursday 2 nd October	Year 11 Aspire Evening 5:00pm – 6:00pm (Canteen) Postponed until a later date
Friday 3 rd October	Numeracy Mock Exam 2 ALN Coffee Morning L1 Canteen

Door to Door Mobile Phone Poster

The poster features a central graphic of a mobile phone with a red prohibition sign over it. To the left, text reads: "Phones turned off and in your bag from the time you enter school". To the right, text reads: "If a phone is seen or heard on the school site, it will be handed in and kept until the end of the school day". The school crest is in the top right corner. The bottom section is a red banner with the text "DOOR TO DOOR NO PHONE ZONE" in white.

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and in your bag
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NO PHONE ZONE**

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