



# Penyrheol

## Summer Newsletter

Over 350 Pupils Return to School

Year 6 Transition Days

Lockdown Competition Winners & More

# A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Pupils,

This unusual newsletter is dedicated to the lockdown experience and includes the winners and runners up from the lockdown competitions I ran back in May.

Who would have thought that we might be caught up in a global pandemic and have to remain in our homes for all but essential reasons for more than three months? Or that schools would be closed for the vast majority of pupils and their learning would have to take place online? Actually, a number of people have predicted this kind of scenario, including Bill Gates and Barack Obama. About a year ago I read a fascinating book, which I would highly recommend, called 'Factfulness', by Hans Rosling, written in 2017, in which he lists a global pandemic as being one of the 5 biggest threats our world continues to face.

Since I wrote the first draft of this letter, things have changed. I am delighted that the Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has announced that all pupils are to be back in school full time from September. We are working our way through the operational details of how to achieve this full return in as safe a way as possible. Our reopening experiences since 29th June give us confidence that we can return to normal education while keeping pupils and staff safe. No system is risk-free (at any time, let alone during a pandemic), but the benefits to pupils' learning, well-being and futures outweigh the relatively small risks of coronavirus infection. I will be writing to parents and pupils with more details before the end of term.

Whatever the specific challenges for September, we expect all pupils to be back in full school uniform then. Details of our uniform can be found here: <http://penyrheol-comp.net/uniform>

GCSE results day this year is Thursday 20th August and school will be open for Year 11 pupils from 9.00 a.m. in a safe way.

Next academic year is expected to begin on Thursday 3rd September for our pupils. However, I will confirm this once we are clearer about the measures we need to implement in September. Until then, have a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday.

Yours faithfully,



ALAN TOOTILL  
Headteacher



# Important Dates & Information

## Autumn Term 2020

TERM	TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS	MID-TERM HOLIDAY		TERM BEGINS	TERM ENDS
AUTUMN TERM	TUE 1 SEP	FRI 23 OCT	MON 26 OCT	FRI 30OCT	MON 2 NOV	TUE 22 DEC

### Inset Days

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Wednesday 2nd September 2020

Monday 21st December 2020

Tuesday 22nd December 2020

GCSE results day this year is Thursday 20th August  
and school will be open for Year 11 pupils from  
9.00 a.m. in a safe way.



# Welcome Back!



We have cleaned and polished, scrubbed and sprayed and in line with Government recommendations, ensured the school building was COVID-Secure, in readiness for our pupils to return and over 350 pupils have!  
It may only have been for 3 weeks, but we made the most of it!

## Week 1 - 30-Minute Check-In with individual pupils.

Staff here at Penyrheol met or were in contact with every pupil, to ensure their wellbeing and to evaluate what they needed most from the school in order for them to continue their studies effectively.

## Week 2 - One 2-hour session of literacy & numeracy in groups of 8.

Pupils came to school for one day a week and enjoyed one 2-hour session of English and Maths.

## Week 3 - Three 2-hour sessions on a range of subjects.

Pupils came to school for three 2-hour sessions on different days to study subjects from their relevant key stage.

Of course, during the whole lockdown period since the end of March, Penyrheol has been open and providing education for children of key workers, which took place in our Library Resource Centre. We have continued to deliver free school meals, made PPE for local hospitals and care homes and our office has been continually manned for the many queries parents and pupils have had throughout these uncertain times.

# Year 6 Transition Days

Year 6 - My Transition to Penyrheol Comprehensive School

## My Penyrheol

My Form is:
My Form Teacher is:
My Form Room Number is:
My Pastoral Support Officer is:
My Head of Year is:

If you have any concerns whilst at Penyrheol, you should always speak to your Teacher or Form Tutor first, but in an emergency, you can speak to any one of the people listed above.



On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th July, we were excited to welcome pupils from our partner primary schools, who visited the school as part of their transition into Year 7.

The children were welcomed by their Head of Year, Mr Luckwell, Pastoral Support Officer, Ms. Lewis and our Primary Liaison Coordinator, Mrs Williams-Sheaf.

The children arrived in groups of 8 and had their first chance to meet their form teacher and some of their form group. They had a tour of the school and even an actual taster lesson.

Year 6 - My Transition to Penyrheol Comprehensive School

## Your Planner

This is a very important item which you need to bring to school every day as it contains important information such as your timetable and the dates of parents' evenings and holidays that you will need to refer to.



Your planner must be put in front of you at the start of every lesson in case you are given homework.



When your subject teacher sets homework, write down exactly what you have to do in your planner and remember to include the date it is due in.

Remember to show your planner regularly to your parents and remind them that they must sign it each week. If you have not had your planner signed, you will be given detention.



Every child was given their own booklet, in which they could write notes and about their form, the people they met, where to go etc. We look forward to welcoming them properly come September!

Year 6 - My Transition to Penyrheol Comprehensive School

## Organisation

The Key to Success at Comprehensive School

To make the most of what is on offer at comprehensive you have to be organised.

Every night you must use the timetable in your planner to make sure the following items are in your bag for the next day:

- The exercise book and text book, if you have been given one, for each of the five lessons.
- Any homework which has to be given in.
- Any ingredients for food technology (Give your parents advance notice of this if they have to be brought).
- PE kit if needed.
- Writing equipment.
- Any forms which have to be returned to school.
- Money for trips if required.



Every lesson you must make sure you do the following:

- Enter the classroom quickly and quietly and go straight to your desk.
- Remove coat or non-school uniform top immediately.
- Make sure your exercise book, text book, writing equipment and planner are on your desk.
- Sit quietly and wait for the lesson to start.
- Be silent when the teacher starts the lesson.
- Listen carefully throughout the lesson.
- Follow instructions carefully.
- Always try your best.

Year 6 - My Transition to Penyrheol Comprehensive School

## Before You Go...

You will meet lots of new people when you start Comprehensive School in September. You may meet some today!

Why not ask them for their names and contact information so you can arrange to meet them in the summer holidays?

Name	Contact Information

We look forward to seeing you in September!



# Poetry Competition

1st Place - Cara Morgan 11R

## Lockdown

This pen I hold in my hand is my escape,

The words on the page are my life,

The pen, it stays in my hand.

The words that I am writing, they're starting to merge into one,

I can't even read what I'm writing anymore.

I can't stop, even if I wanted to.

I can't see an end to this madness,

I can't see a way to escape.

How am I supposed to keep writing, the paper is going to run out.

I am unable leave my chair,

Unable to leave my thoughts.

Will there be an end to this fear, this lockdown I have created.

# Poetry Competition

2nd Place - Grace Johnson 8M

## Lockdown

I will read my book,  
Watch mum cook,  
Talk to the dog,  
Please, I could never Hoover,  
Dad always said I was a cool mover,  
My hair is long, I don't mind,  
It fits my favourite pop song,  
Twice a day I walk around the car,  
Text-text – how many more,  
Friends of mine never hide,  
I know who you are,  
Lockdown is making me frown,  
Read the paper twice an hour,  
Reflections in the looking glass  
Of expression in despair,  
Time be the gift as lockdown  
will quietly lift,  
The sun will shine, this dreaded virus  
Could never last,  
Friends, neighbours and strangers  
Will meet again,  
Reliving their loving past.

# Board Game Competition

## 1st Place - Reuben Wilkinson





# Short Story Competition

1st Place - Abbie Williams

## I Am Not Alone

*This story is set with two perspectives, two girls in the same situation, but one of them lives with anxiety.*

I walked out of French class with my eyes dropping as I thought I had done badly with my spelling. Ahead my friends were outside, my worries drifted away to a far-off cloud in the distance. I turned around and dropped my jumper that I had previously taken off. Someone ran past me shouting and I thought 'how rude'. I wondered what he was shouting about. I overheard my friends talking about how school was closing. I didn't like this at all but as the topic changed so did my mood.

I walked out of French class, head spinning as I thought of how badly I did on my French spelling; the worst-case scenarios were pumping through my head almost giving me a headache. I see my friend sitting outside thinking about what they would do if they knew about my poor spelling and about how I would be left alone. I put on a smile as I don't want them to know that I am worrying. Out of the blue someone darted past me shouting something that I couldn't quite make out, knocking my jumper out of my hands. I had previously taken it off, thinking about how everyone would judge, but I couldn't keep it on. As I walk outside, I think about how I will start a conversation with my friends when I overhear them talking about how school was closing. Dread filled my face as everything in my head was whirling around as I knew my mum and my dad were both key workers and I was on the high risk list so I couldn't even go to the classes they provided for key workers' children.

### 3 weeks later

I am missing my friends and family. I can't believe this is happening, it's like everything is going downhill. My work is overwhelming and it's not okay. I feel like I want to wake up when it's all over and done with.

I am missing my friends and family. I don't know how I will cope. News is on all the time and so sad. My grandparents are vulnerable, a whirlwind going on in my mind, my tears roll down my face as I wonder what will happen soon.

Late nights, late mornings. Hardly anything is on track. I just don't know how to do it. I can't explain it's such an unpleasant feeling, if someone felt like this every day, I don't know how they manage.

Late night, early mornings. Normality is everything. It may still be worrying but not as hectic. I may worry and I may sometimes break down but I know I am not alone even if someone, something is telling me no, I know everything is okay and people are there to help. I might be alone, but I am not lonely, and no one can tell me any different.

# Short Story Competition

2nd Place - Cerys Dudden 8E

## Lockdown

A word that everyone fears, they feel it's a word to describe the end. Or a way to emphasise boredom of some kind.

Scientists have been discussing the “**Extinction of humanity, a collapse of mankind**” for decades. Afraid what the world will throw at us. But at the end of the day, we'll never know until the day comes. You could get every mathematician, geologist, artist, scientist, NHS staff, vet, president, every government the world knows to sit in a room and discuss it. But you will never know.

I don't understand how wars have been fought, over religion and who's right, who's wrong, who's more powerful, who has then most money and they get into these wars just to prove a point. Families wiped out. Good people dead. People dying over such stupidity.

“The world will end in 2000,” they said. “No, the world will end in 2012!”

The time, precious time, that people with cancer and other diseases wished they had, and people are using that time fighting over what future? That has nothing to do with us yet. The end of the world could be centuries to come and people in this time years from it are fighting over something which there are many generations after that will have to deal with? Their life is flashing before their eyes. They won't have the precious time to go up to their friends, family, daughters, sons, nieces, and say that they love them.

But the truth is, we are destroying ourselves. And over what? Greed and power? We need to come together and enjoy the time we have left.

We must do better.

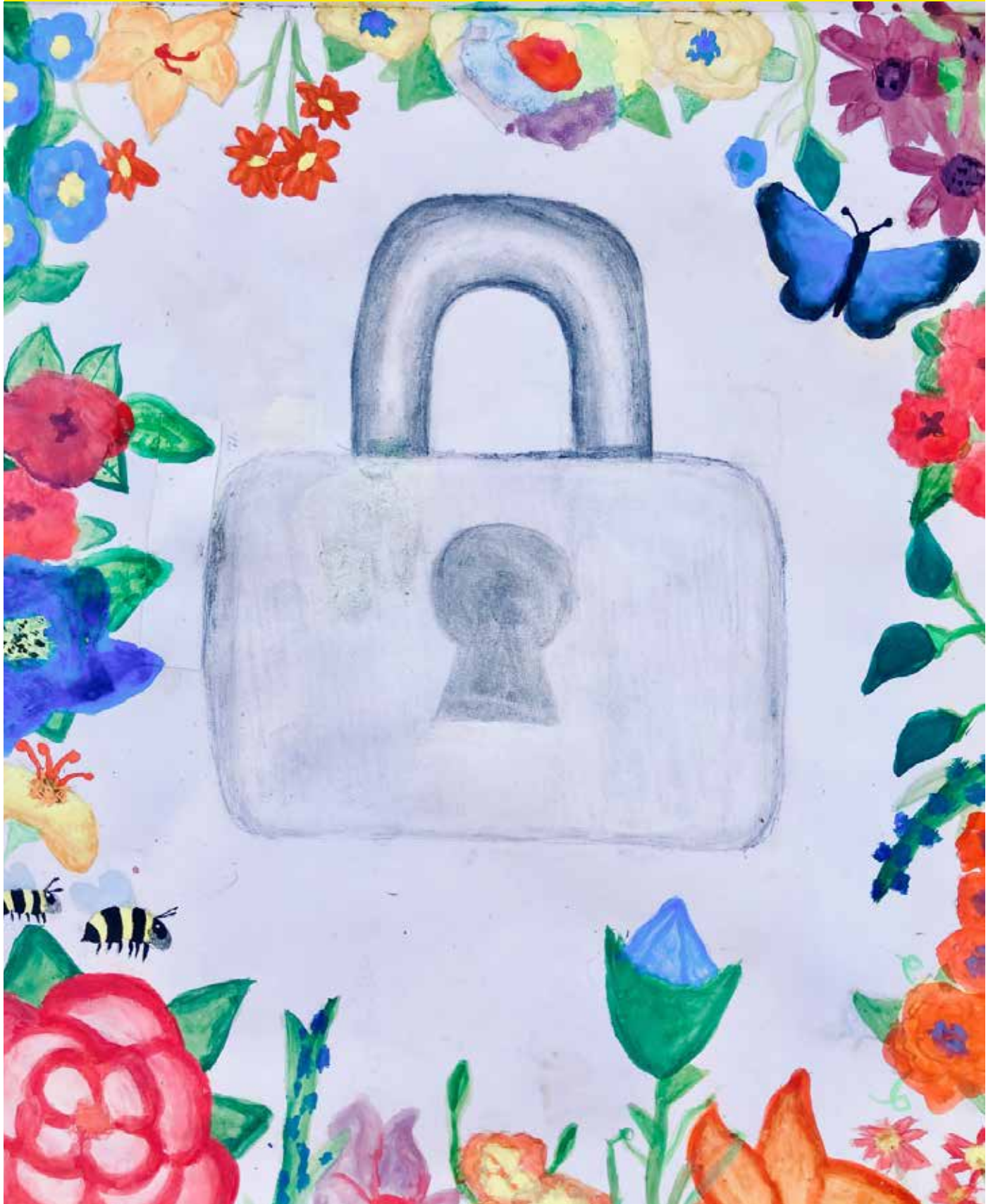
# Art Competition

1st Place - Madison Garforth



# Art Competition

2nd Place - Morgan Lecrass



# Photography Competition

1st Place - Cara Morgan



# Photography Competition

2nd Place - Finlay Hopkins



# Memories of Penyrheol

By Naomi Boyes (Y11)

I have made many amazing memories during my time at Penyrheol Comprehensive School.

One includes being a member of the school netball team. During this time, I was able to teach and mentor year 7s in how to play netball and also umpire GCSE netball matches against other schools which I am very grateful for.

However, my favourite memory and highlight was being chosen as Head Girl. I'm proud to have been given this opportunity and also support the school in this role.

I will always remember my school life at Penyrheol and I am very thankful for all the support and encouragement from all members of staff over the past 5 years, it is something that I will never forget



# See You in September



Thank you to the NHS, Healthcare and  
Keyworker warriors that have protected,  
healed, nourished and loved us during this  
crisis.

♥ We are forever in your debt. ♥  
Rydyn ni am byth yn eich dyled.

The staff and pupils of Penyrheol Comprehensive School.



Picture by Maddison Garforth Year 9