



Penryn
College

"Achieving through Challenge"

July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support since that sad day in March when we had to close the school to a majority of students and, shortly after, move towards the challenge of online learning. I am aware of what a difficult challenge it has been for everyone, combining the support for children with such a wide range of personal circumstances and work commitments. It is clear from the quality and quantity of students' work that this has been successful, and our pupils can start the next academic year with confidence. We've estimated that we have set, completed, and marked 151,000 pieces of work as a school community.

I am pleased to enclose a report (**see e-mail sent 22.7.20**) for this year for our current Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. Of course, these reports focus on their progress during the lockdown period, and many pupils will rightly be proud of all their efforts and achievements. I know how much time and energy you, as parents and carers, have put into helping our young people complete their work, and I would like to thank you for this - it has made a huge difference.

It is our intention to deliver the full curriculum to students with specialist teachers, including option subjects and study support. In order to do this, we will ensure students remain in separate year groups and that contact between all pupils and members of staff is reduced as much as possible, particularly indoors. To keep ourselves safe, we will all **need to look after each other by** showing empathy, respecting space, and observing good hygiene; next term will be a huge team effort from everybody.

To allow us to deliver the full curriculum, we have had to plan the operations of each part of the school slightly differently than usual. The guiding factor will be hygiene, and we have additional cleaning in place, as well as the features that have become so familiar to us, such as hand sanitiser and screens, where appropriate. Below, I have identified the key changes that I believe you and your child will want to be aware of - we hope this will create the safest and most harmonious environment. I have also included some ways in which you and your child can help prepare for September.

10 areas that will change

- **Transport to school:** We are currently working with the County Transport service to understand the measures that will be implemented on the buses. We will confirm these in our update week beginning Monday 17th August. We are also looking at whether it is possible for parents/carers to avoid visiting the school site to drop students off, with the exception of Blue Badge holders and taxis. We will also confirm the arrangements for school drop-off and pick-up in our update during the week beginning Monday 17th August.
- **School day:** We have moved the timings of our school day around, but the day **will still start and end at the same time**. You will notice that only two or three year groups will be on break or lunch at the same time. To allow this to happen, tutor time will move to 10.15am - 10.35am for two year groups, while the



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other three year groups have their break. They will then swap over between 10.35am - 10.55am.

- **Arrival in school:** School will start at 8.40am, and we ask that Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students go straight to the meeting point outside for their first lesson. Year 11 pupils can enter through the front entrance and go to their classrooms at the right time.
- **Breaks and lunchtimes:** We will be asking Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students to spend breaks and lunchtimes outside. The catering team will provide limited options of food during break, which, currently, we expect to be limited to cold food. If possible, we would ask that students bring packed lunches for the first term.
- **Tutoring:** Our current mixed-year tutoring for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students is not compatible with our segregation of year groups. Therefore, we will assign students a 'guest' tutor for at least the first half term, who will take pupils from a specific year group in a specific house. We will inform you of your child's 'guest' tutor during the week beginning Monday 17th August.
- **Movement:** Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will move around the outside of the building using a one-way system. Year 11 pupils will move inside the building except for entry to the old block, and we will use a designated route to the front of the school.
- **Lockers:** We will not be allowing students to use lockers in the first half term.
- **Entry to class:** Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will queue up for their classes outside and then go into class by the nearest entrance. At the end of the lesson they will leave by the nearest exit and go to a designated playground, unique to their year group. Year 11 students will be allowed to go straight into their classrooms.
- **In class:** Students will be asked to follow the specific rules of the classroom, and at the end of the lesson they will be asked to wipe down their chairs and tables before they leave.
- **Equipment:** Students will be allowed to use specialist equipment, i.e. for Science or PE, but will be asked to ensure it has been sanitised when it has been used.

Helping with a smooth start

It is so important that we get off to a calm, stress-free start, so:

- **Transport to school:** Please can you think about your journey to school and not come onto the school site to drop your child off, unless your child is in the ARB, or you are a Blue Badge holder.
- **Uniform:** Please make sure uniform is purchased and is correct. A key point of students' movement and falling out can be nose studs, covering with plasters just doesn't work for anybody! Please ensure any nose stud is replaced by a clear plastic



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spacer which cannot be seen or, preferably, is out. This year, we will have our new STP for PE lessons, and students will need moulded stud boots to take part in lessons on this facility. Please make sure your child brings in a good waterproof jacket, as they will be outside more often than usual!

- **Lunches and snacks:** If you are able to provide packed lunches for your child, please consider doing so. We know this will be challenging, but it will reduce the pressure and queuing for the catered food. If your child is using the catering option at school, please ensure they have their card and it has money on it.
- **Equipment:** Please ensure your child has a pencil case with the correct equipment in so they can fully take part in lessons without the need borrow. Students will need to bring their own water bottle into school, which they can refill at our water fountains.
- **Contact numbers:** Please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details so we can contact you promptly if your child is poorly or shows any coronavirus-related symptoms.

Starting in September

As you can see, there are considerable changes around the routine of the working day, and we really want to get this right, so everyone in the school community feels confident and secure. To help us achieve this, we would like to bring the school back one year group at a time, starting from Monday 7th September. This will allow us to gradually reintroduce more students into school, so that by Friday 11th September, all year groups will be on site. Our sequence/schedule for students **being in school** will be as follows:

Monday 7th September: Year 11

Tuesday 8th September: Year 11 and 7

Wednesday 9th September: Year 11, 10 and 7

Thursday 10th September: Year 11, 10, 8 and 7

Friday 11th September: Whole school

I know this may cause a little disruption, but I think we really need to get this right. We should be fully up and running by Monday 14th September.

Finally, thank you so much, again, for your support. If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Paul Walker
Headteacher



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