



## **Pensby High School**

Irby Road, Heswall, Wirral.  
CH61 6XN

T 0151 342 0570

F 0151 342 0571

E [schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@psf.wirral.sch.uk)

[www.pensbyhighschool.com](http://www.pensbyhighschool.com)

Headteacher: Mr K Flanagan

1 October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back or welcome to Pensby High School. I hope that you have had an enjoyable, relaxing and happy summer holiday. We are already back and into the swing of learning and I wanted to tell how great it is to see your children back in school, looking so smart and ready to learn.

We are reviewing some of the ways we ask our children to learn and we are keen to work with you to develop your child's independent learning skills. To support students in developing the skills that are required for success at GCSE and Sixth Form we have changed homework to a project or extended piece of work in Key Stage 3. Students will be expected to manage their work over a number of weeks, produce their own research where applicable and meet the deadline set by their teacher. It is important that all our students can learn these skills, but I am sure that you will wish to help your child, please talk to them about their homework and contact the school to talk to Heads of Subject if you need any further details. Homework club is still running for Year 7 and teaching staff and subjects can provide specific help for students; please encourage them to seek support if they require any additional help.

We have also introduced a 'no-hands' rule in lessons and we are asking teachers not to just take the answer from the children who put their hand up; all children will be asked questions in lessons and in that way we hope to ensure that all children are made to think about their learning and their progress. The ability to articulate what we know is hugely important; you can really help at home by continuing to ask questions about your child's learning.

The provisional GCSE results of all schools will be released by the Department for Education (DfE) in October 2016 and then a validated full set in January 2017. Performance measures are very different this year, with the key measure being 'Progress 8'.

'Progress 8' measures how all the students in the year group have performed in a specified range of eight subjects. A school's 'Progress 8' score can be anywhere on a scale that ranges from a minus figure (below average) to a positive figure (above average), with zero being the mid-point. Initial indications from the DfE indicate that our students have made progress in line with the mid-point compared to all students nationally. That means that students who come to Pensby made on average progress across all eight GCSEs that is in line with their peers nationally given their attainment when they were in Year 6 of primary school.

Within the overall school 'Progress 8' score there are many individual students who have made extremely good progress and achieved outstanding results. As a whole Year 11 students worked very hard last year and our results show a significant improvement in key areas such as mathematics. Initial information in the summer indicated that the school had achieved a better 'Progress 8' score than many of our comparative schools in the local authority and the support from home, staff and students here have made that improvement possible – thank you. Most importantly the vast majority of students achieved the

qualifications they needed to progress onto the next stage in their education and move closer to the career goals.

There were also many success stories in the Sixth Form with many students going on to universities including: Kyle Abraham studying Business at John Moores, Elizabeth Ball who achieved A\* A\* A studying Liberal Arts at Durham University, Connie Blakemore studying Business Management at John Moores University, Sophie Burns studying History at Liverpool, Annabel Byrne studying Sociology at John Moores University, Jack Callander studying History at John Moores, Jade Calveley studying Law at Liverpool, Rose Cassidy studying Fashion Buying at Manchester Metropolitan University, Oliver Courtney studying Nursing at Sheffield Hallam, Jake Gill studying English Language and Film Studies at Liverpool, Jordan Higgins studying Accounting and Finance at John Moores University, Ceri Holder studying Sports Therapy at Edge Hill, Sarah Jane Housley studying Pharmacology at Leeds, Matthew Jones studying Chemistry at John Moores University, Ted Macdonald studying Music Journalism at British Institute of Music Journalism, Thomas Magee studying Biochemistry at Liverpool, William Manifold studying Public Relations at John Moores University, James Matthews studying Journalism and Film Studies at De Montfort University, Lily McIvor studying Accountancy at Manchester Metropolitan University, Joanne Perry studying Events Management at Leeds Beckett University, Aaron Phillips studying Accountancy and Finance at John Moores University, Michael Presland studying Accounting and Finance at Sheffield Hallam, William Probbing studying Animal Management at Nottingham Trent University, Jennifer Ralfe studying Primary Education at Edge Hill, Cameron Rattray studying Adventure Sports at Reaseheath College, Alice Renshaw studying Physical Geography at Edge Hill, Edward Rogerson studying Accounting and Finance at Liverpool, Emily Rimmer studying Events Management at John Moores University, Lucy Roberts studying Real Estate Management and Business at John Moores University, Bethan Smith studying Physical Geography at Edge Hill, Phoebe Spradbury studying Spanish and Chinese at Chester University, Mitchell Taylor studying Business and Accounting at Glwyndwr University, Zoe Torgerson studying Adult Nursing at Sheffield Hallam University, Georgia Travers studying Sports and Exercise Science at University of Chester and Ethan Tyler studying Drama at Edge Hill.

Sixth Form leavers also progressed into a range of apprenticeships and traineeships with leading employers including: Keren Anderton apprenticeship with Daisy and Jake Nursery, Ben Coles apprenticeship with Mark Jones and Partners Solicitors, Danny Crompton traineeship with SISCO, Joseph Ellison apprenticeship with Unilever, Emily Mackie apprenticeship with Tesco, Thomas Simpson assistant manager with Marks and Spencer and Theo Tollitt apprenticeship with Aldi.

Our congratulations go out to all our Sixth Form leavers as they enjoy the fruits of their hard work at Pensby Sixth Form.

However, we still continue to look to ways to improve the quality of teaching and learning, because this is how we will improve your children's outcomes. Part of the way we review our practice is through the questionnaires we give parents and carers at parents' evenings and these are based on the Ofsted questionnaire via Parent View – can I please encourage you to also fill in this online survey for Ofsted.

On a different note, but equally importantly, we are trying to raise awareness and funds for two particular projects in the next few months. Last year the school was awarded a Stonewall Bronze award. The school gained the award for the promotion of positive cultures, mutual respect and the importance of celebrating, and supporting individuals. Stonewall is a charity that actively supports tolerance and understanding of LGBT issues and as a school we embrace difference in our children; it is what makes our job the best job in the world. This also feeds into a wider culture of tolerance and respect, all are welcome into our community regardless of gender, race, religion, disability or sexual identity – we do represent and promote those truly great British values of tolerance, respect and equality. This year we are trying to gain silver status and we are raising funds to help to further promote equality within our community.

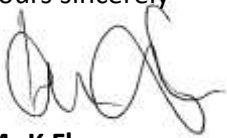
All students can help with this by buying rainbow laces, or seeing Miss Bentley with any offer of support, or simply buying cakes at the cake sale in a few weeks.

We are also keen to raise funds for Alder Hey and we are running a lower school disco and an evening for adults this term. The PTA will make further contact with regard to these; please can I ask if you can help in any way with these activities, you do so. Without the prompt response of the ambulance service, the helicopter and the world class care available for our children at Alder Hey, we may well have lost a member of our community this summer. As a father of three young children I have found myself realising the true value of both the people and facilities that are for us as parents and carers, I hope that I never have need to call on them, but we need them to be there and they need our help.

I would like to also thank all the parents, businesses and members of the public who helped in June when Joel was involved in his accident. People were extraordinarily kind to our students that day, thank you.

I have great faith that Year 11 this year will not only beat our rival schools in terms of exam performance, but they will beat this year's results – all of our students are a credit to you and themselves, we are all proud of them at Pensby.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Flanagan', written in a cursive style.

**Mr K Flanagan**  
**Headteacher**