



24 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen if a pupil is asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our website and is being sent to our governors.

### **School reopenings**

The earlier entry time of 8.30am for year 7 students has been working well with other year groups being admitted to school at 8.40am using separate entrances. This has allowed us to maintain our separate 'year group bubbles'. The vast majority of students have been arriving on time, being understanding, co-operative and pleased to be back in school. Please remind your child about the importance of arriving at the correct time and in the correct place so that we can continue to smoothly allow students into their appropriate zones in the school.

### **Attendance**

We are pleased that attendance has been very high in the first two weeks of school at 92.4%, which is much higher than the national average of 88%. It is important to ensure the students keep attending so that they can access the necessary learning in all of their subjects.

### **Coverage of the Curriculum**

As students have returned to school we have been able to offer a full curriculum of subjects, with students having access to both academic and practical subjects. We have been, once again, enjoying delicious aromas from our newly refurbished Food Technology rooms. We have also been pleased with students arriving in PE kit on the days they have PE and Dance and this arrangement has been working well.

From Monday 28th September year 7 and 11 students will begin their 'assessment fortnights' and we will use the results of these assessments to help us determine gaps and strengths in students' knowledge, so that we can plan future teaching to address any misconceptions.

In other year groups, staff are delivering their subject curricula and identifying areas for catch-up and modifying their lesson planning accordingly.



As from Monday 28th September we will be running after-school clubs and a list of the clubs on offer will be published on Friday September 25th.

From the following Monday, October 5th, we will be offering additional after-school intervention for students in year 11 for extra help with their subjects. We will publish the days and subjects that will run sessions next week.

### Remote Learning from home

Whilst we hope that the school will not be required to lockdown again, we do need to plan for this eventuality. So that we are able to facilitate a smooth transition to remote learning, please could you take one moment to complete our survey. This will provide us with up to date information about what access students may have to Google Classroom from home and will help us to respond quickly to ensure that all of our students are able to access remote learning.

Please use this link to access the survey <https://forms.gle/SqaggYcrCEfjnhkt5>

We would appreciate it if everyone could complete this survey, so that we know none of our students are missed. To aid our planning, we would be very grateful if you could complete this form before Thursday 1st October.

Since our return to school at the start of September we have spent a lot of time sharing and updating passwords and logins with students and showing all of our students how to use technology at PCS.

Every child has been given a '@swale.at' login and password. This week tutors are working with their tutees showing them how to email their teachers using their '@swale.at' email addresses.

This is the students means of communication with any staff at PCS. Students are being shown how to log onto their Google Classrooms and Show My Homework and submit work to their teachers through Google classrooms.

All of this 'set up' information can also be found on our school website <http://www.phcs.org.uk/> under the Remote Learning tab here [http://www.phcs.org.uk/students/remote\\_learning/remote\\_learning](http://www.phcs.org.uk/students/remote_learning/remote_learning)

We would like to ask that you check with your child that they can access all of the above and contact your child's tutor straight away if there are any concerns or issues with online access.

In the event of possible school closure our procedures and expectations to ensure effective teaching and learning will be available on the school website.

The strong partnership between students, teachers and parents/carers is of paramount importance to ensure continued high educational standards during these uncertain times.



## Mental Health and Wellbeing

We have been approaching the past two weeks with care and positively welcoming students on to the school site, with hand washing and hand gel stations, one-way system and zoned areas. We are aware that this has been a stressful and worrying time for some of our students.

Our student support team is available to support students including our Heads of Year, Family Support Worker, counsellors, BESST and SEND team working together to help with the transition back into school.

This year we have teamed up with Action Your Potential who have provided training for our staff and been delivering resources, allowing our students to reflect and influence their own mental health and well-being.

Everyone in our community has access to <http://www.actionyourpotential.org/>, which has information for parents, carers and students about the 12 rocks of well-being, how to be a neuro-ninja and short videos explaining how our brains work and why we may feel the way we do. If you require further information or just want to ask a question then please don't hesitate to email Andrew at [andrewwright@aypuk.com](mailto:andrewwright@aypuk.com)

## Access to Edulink

To allow you to see information for your child we have given you access to Edulink. This is an app that will provide information about your child's timetable, teachers and allow you to book appointments with members of staff. Please look out for the email on Friday 25th September that will provide you with information to login to access Edulink.

## Meet The Form Tutor Evening

We think it is important that you have an opportunity to meet or speak with your child's tutor and you will note from the school calendar that students will be leaving school at the earlier time of 1.40pm on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October**.

This is to provide time for all of our parents and carers to have a one to one conversation with their child's form tutor. This is a perfect opportunity for you to discuss your child's return to the academic year and ask any questions about how the school is working.

We would like to give you the option of either a **phone call** or a **virtual meeting** with your child's form tutor. A **virtual meeting** can be accessed through a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

## How to book your appointment slot

Appointments will take place between **2.00pm** and **6.45pm** on Thursday 1st October. You will be able to book an appointment time using **Edulink**.

Edulink will be open for booking slots from **midday** on **Friday 25th September** and closed at **midday** on **Wednesday 30th September**. When you log onto the system could you please indicate the time you wish to be contacted and whether you would like a **phone call**, leaving your contact details, or a **virtual meeting**. Should you require a **virtual meeting** your child's form tutor will email you an access code.





# Peacehaven Community School

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For the system to run smoothly we must remind you that the 5 minute time slots must be adhered to. Should you require a follow up conversation, please feel free to contact your child's form tutor after the event.

At PCS we pride ourselves on our pastoral care system and we believe that at this time, more than ever, the tutor is the essential bridge between home and school life.

It has been a very positive start to the term and our form tutors are looking forward to establishing contact with you.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the school's and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely, including providing your child with a reusable mask for them to wear within school.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Warner-Swann  
Head of School