



Newsletter 2 - Students Section

Hello,



I am very excited to let you know that starting from September, you will be joining our amazing Year 7 team at Peacehaven Community School.

I will be your Pastoral Leader, and I will be helped by a great group of experienced staff members. This team includes our Year 7 Pastoral Support Managers,

We are here to help all the Year 7 students. Our main job is to help each of you to do your best.

We'll encourage you to make good choices and to take advantage of the many opportunities that Peacehaven Community School offers.

We are here to help you keep our high standards and follow our school values.

- **Aspire**
- **Believe**
- **Contribute**
- **Achieve**

We know that moving from primary school to secondary school can be both exciting and a bit scary.

We understand that many of you might feel nervous about coming to PCS. But I want to let you know that we are working hard to make sure that your move to secondary school is smooth and fun.

The Year 7 Team has already talked to your primary school teachers, who have told us lots of important things about each of you. This will help us organise your mentor and teaching groups.

As well as this lots have you have been coming into school to do the wide variety of masterclasses that have been on offer.

We also have a group of current Year 7 and 9 students who are excited to share their PCS experiences with you.

They know that you probably have lots of questions and things you want to know about. So, we have set up an email account:

PCS-Transition@swale.at

You can use this email to ask any questions you have, and we will help you feel as confident as possible about joining us in September.

The Year 7 Team will check this account every week. We will either reply to your email directly or answer common questions in the next edition of this newsletter.

We hope this information has been helpful for you. Over the next few weeks, we will introduce you to more staff members at PCS so you can get to know them.

Make sure you read each weekly newsletter.



Ms Fernee and Ms Black



Ms Turner, our Assistant Headteacher, and seven mentors.

We are all looking forward to meeting you

You might be wondering what a Pastoral Leader and a Pastoral Support Manager do.



Parent Corner

Dear Parents/Carers,

The transition to secondary school is a crucial and significant journey, and we highly appreciate its importance. Therefore, we are committed to delivering a comprehensive transition programme that maintains the highest standards for our students, embeds our PCS Values, and extends a welcoming and engaging introduction to the PCS Community.

Our team has already visited numerous primary schools to collect information about each student. Working closely with transition leaders, we will visit every Year 6 child at their respective schools to address any worries they may have about PCS.

Many Year 6 students have taken part in various masterclasses over the last term, which hopefully have given them an early insight into life at PCS.

In the coming weeks, we will invite all parents and students into school to meet the mentor event. The appointment will be on either 22nd or 23rd June. Following this your child will attend 2 transition days during the week beginning 29th June.

We will ensure that you are kept updated on all these developments through forthcoming newsletters.

We will continue to provide weekly updates on any new information or key dates through both the school [website](#) and this newsletter.

Dear Transition Leader... Section

Every year, we look for help from our current Year 7 and 8 students to give advice and support to new students from a peer point of view, after all, they are the experts!

We have found that our Year 7 students rise to the challenge and amaze us with their kindness, insight and words of wisdom for Year 6 students. This week we were asked the following question.

What is the transition from Primary school to PCS like?

Hi there!

I just wanted to let you know that moving from Year 6 to Year 7 isn't as scary as it might seem at first. Feeling nervous is totally normal - we all went through it at PCS!

But don't worry, everyone at our school is here to support you because we understand how you feel.

The only mistake you can make is not asking the questions you have. It's okay to feel unsure - just ask!

Every teacher is happy to help you. Remember, it's better to talk about your feelings than keep them to yourself.

When you start at PCS, you'll get your timetable and meet your mentor who will explain everything. This is a good time to ask any questions.

You might want to join a club or the school football team to meet new friends and have fun!

PCS might seem big at first, but you'll get to know your way around soon. If you need help, just ask! Your secondary school life is about to begin, and I know you'll enjoy it.

Current Year 7 student



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Attendance

At PCS we believe that school attendance is not just about being present in lessons, but also about belonging, feeling valued and making the most of every opportunity.

Every day at school helps students to build friendships, develop resilience and achieve their potential. We are committed to supporting the welfare of every student, and we know that working together with families makes the biggest difference.

When students miss school, they do not just miss lessons - they miss key explanations, discussions, and opportunities to practise and ask questions. This learning is difficult to fully recover. Over time, gaps can grow, confidence can dip, and progress can slow.

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Addressing this early is essential. Clear routines, strong expectations, and a shared understanding that attendance matters every day all play an important role in preventing this.

It is also recognised that some students face genuine challenges in attending school. Where this is the case, early communication with the school is key.

Working together allows appropriate support to be put in place quickly, helping to remove barriers and avoid longer-term difficulties.

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?

THERE ARE 365 DAYS IN A YEAR
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN SCHOOL FOR 190 OF THEM
LEAVING 175 DAYS TO BE AT HOME AT
THE WEEKEND AND ON HOLIDAY
GOOD ATTENDANCE IS 96% AND ABOVE

OVER A SCHOOL YEAR AT PCS WITH 5 LESSONS A DAY:

| PERCENTAGE ATTENDANCE | NUMBER OF DAYS IN SCHOOL | NUMBER OF SCHOOL DAYS MISSED | NUMBER OF LESSONS MISSED |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 100% | 190 | 0 | 0 |
| 95% | 180 | 10 | 50 |
| 94% | 178 | 12 | 60 |
| 86% | 163 | 27 | 135 |
| 85% | 161 | 29 | 145 |
| 75% | 143 | 47 | 235 |

MISSING SCHOOL MEANS:

MISSING OUT ON FUN PROJECTS AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
STRUGGLING TO CATCH UP ON WORK
DISCONNECTING WITH SCHOOL FRIENDS

| ATTENDANCE | AVERAGE GRADE LAST YEAR'S ROUND UP |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 95% -100% | 4.79 |
| 95-90% | 3.98 |
| 90-85% | 2.96 |
| Less than 85% | 1.63 |



There are practical steps that make a difference: keeping absences to genuine illness only, not taking term time holidays, booking medical appointments outside of school hours, maintaining consistent routines, ensuring your child arrives at school on-time and promoting a positive message about school.

We're here to help your child so please reach out to their Tutor, Year Team or the Attendance Team if you have any questions.



James Broadbent
Assistant Headteacher
Attendance & Behaviour