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Booking form for Week 4 Onsite Provision

The Booking form for Key Worker Parents and the parents and carers of those students considered vulnerable for the period Monday 13 to Friday 17 April is now open.

Link: [Booking Form](#)

In line with the Cabinet Office and Department for Education guidance, if children can stay safely at home, they should. Please complete the booking form for next week by no later than **20:00 on Thursday 9 April**. This is so we can ensure we have the appropriate level of provision set up in school.

Should you need to make a new booking or make amendments to an existing booking after the deadline please email enquiries@penistone-gs.uk.

Clarification regarding Work over Easter

Prior to Easter we received contact from a number of parents who said that, given the unprecedented nature of what we were facing, they would appreciate it if we could continue to set work throughout the Easter holidays for their children. Over the course of this week, we have been contacted by a small number of parents advising that they don't believe work should have been set for their children to complete. As a result, we felt it may be beneficial to reiterate our approach to learning over the Easter holidays (outlined in last week's bulletin), which has

been designed to support and meet the needs of as many families as possible at this incredibly challenging time.

Our Y10 and Y12 students, all of whom are studying towards examinations, are receiving Easter home learning to the level they would typically have received had school not been closed and was operating as normal. Examples of the type of work provided to our year 10 and 12 students includes revision for upcoming practice exams, coursework completion and/or exam practice questions.

For those students in years 7, 8 and 9 **voluntary** activities have been set which include a range of both project and practical tasks. This includes a short story writing challenge, a music project, drama activities, PE physical challenges and MFL online practice tasks. As stated, these activities are voluntary, and how much each student completes each day in order to maintain a healthy body and mind it is at the discretion of each parent/carer.

Information for Students in Years 11 and 13

On Tuesday 6 April we issued correspondence to students in years 11 and 13 and their parents and carers, providing further information about how GCSEs and A Levels will be awarded in the summer of 2020. This followed release of the [Department for Education's updated guidance](#).

In summary, the overriding aim is to be fair to all students and to make sure young people are not disadvantaged in progressing to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeship, training or work.

Each school has been asked to submit two pieces of information:

- 1) the grade the school believe each student was most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned; and
- 2) within each subject, the order of students at Penistone Grammar School, by performance, for each grade.

When deciding these grades, the school has been asked to take account of a range of factors: classwork and homework; results in assignments and any practice exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework that has been done and general progress during the course. We have been instructed not to share this information with students or their parents.

Final grades will be issued in the summer by no later than they date they would have been expected to be received in August, or sooner if available.



As a result, we will not be requiring any further work from year 11 or year 13 students in terms of their NEAs (coursework).

For students in year 11, around May half-term we will begin to develop work that will allow them to focus on subjects they are considering studying at A Level. In the interim we would remind you that colleagues in our Post-16 have given every student in year 11 early access to Unifrog, information for which can be found on Frog.

Unifrog is an on-line careers/education and skills development portal through which Post-16 staff will regularly suggest activities for students to complete. The activities are highly recommended and suitable for all, regardless of their post-16 pathway.

It also remains our intention to celebrate everything our year 11 and year 13 students have achieved during their time with us, and to say a proper goodbye to them at some point in the future. We are so very proud of our students; they have been a credit to you, their parents and carers, and to all of us at Penistone Grammar School.

Supplies of Exercise Books and Paper

In an effort to support the continued home working arrangements for our students we have provided a stock of exercise books and A4/A3 paper which is available to collect from our school reception entrance.

We would ask that you continue to keep yourself and others safe and do not breach the Cabinet Office's [full guidance on staying at home and away from others](#) (published on 23 March) if collecting supplies from school.

Get Involved! Proud Thursday

Tomorrow is Proud Thursday! Last week Proud Thursday gave us an amazing opportunity to share all the fantastic work our students have been completing during the school closure period and we can't wait to do it all again! Please encourage your children to upload photos or videos of their work either directly to our Twitter account: @PGSALC using #ProudThursday, or to our dedicated Proud Thursday email account: prouthursday@penistone-gs.uk.

Please note; by sending a photograph or video to prouthursday@penistone-gs.uk, you/your child is providing your/their consent for the information shared, together with the student's name and year group, to be published on Twitter.

Get Involved! Parent Survey

Prior to school closure being implemented we launched our 2020 Parent Survey, the results of which play a critical part in informing our annual school improvement plan.

We would like to thank the 200 parents and carers who have already taken the time to share their views with us by completing the survey. If you haven't yet had opportunity to do so, we have extended the deadline for responses until Monday 20 April 2020. You can access the survey via the link below. The survey should take no more than a few minutes to complete and we'll share the results with you over the coming months.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PGSParentSurvey2020>

Welcome to our Primary Schools!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Hoylandswaine, Millhouse, Springvale and Thurlstone primary schools, all of whom are operating their primary provision for key worker children from Penistone Grammar School during the Easter holiday period. We are very pleased to be able to share our school with your students and staff over the course of this week and next.

Follow our New Transition Twitter Account

As a result of the current school closure, transition for the Class of 2025, all of whom are due to join Penistone Grammar School in September 2020 will feel very different to that in previous years.

As always, we are committed to doing all we can to ensure the newest members of our learning community feel welcomed into our PGS family over the coming months. To support us to keep in touch with parents, carers and students, we have set up a dedicated Twitter account for all transition news and updates: @PGSTransition.

We would be grateful for your support in sharing details of our new Twitter account with any parents who may have children joining us for the first time.

Anyone with any questions in relation to transition for the Class of 2025 can contact us via the dedicated transition email address: transition@penistone-gs.uk.

Is your Child Eligible for Free School Meals?

The challenges faced by some families have led to changes in financial circumstances that mean they may now need to access benefits. If this applies to you, please check to see whether your child is now eligible to receive free school meals.

Further information including how to apply, is available via the following link:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/free-school-meals/>

You can also call Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on 01226 787787 (select option 3).

Students who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive their entitlement throughout the



school closure period, receiving a £15.00 e-voucher or gift card each week.

Supporting Families through the Lockdown Period

As we settle into this new, albeit temporary, 'normal', we are receiving increasing amounts of information from a variety of organisations aimed at supporting children and families through the lockdown period. As we are sure you can imagine, this information varies in terms of its quality, appropriateness and usefulness. Rather than sharing everything with you, we are carefully quality assuring any information we receive with a view to sharing only the most helpful with you.

Any information we feel will be of benefit to you will be shared via our [Mental Health Frog Page](#). This page also contains helpful hints and tips to support our students to stay mentally fit and well during lockdown, and features a 'contact us' form for those who may need additional support.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Head Boy, Charles Bradbury and Head Girl, Rosie Morritt, both in year 11, who have been instrumental in proactively leading on the development of this site, giving up hours of their own time for the benefit of all our students.

Supporting the Fight Against Coronavirus

We talk frequently about how proud we are of our students, but now want to turn our focus to our staff, many of whom are finding ways in which they can provide additional support in the fight against the coronavirus.

We have many colleagues who are volunteering with the NHS, supporting in a variety of ways; a decision which we whole-heartedly support and thank them for. We also have staff who are ensuring that the resources available to us in school are used to best effect in the wider community. This week, Joanne Beaver, our Lead Science Technician, came into school to put together a donation of goggles to support the care workers at Barnsley Hospice; something that was incredibly well received. And after finding a design online, Sam Jones, Teacher of Technology, came into school last week to manufacture protective eyewear for colleagues at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, and will be in school again this week to manufacture some more for colleagues in Leeds General Infirmary – thank you so much!

Regardless of what your contribution is, or has been, as we all battle to fight the coronavirus, when this is all over and we look back on our journey, we are absolutely certain that we shall reflect with pride on the part our community played.

Children's Guide to Coronavirus

Attached with our bulletin this week is a guide put together by the Children's Commissioner that has been shared with us by Barnsley Local Authority.

The 'Children's Guide to Coronavirus' may be something that parents and carers of the youngest members of our learning community, and those with primary-aged children, might find useful to share with those who are finding the coronavirus pandemic to be a particularly anxious time.

Useful links

We have included below quick links that have been shared over recent weeks that you may find helpful:

Key Worker and Vulnerable Booking Form:
[Booking Form](#)

Parent Survey 2020
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PGSParentSurvey2020>

Requesting support with Frog when you cannot log in to the system:
[Frog Support Request](#)

Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students during the school closure period:
[Mental Health Frog Page](#)

How students should access work during the school closure period:
[School Closure Video](#)

Contacting school by email (general enquiries):
enquiries@penistone-gs.uk

Follow us on Twitter:
@PGSALC

Sending us your Proud Thursday submissions:
prouthursday@penistone-gs.uk

Contacting school by email (transition enquiries):
transition@penistone-gs.uk

For parents/carers of students joining in year 7 from September 2020, follow our dedicated transition twitter account:
@PGSTransition

New Library Development:
[Mrs Demetriou's blog](#)

Become a Friend of our new PGS Library:
[DonateMySchool](#)

