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### Booking form for Week 6 Onsite Provision

The Booking form for Key Worker Parents and the parents and carers of those students considered vulnerable for the period Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May 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 **9:00am on Friday 24 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](mailto:enquiries@penistone-gs.uk).

### Educational Trips and Visits

We have always valued educational visits as an integral part of our students' learning. Not only do they provide an excellent opportunity to bring learning to life, but they can also generate once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for our young people, creating memories that remain with them forever.

Over the coming months many of our students were due to take part in a variety of visits. When considering the most appropriate way forward for each of these trips protecting the physical, emotional and financial wellbeing of our students and their families has always been our primary consideration. Unfortunately, however, liaising with the different tour operators and companies involved in each trip has been an arduous and complex process. We would

therefore like to thank those of you who have children scheduled to travel for your patience as we have worked to establish the present position for each excursion.

We have included below the most up to date position for each scheduled visit.

#### Years 7 Residential

We have written to parents today to confirm that the year 7 residential has been cancelled. As soon as we have greater clarity about when our students will return to school, we will look at alternative school-based activities that will enable our class of 2024 to celebrate all they have achieved during their first year as Penistone Grammar School students. Full refunds covering the cost of the deposit will be available to access via ParentPay from Thursday 30 April 2020.

#### Pop Choir London Visit

As we are sure parents, carers and students are expecting, the London Pop Choir visit has also been cancelled. A full refund for the entire cost of this trip can be claimed via ParentPay accounts from Thursday 30 April 2020. The Pop Choir have worked hard and with great enthusiasm this year. We hope to be able to provide them with opportunities in the future that will go some way to compensate for the disappointment caused by the cancellation of the trip.

#### Year 9 Paris Trip

Unfortunately, the tour company through which we had booked the Paris trip have been far from helpful. Despite being unable to fulfil the booking, they currently refuse to issue a refund to us, instead, insisting that we either reschedule or accept a credit note. Clearly, this is unacceptable and as a result, we are currently seeking legal advice. We apologise that we do not have more positive news at this time for those family affected. However; we can assure you we will continue to do everything within our power to recover the monies at the earliest opportunity.

#### Yorkshire Wildlife Park Visit

This visit has been postponed and will be rescheduled to a later date. We will provide further details once we have greater clarity about when our students are returning to school.

#### Post-16 Paris Trip

In an effort to protect the deposits paid by parents and carers, we have not yet cancelled this trip. This is because, should we make this decision now, the terms and conditions of the visit dictate that we will lose the deposits parents have paid. The deadline for the next instalment to the tour company is 1 May 2020. We will continue to liaise with them in the



interim period and will contact parents and carers towards the end of April to update them further.

### Post-16 Visits

We had a number of visits scheduled to support our Post-16 learners, all of which have been cancelled:

- Aintree Oxbridge Convention
- Boggle Hole Study Weekend
- Business Tutor2U Study Workshop
- Geography Tutor2U Study Workshop

We have received confirmation from all providers that it is their intention to issue full refunds for each of the visits detailed above. We will contact parents and carers directly once monies for each trip have been received by us and will make refunds available to claim via your online ParentPay accounts.

### World Challenge Summer Expedition

Although we continue to liaise closely with World Challenge, as we facilitate this visit, rather than managing it, the information we have is limited. We would therefore ask parents and carers to refer students to their online World Challenge account for the most up to date information.

As always should you require further information or need support to access a refund, please don't hesitate to contact us. As we are currently operating with significantly reduced staff in school, we recommend that contact in the first instance is via email to [enquiries@penistone.gs.uk](mailto:enquiries@penistone.gs.uk).

### Information for Students in Years 7 and 8: Assembly and Bears of Sheffield Competition

Last week we informed you of the 'Bears of Sheffield' initiative, launched by the Sheffield Children's Hospital Charity to raise funds to help transform the Cancer and Leukaemia Ward at Sheffield Children's Hospital. We asked students in years 7 and 8 to get involved by creating a design for our very own Penistone Grammar School bears.

We asked that the designs reflected some of the great things about Penistone Grammar School. For example; our core values, our work around mental health, our love of books, our charity work or anything else our students could think of which represents our school.

There will be two winning entries; one chosen by Mr Crook and one by members of our Governing Body.

If you have children in year 7 or 8, please do encourage them to get involved. There is more information, together with resources to support them to develop their designs, on our mental health page on Frog.

Whilst on Frog students will also be able to access a virtual assembly:

- Year 7 Assembly with Mr Schofield (Achievement Leader), Miss Wilson (Student Support Officer) and Mr Gillett (Assistant Principal).
- Year 8 Assembly with Mrs Martin (Achievement Leader), Mrs Kelly (Student Support Officer) and Mr Gillett (Assistant Principal).

Again, we would be grateful for your support in encouraging your children to log onto Frog to watch the messages from staff.

### Information for Students in Year 9: Vaccinations

Thank you to those parents who have contacted us to enquire about what will happen with Year 9 vaccinations in light of the school closure. We can confirm that the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Meningitis vaccinations will now take place on 23 and 24 September. It is possible that the Immunisation Team may need to seek updated consent to undertaking the immunisations nearer the time, but we will confirm once we have further guidance from them regarding this.

### Library Update: And the winner is ...

In our Week 2 Parent Bulletin we shared three beautiful images created by fabulous local artist, Caroline Potts, especially for the students of Penistone Grammar School. We invited you to vote for your winning design via our Twitter account and are thrilled to now be able to share the results with you. We are pleased to announce that the winning entry was Image 2:



We can't wait to see the final creation painted large at the entrance to our new library and would once again like to thank Caroline for so generously giving up her time in support of our students and our school.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to those of you who have contributed financially to development of our new library through our DonateMySchool campaign. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to donate, but would like to, please follow the links below:

- [Mrs Demetriou's blog](#)
- [DonateMySchool](#)



## Get Involved! Proud Thursday

As we all now know, tomorrow is no ordinary day. Tomorrow is the time in the week when we celebrate all the amazing things our students are doing. Tomorrow is a special day, tomorrow is ... **Proud Thursday!**

We can't wait to see the photos and videos of all the excellent things your children have been doing this week (both school and non-school related). Please encourage them to upload items directly to our Twitter account: @PGSALC using #ProudThursday, or alternatively, to email their Proud Thursday entries to our dedicated Proud Thursday email account: [prouidthursday@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:prouidthursday@penistone-gs.uk).

(Please note; by sending a photograph or video to [prouidthursday@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:prouidthursday@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).

## Supporting 'Digitally Excluded' Families

In today's World there is an increasing expectation that we are all digitally connected. The ability to access the internet is becoming an essential part of our everyday lives, as is the need to own electronic devices, laptops and computers.

Never has this been more apparent, or essential, within our own school community than it is right now. The forum which enables our students to continue with their learning in their own homes relies entirely on their ability to access our online platforms, requiring students to have access to both the internet and to digital devices, laptops or computers. Something which we understand may be challenging, for a whole range of reasons, for some of our families.

During this period of extended school closure we are committed to ensuring that no student gets left behind, particularly if the barrier to their learning is a lack of access to IT. Over recent weeks our Achievement Leaders have been contacting the families of students who do not appear to be accessing learning via Frog, to establish what we can do to support students' connectivity.

If your children need support to access online learning, we would encourage you to contact us. We would also encourage you to contact us on behalf of families who you believe are struggling with this new digital learning landscape but, for whatever reason, may be unaware that they can contact us for support.

You can contact us via email ([enquiries@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:enquiries@penistone-gs.uk)), or by phone between 8:00am and 1:00pm Monday to Friday (01226 762 114).

## Accessing our Food Bank

We wanted to take a moment to remind you that, to support families during these challenging times, we are still operating our food bank.

If you, or a family you know, would benefit from a food parcel, please contact us via email to [enquiries@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:enquiries@penistone-gs.uk).

Food parcel deliveries will take place Friday of each week and are available for members of our wider community, not just the families of those students on roll at Penistone Grammar School.

## Our New Extension

Monday of this week saw the start of a new term and with it, we were expecting to move into our fabulous, new extension. Over the next few days we will share a walk-through video of the new area via our Twitter feed and Frog, so that our students can see what awaits them when they come back to school. We are excited to share the new space with them when we're all finally back together!

## 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](#)

**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](#)

**Student Assignments from 20 April:**

**Walk-through Video**

[Student Assignments from 20 April](#)

**Contacting school by email (general enquiries):**

[enquiries@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:enquiries@penistone-gs.uk)

**Follow us on Twitter:**

@PGSALC

**Sending us your Proud Thursday submissions:**

[prouidthursday@penistone-gs.uk](mailto:prouidthursday@penistone-gs.uk)

**New Library Development:**

[Mrs Demetriou's blog](#)

**Become a Friend of our new PGS Library:**

[DonateMySchool](#)

