



Week 3



Alone we are smart. Together we are brilliant.

6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Dates for your diary

11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Parents' Evening
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Visit from Professor McGinty
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Finish for half term
30 <sup>th</sup> October	Inset Day. Return to school Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October



## Star Pupil of the Week

### Week Beginning 25th September 2017

#### Year 5

Freddie Melbourne	5JB
Harry Boothby	5LM
Evie Phillips	5CWK
Isaac Morris	5SJ

#### Year 7

Emily Spillard	7LW
Daniel Hughes	7EN
Kayla Harrison	7JW
Maddison Kellner	7KM

#### Year 6

Lacey Jones	6SB
Emily McNeil	6AP
Ruby Milner	6LK
Leah McEvoy	6CA
Jessica Boulton	6PM

#### Year 8

Ciara Shackleton	8SH
Daisy Kirk	8SS
Harry Guy	8RC
Surrane Threadgold	8BH

Thank you to all of the students that helped out at the Prospective Parent's Evening. We were very proud of your hard work.

Remember that next Wednesday is Y5 meet the 'Meet the Class teacher' evening so please send in your slip to make an appointment if you haven't already. A similar evening will run for Y6,7 and 8 on 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Y6 are returning from their adventures at Latches Wood today. I am sure that they will sleep well tonight. We look forward to hearing about their adventures and welcoming them back into school next week.

## **E-Safety matters**

We have had reports of students using social media sites such as Instagram inappropriately; this includes communicating with strangers – putting themselves at risk.

Please check your child's phone this weekend to help keep them safe.

Mr West.

## **Humanities Student of the Month**

September has seen the presentation of the inaugural Humanities Student of the Month awards. Each month Humanities teachers nominate a student from their class, who they feel has consistently met their expectations and shown a positive attitude in lessons. The winners are then selected by Mr Cole, Head of Humanities based on the nominations for each year group. Congratulations to all of our hardworking winners in September and we look forward to announcing the October winners at the end of the month.

Mr Cole

### **Year 5**

Emily Chisnall

Todd Frost

### **Year 6**

Stephen Hill

Erin Morris

### **Year 7**

Thomas Dillon

Sophie Hill

### **Year 8**

Samuel Poulson

Sophie Dawson

**Families First**

Staffordshire County Council  
2 Staffordshire Place  
Tipping Street  
Stafford  
ST16 2DH  
Email: paul.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk

Please ask for: Paul Senior

Date: 21September 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

**Changes to Penalty Notices for Absence from School**

Ensuring your child has access to a good education is very important to us.

A key part of this is for all children and young people to regularly attend school, as this gives each learner the best chance to achieve their full potential. In light of the recent Isle of Wight court case and the subsequent Supreme Court ruling on school absences, we wanted to clarify our position for parents where there may be the potential for any ambiguity and to also ensure we are fully compliant with legal requirements.

As a result, we have made a few changes to our previous guidance to schools, parents and carers regarding absence from school. The new guidance will come into force from **1 January 2018** and is detailed below:

**Penalty Notice for leave of absence (holiday) in term time**

From 1 January 2018 **any** period of unauthorised leave may result in you as a parent receiving a penalty notice fine. Your head teacher will continue to be the only person able to authorise leave in term time, but this will apply only in exceptional circumstances. Any unauthorised absence will be referred by your head teacher to the local authority.

**Penalty Notice for persistent lateness**

Previously a pupil had to achieve 20 unauthorised late marks before a penalty notice warning could be issued. **This has now changed to 10 marks**, and late marks do not have to be one after the other in order for the penalty notice to be issued. You are therefore encouraged where possible to ensure your child attends school on time. However, if your child is late you must inform the school of the reason(s) why, as they may be able to offer you some form of advice or support.

**Period of time used to measure persistent absence and lateness**

If your child has had 10 days unauthorised absence or is late 10 times over a twelve week period, you may receive a penalty warning notice and also potentially a fine.

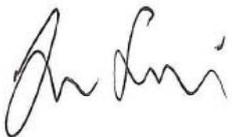


These changes have been agreed with local head teachers and have been implemented to help promote and support good attendance to school. Further details and a copy of the revised Code of Conduct for issuing Penalty Notices can be obtained from the council's website [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education).

The vast majority of children and young people in Staffordshire have an excellent record of school attendance, and we recognise the efforts of so many parents to ensure their children attend school regularly.

The Local Authority will continue to take appropriate action for absences during term time when we are notified by head teachers, both to support them in their role and to ensure local children can continue to achieve the best possible outcomes from attending local schools.

Yours faithfully



Paul Senior  
Head of Education Vulnerable Learner Services 0-25



## Year 5 Parents' Evening

On Wednesday October 11th from 4pm to 7pm, Year 5 class teachers will be available to speak to parents about how their son/daughter has settled into Penkridge Middle School. It is also an opportunity to ask any questions you may have or to raise any concerns. Please be aware that appointments are limited to 5 minutes, and if you wish to discuss any matter for longer a separate appointment will need to be made.

Please fill in the slip below to indicate your preferred time for your appointment. We will do our very best to accommodate your request.

.....

### Year 5 Parents' Evening Wednesday October 11th 2017

Name of Pupil..... Class.....

Preferred Time Slot (please tick):

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4pm – 4.30pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 4.30pm – 5pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5pm – 5.30pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 5.30pm – 6pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6pm – 6.30pm | <input type="checkbox"/> 6.30pm – 7pm |

Teacher's Use Only: Your Appointment Time is
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## Year 8 only

Could you be the Masterchef of PMS?

Are you super with a saucepan or fantastic with a frying pan?

Then look no further to show off your skills than "Future Chef - The Competition"

This is a national competition and we are having heats here on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm.

You will have until 5pm to prepare and cook a 1 course meal to demonstrate your cooking skills.

You are allowed to spend up to £5 on ingredients and will be taking your dish home; however, the judges will be tasting a portion.

The winner will progress through to the local finals at a date to be advised.

Any queries contact Mrs De-Loyde or Mrs McVittie.

Entry slip to be returned Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October to the School Office.

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Year 8 "Future Chef – The Competition" entry slip

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Dish to be presented: \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be cooked: (Please circle)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October    Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Travelling home arrangements: (Please circle)

Parent to collect

Walk

Other (Please specify)

I give permission for my child to take part in Future Chef.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Visit to Coventry Cathedral 2017 –  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November

**Classes 8SS & 8BH Only**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Pre-visit responses have unanimously indicated that parents would like the school to again run the educational visit to Coventry Cathedral for Year 8. The team at the cathedral offer our students a wide range of experiences within and around the building to explore and understand issues around conflict, peace and reconciliation.

The students will leave for Coventry at 9.15am prompt and we plan to be back in time for the end of the school day at 3.30pm, but this does depend on traffic. The students will need to bring a packed lunch for the day (which should not include glass bottles). All students will be expected to wear their school uniform. Students will also need to bring a coat.

Can I remind students that we are visiting a place of worship and they will need to be attentive, sometimes silent and at all times respectful. Cooperation and good behaviour is paramount, not only for the reputation of the school, but also for the health and safety of the students.

We are requesting a donation of **£22 for each child** which includes all transport costs and the costs of the tour. Please pay by **Parent Pay by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October** or as soon as possible. Please also note that if we do not have enough donations to cover the cost of the trip, the visit will not be able to go ahead and we will incur charges from the bus company for cancellation.

Advance warning is needed of any participants with special medical or other needs to ensure all health and safety considerations have been made. Parents must inform the school of any relevant medical or other needs on the visit consent form.

**Medical forms will be issued after October half term to ensure they are accurate and up-to-date. Failure to complete this form will result in your child being unable to attend the trip.**

All bona fide educational visits undertaken by Penkridge Middle School are covered by ACE Insurance provided through our Stafford County Council. This visit is considered to have only normal everyday risks and no further insurance has been provided.

If you have any questions about this visit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr R Cole  
Head of Humanities and RE

**PARENTAL CONSENT FOR A SCHOOL VISIT**

**Classes 8SS & 8BH Only**

Please complete this form and return it to the school reception by **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO: Coventry Cathedral**

On **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November** leaving school at 09:15 AM. The predicted time of return is 3:30 – 3:45pm.

Students will be travelling by coach and your child will be expected to be responsible enough to wear any seatbelt provided until informed it may be released.

I understand this visit includes:

- Walking, therefore appropriate footwear, outdoor wear and school uniform must be worn.

**I agree to my son/daughter attending the visit detailed above and I acknowledge that to be included he/she will need to maintain responsible behaviour.**

Name of son/daughter.....

Class... 8SS / 8BH

Signed..... Date.....

Parent/Guardian with Parental Responsibility

**Medical forms will be issued after October half term to ensure they are accurate and up-to-date. Failure to complete this form will result in your child being unable to attend the trip.**

Visit to Coventry Cathedral 2017 –  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Classes 8RC & 8SH Only**

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Students will be travelling by coach and your child will be expected to be responsible enough to wear any seatbelt provided until informed it may be released.

I understand this visit includes:

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