

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Firstly, an update from our action plan from our March Stakeholder Engagement regarding our Communication Strategy. We are currently working on the 'My Child At School' app we will be trialling during this last half-term and hopefully will be able to launch to all parents for September 2023. This will allow parents/carers to have up to date information regarding their child's attendance, positive merits, assessment data and so on.

I am pleased to share that the website now holds all communication letters that have gone home to parents/carers. This will allow parents/carers to refer back to previous communication we have shared. You can find all letters via this link: [Letters | Penistone Grammar School \(penistone-gs.uk\)](https://www.penistone-gs.uk/letters).

Finally, we are working hard to ensure we reply to all communication in a timely manner. We will be introducing a quality assurance system within school to ensure we meet our internal deadlines. More information to follow regarding this system and we would welcome any feedback from parents/carers.

UNIFORM

A huge thank you to the 591 families who completed the recent Stakeholder Engagement regarding our current school uniform. This was a great response and a true representation of our school community. Responses ranged from Year 7 - 202 responses, Y8 – 173 responses, Y9 – 164 responses, Y10 – 147 responses and Y11 – 61 responses.

97% of all responses stated that they believe PGS should have a school uniform. 94% stated that they would welcome the introduction of an 'optional' black V neck jumper to be worn under the blazer in the colder months. Therefore, listening to parents/carers and students, we will be introducing this option from September. The jumper will include the colour of your child's house and will only be available from Vortex. We will share further details before the summer holidays on design and cost as we are currently working with Vortex on this addition. Additionally, parents/carers and students said they would welcome the introduction of school smart/tailored shorts in the summer months. Therefore, I am pleased to say that students will be allowed to wear smart/tailored shorts from April-October. Some examples can be found on our school website. Students must not wear sports, cycling, denim, or branded shorts.

91% and 87% respectively agreed that we should keep black school shoes and the school House tie. Therefore, these will both remain. We received many comments in the free text boxes regarding the cost of the PE kit, therefore moving forwards we will be removing the expectation that students wear the PGS branded Adidas red top and black shorts/socks. Our new policy will indicate red top, black shorts and black knee-high football socks. This will support all families in the current cost of living crisis.

A reminder that second-hand uniform can be purchased from school and we can support families with uniform free of charge. Please do get in touch at enquiries@penistone-gs.uk and please do hand in to us any outgrown uniform that could support other students at PGS.

Finally, regarding the feedback on our current school uniform, 76% of families would welcome, or would not mind either way, if we introduced a compulsory above the knee school skirt. Therefore, from September all students wishing to wear a skirt for school must wear the new skirt. Each student wishing to do so will receive one free of charge from Vortex, our school uniform company. We are currently working with Vortex to look at the best system for students to try the skirts on and then order a free one in time for September 2023. All details of the above uniform updates, and some small adjustments to our policy, are included in our updated VDE planner page attached. We will be in touch immediately after May half-term with further details.

EXAMS

In other news, our Year 11 & 13 students have started their GCSE and A-level examinations and we wish them all the very best in the coming weeks. Thank you goes to our fantastic exams team, staff and families for supporting our amazing students during this critical time.

NEWS UPDATE

Congratulations to all students and staff involved in the amazing production of Grease and those who continue to represent our school sport teams in local and regional competitions. Just a reminder to all members of the school community that the 3G pitch and fields are not to be used out of school hours.

CHARITY

On 16 and 17 June 2023, PGS staff are going to run, walk, cycle, swim, row, pogo stick or any other form of activity in relay for 24 hours, starting at 3.00 pm. We are raising money to support the mental health triage room at the Sheffield Children's Hospital. This is the space where young people are assessed when they are in mental health crisis. We have partnered with Minds Ahead, a mental health organisation, to raise £5000 to give it a much-needed reboot. It is a personal project to PGS and Minds Ahead and we are funding it independently, so any support at all will be much appreciated. The Just Giving link is - https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/minds-ahead?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=minds-ahead&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=72394e68f3db441f834f1d2a02be784d. We will be updating our school Twitter account throughout the evening and daytime of 16/17 June.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Below is a list of our key dates for the last summer half term:

Thursday 8 June	Y8 Parents' and Students' Evening
Friday 16 June	Y12 Silver DofE Expedition
Monday 19 – Friday 23 June	Y10 Art and Photography Practice Exams
Monday 26 June – Wednesday 5 July	Y10 Practice Exams
Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 June	Y7 Residential
Monday 3 July	Y7, 8, 9 and 10 Day of Excellence Awards
Monday 3 – Friday 7 July	Y12 Progression Exam Resits
Tuesday 4 – Thursday 6 July	Y6 Taster Days
Thursday 6 July	Post 18 Parents Information Evening
Friday 7 July	PE Rewards Evening
Friday 7 – Monday 10 July	Drama Ambassador's Residential Trip
Saturday 7 – Sunday 8 July	Y12 DofE Bronze Qualifying Trip
Monday 10 July	Y12 Taster Day (outgoing Year 11 students)

Tuesday 11 July	Science Awards Evening
Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 July	Y12 Work Experience
Wednesday 12 July	Winning House Rewards Trip
Wednesday 12 July	Y7 Reading Celebration to Parents
Friday 14 July	Sports Day
Friday 14 – Monday 17 July	Y12 Paris Trip
Monday 17 July	Y10 and Y12 End of Year Assessment Data (shared with parents / carers before the summer break)
Wednesday 19 July	Y12 Biology Trip to Filey
Thursday 20 July	PGS LIVE! Evening Event – Music, Street Food, Drink and much more. Tickets on sale shortly
Friday 21 July	Student Penfest Rewards Day 2.50pm – close for the summer holidays.

Also attached are our school calendar days for 2023/24, which indicate the INSET days for the upcoming academic year. Please note that our phased start of term is as follows:

Wednesday 6 September: Years 7, 10, 11 and 12 will return

Thursday 7 September: Years 8, 9 and 13 will return

Looking forward to a successful half-term and hope to see parents/carers and students at PGS Live! at the end of term.

Regards

Paul Crook
Principal



Expectations for Uniform

Part of the Values Driven Expectations System

Remember; your planner is central to Values Driven Expectations and you are expected to always have this with you.

At Penistone Grammar School we believe all students should **be proud** to be a part of our learning community.

Our uniform policy allows every member of our school to feel equal, irrespective of their background. By wearing the school uniform, you can feel smart and professional in your learning, preparing you for the world of work. Wearing your school uniform with pride also allows you to represent Penistone Grammar School positively in the local community and beyond.

Tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must always wear the correct House tie. Your tie must be kept in good condition with no pulls or graffiti and with no accessories attached (such as hair grips).
Blazer and Coats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must always wear your school blazer when in the school building. You may remove your blazer during breaks, lunchtimes and lessons. You are permitted to wear an optional PGS school jumper with house colour neck under your blazer. You must not wear your blazer with rolled or pushed up sleeves. You must remove your coat before entering school and store it in your bag or locker.
Skirts, Shorts and Trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must only wear black trousers, shorts or PGS school skirts. If wearing a skirt, the school logo must be visible below the bottom of the blazer. Black or nude tights, or white or black unbranded ankle socks are permitted. Leggings are not permitted. Black, cotton, tailored unbranded shorts are permitted to be worn with black or white unbranded ankle socks. No football or sports shorts. Shorts must be visible below the blazer.
Belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belts must be black with plain buckles. Decorative buckles of any description will not be permitted.
Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must wear a white shirt under your blazer. Both long and short sleeved shirts are permitted. Your shirt must be long enough to be tucked into your trousers, shorts or skirt. Shirts must always be buttoned up to the collar with your tie clipped on. Long sleeved and/or coloured t-shirts must not be worn under your school shirt. White vest tops and white t-shirts are permitted to be worn under shirts for warmth.



Shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are required to wear formal, smart, black leather, suede, or patent shoes to school. Black ballet pumps are permitted. You are not permitted to wear trainers. This includes black leather trainers including those without markings. Your school shoes should have no visible branding including Nike ticks or sporting logos. Boots are not acceptable (a boot is defined as anything that touches or comes above the ankle bone). If boots are required to be worn for medical reasons, a note of this must be in your planner from your parents/carers.
Nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are permitted to wear nail polish. Acrylic or false nails must be removed for school for health and safety reasons. It is your responsibility to ensure any nails worn for celebrations such as weddings, are removed in time for school.
Make-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are permitted to wear subtle make-up; foundation; tinted moisturiser; concealer; mascara. False eyelashes are not permitted. Henna will only be acceptable if this has been applied for a religious festival. In this circumstance you must ensure you have a note in your planner from your parents/carers.
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are permitted to wear one pair of stud earrings (an earring in each ear), stretchers are not permitted. Facial piercings of any description are not permitted (including nose, eyebrow, lip, and tongue). You are permitted to wear one ring on either hand. You are permitted to wear a watch (except for examinations). You must remove all jewellery for PE for health and safety reasons. You may wear one bracelet or charity band. Necklaces must be worn tucked inside your shirt collar
PE Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor and Outdoor kit – PGS PE kit or: Plain red t-shirt; plain black shorts/tracksuit/jogging bottoms or sports leggings, black football socks, trainers and hair bobble for long hair. Optional kit for outdoors – plain red or black jumper (no hoodies); or black or red underlayer.

Please be aware that buying clothes from the school section of a high street shop does not mean they will necessarily comply with our uniform policy. If in doubt, please contact the school for guidance.

If there is an issue with school uniform, such as something breaking, it is the parent's responsibility to contact school. If there has been no contact or there is no note in the planner, behaviour sanctions will be issued.

Reasonable Adjustments Policy

We are a fully inclusive school and ensure all students feel comfortable. As per the Equality Act 2010 please let us know if your child requires a reasonable adjustment to their uniform for sensory issues and/or inclusivity.

Some religions or beliefs may preclude students from wearing aspects of their school uniform in line with the human rights or for equality and discrimination reasons. Where this is the case a request for special consideration must be made to the Governing Body. Please note: The Governing Body have the right to restrict an individual's rights to manifest their religion or belief on the grounds of promoting cohesion, good order or for health and safety considerations.





Shaded areas denote Holiday Dates

○ INSET Days

September 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2023

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024



M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

 Denotes School Holidays
 Denotes Bank Holidays