



Penistone Grammar School Advanced Learning Centre

Never Stop Flying

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Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

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Dear Parents and Carers

As the end of term approaches, I would like to share with you the arrangements for our final week, which promises to be full of opportunities to celebrate the achievements of our students (please note the early finish at 12:45 on Friday 22 December, detailed below).

Monday 18 December	<p>CAROL SERVICE 19:00 at St John the Baptist Church, Penistone</p> <p>Students from PGS will join with those from our local primary schools and members of the wider community to present a traditional Christmas celebration. With carols, readings and performances, this event is always a favourite in our annual calendar.</p> <p>The evening is open to everyone to attend so why not come along, share in the Christmas cheer and join us for a mince pie (this year prepared especially by Mrs Hamstead's year 9 Food Technology class).</p>
Wednesday 20 December	<p>CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF During normal lunchtime</p> <p>On Wednesday lunchtime we will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner prepared fresh onsite by Mr Swift (our Catering Manager) and his team. Our students and staff will be served by me and members of my Senior Leadership Team, and there will be musical accompaniment from our students.</p> <p>The cost of Christmas dinner is £2.10 (no charge for those students entitled to a free school meal) and will include roast turkey breast, stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, carrots and sprouts (or cranberry and cheddar tart for those who would prefer a vegetarian option). Students will also receive a desert with their dinner (either Christmas pudding and custard or chocolate orange trifle) and a drink.</p> <p>POST-16 LEAVERS' CELEBRATION 15:30 to 17:30 at PGS Post-16 Centre</p> <p>We are looking forward to welcoming back our Year 13 Class of 2017 to celebrate their summer A Level results and to present them with their official examination certificates. We cannot wait to hear all the exciting things our former students have been doing in the months since they left us.</p> <p>CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE 19:00 to 21:00 (approx.)</p> <p>Preparations are well underway for Wednesday evening, which is shaping up to be an amazing Christmas extravaganza. There will be music and drama performances from students across a range of year groups, all with a Christmas theme. Tickets are priced at £4.00 each and are available to purchase from our main reception. They are selling out fast so don't miss out on what promises to be a fantastic evening!</p>

Friday 22 December	<p>CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION MORNING 08:20 to 12:45</p> <p>You have already received information from Mr Dowle, our Lead Head of House, about the plans for our Christmas Rewards Fair which is taking place on the final day of term. To complement this, Friday will also be a Christmas-themed non-uniform day. There will be no charge for this, however; should anyone wish to make a donation all proceeds will go to our school charity, Sheffield Children’s Hospital.</p>
	<p>EARLY CLOSURE 12:45</p> <p>Next Friday, school will close early for the Christmas holidays, at 12:45. There will be no hot lunch service on this day however; we will be providing grab-bag lunches (sandwich, home bake and a drink) for any students who wishes to purchase lunch. Students will need to pre-order their lunch via Frog by no later than Tuesday 19 December. Grab-bags can be collected from the main dining room from 12:30 onwards on the Friday. Any student entitled to a free school meal is requested to complete the form on Frog and collect their free-of-charge lunch from the dining room also.</p>
	<p>As we will be finishing early there will be some changes to bus times with the following buses arriving early at school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 416 will arrive at 12:45 (ticket only which will be issued on Wednesday and Thursday of next week on a first-come-first-served basis). • Thurgoland Travel will arrive at 12:45. • 401 Yorkshire Tiger will arrive early, exact time to be confirmed.

As we break for Christmas we say goodbye to three colleagues; Mr Hall (Teacher of ICT and Music), Mrs Nazrin (Teacher of Science) and Miss Greenfield (Student Support Officer for Year 8). I would like to thank these colleagues for their service; they all leave with our very best wishes for the future.

We also have a number of colleagues to congratulate who have secured internal promotions. Mr Satur has been appointed as Second in Mathematics and Mrs Wilson has picked up additional Teaching & Learning responsibilities, also within the Mathematics Department. In addition, Mr Richards and Mrs Mason have been appointed to ‘deputy’ posts on the Senior Leadership Team; Mr Richards as Vice Principal for Teaching, Learning and Assessment and Mrs Mason as Executive Director for Strategic Operations.

Before I close, given the time of year it feels appropriate to update you on the fundraising efforts of our school community. We are extremely proud of the support we have been able to provide to our nominated charity, Sheffield Children’s Hospital, over the past three years, raising over £10,000.

Of this total, £5,000 has been donated to sponsor a consultancy room in the new wing of the hospital and on Friday 15 December a number of staff will be running or cycling the 13.5 miles from Penistone Grammar School to Sheffield Children’s Hospital to deliver the cheque in person. We will be collecting donations along the way and any contributions you feel able to make will be gratefully received.

For the past two years we have sponsored a Christmas star on the front of the Sheffield Children’s Hospital. On Monday 4 December a number of our Post-16 students, together with Mr Gillett, attended the annual switch-on of the lights. While they were there our students were given the opportunity to tour the new wing of the hospital and find out about the impact their fundraising has had. The students were overwhelmed by the big difference such relatively small acts of kindness can make to children less fortunate than themselves and came back committed to continuing our charity work for this excellent cause.

To this end, we are always amazed by the new and increasingly imaginative ways our students find to raise funds. For example; on Tuesday 5 December, students from a variety of year groups, including Post-16,



came together in our main entrance area to take part in a Singathon which lasted for the duration of the school day. Not only was it brilliant to have the school filled with music, but the students raised over £300!

This year, instead of the Shoe Box Appeal, we have decided to continue our support for Sheffield Children's Hospital with a focus on the hospital staff who work tirelessly over the Christmas period. Over the course of the coming days each form will be putting together a gift hamper to send to the staff at the hospital to thank them for their dedication. We would welcome any non-perishable items to include in the hampers (for example; chocolates, biscuits, drinks, snacks and toiletries). Should you wish to donate please send items in to school with your children or hand them to a member of our main reception team.

All that remains is for me to thank you for your support during my first half-term as Principal. On behalf of everyone at Penistone Grammar School ALC, I would like to wish you a safe and happy holiday and a fantastic New Year. I look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Monday 8 January and to sharing more of their wonderful achievements with you over the course of 2018.

Yours sincerely



Paul Crook
Principal

