2nd September 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year. I hope that you have had a safe, enjoyable and restful summer holidays and that your child is now looking forward to returning to school.

First, a very big congratulations to our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who sat their GCSE, AS and A2 exams. Year 13 students were delighted with their results and 91% of the students were able to accept their first-choice university placement. The emotional responses of the students, parents/guardians and teachers on the day was an indication as to how challenging the last few years have been for the students and they are all to be congratulated on their successes. Year 12 students were equally happy with their results and can now progress to Year 13 with secure grades under their belt as well as the experience of sitting external exams for the first time. And we are also very proud of our Year 11 students who also achieved well despite all the challenges. We have welcomed the majority back to continue their journey in the 6th form and wish them, as well as those who have left to go to College or an Apprenticeship, all the best in the next year.

We have a few new staff to welcome as we start the year. Mr Rudge will be joining us as Head of Year 8 and teaching Welsh Baccalaureate, Wellbeing and History. Mr Holland will be teaching Sociology and Psychology in the 6th form for the next term, as well as continuing in his role as Learning Mentor in the 6th form, and Mrs Trotter will be returning to teach Psychology for the next term. We also welcome new Teaching Assistants: Miss Chapman, Mrs Garth-Campbell, Mr Jones, Mr Rahman, Mrs Vaughan, Miss Willcox and Mrs Reed.

We also welcome our new Year 7 students to Penglais. I hope that they will settle into the Penglais community very quickly and feel that everyone is here to support them. Should there be any concerns, please contact the Head of Year 7, Miss Kelly Thomas.

Over the last two years, the school has been quite a remote place for families as we have not been able to welcome you on site for the usual events due to Covid. You told us in the annual survey that this has been difficult for you and we look forward this year to be able to open our site again and invite you in for events.

These will start in the week beginning 12th September where we invite Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in for curriculum evenings. Year 7 parents/guardians will also have the opportunity to meet members of staff, other parents and members of the Parent Teachers’ Association (PTA) for an informal ‘meet and greet’ over tea, coffee and biscuits. This will be at 4.15pm on Monday 12th September followed by the curriculum evening at 5pm; Year 8 and 9 will be on Wednesday 14th September at 5.30 and 6.30pm respectively and Years 10 and 11 on Thursday 15th September, again at 5.30 and 6.30pm respectively. 6th form students and parents/guardians are invited to a 6th Form Information Evening on Thursday 22nd September at 6pm in the 6th Form centre. Further information will be shared next week. We would encourage all families to attend. This will be an opportunity for you to understand what the school priorities are this year as well as key curriculum information for subjects.

Year 11 parents/guardians will also have the opportunity to meet with your child’s tutor to review progress in Year 10 and to plan for Year 11, and Year 7 parents will have their parents’ evening towards the end of the half term. All parents/guardians are also warmly welcomed to the Governing Body’s Annual Governors’ Meeting which is held on Tuesday 25th October. It would be good to see many families attending this meeting.

I will also be continuing with the Headteacher’s Surgery on Thursday evenings between 5 – 6pm. These are open to all parents/guardians and no appointment is necessary.

This year, we are also celebrating 50 years of Ysgol Penglais and we want to ensure that we celebrate in style! Mrs Shaw will be working with the PTA and leading a team of staff, parents/guardians, governors and students to plan for these events. If you are interested in helping us plan for these, please email Mrs Shaw (kks@penglais.org.uk).

We are very much aware that this year is going to be challenging in a different way to the last two years of covid with the cost of living becoming a challenge for all families. Please get in touch with us if this is having an impact on your child in any way and we will see if there’s anything we can do to support you or to refer you to places for support. We are organizing a uniform ‘swap-shop’ and will share further information about this shortly.

We very much look forward to engaging with you over the year to help ensure that your child is happy, safe and achieving their potential in the school. Should you have any concern or wish to contact the school at any point, please contact your child’s Head of Year (emails below) or email admin@penglais.org.uk. You may also like to look at our website [Home | Ysgol Penglais School](https://penglais.org.uk/) which has a wealth of information including all letters and communication with parents/guardians. We also use Facebook to frequently as another mode of communication [Ysgol Penglais School | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/YsgolPenglaisSchool/)

Yours sincerely,



Ms M Hughes

Pennaeth/Headteacher

**Useful email addresses:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Name** | **Email address** |
| Headteacher | Ms Mair Hughes | hcl@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 7 | Miss Thomas | k.thomas3@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 8 | Mr Rudge | R.Rudge@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 9 | Mr Daniel | oxd@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 10 | Mrs Johnson | s.johnson@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 11 | Mr Fisher | af@penglais.org.uk |
| Head of Year 6th form | Mrs Elgood | jje@penglais.org.uk |
| PA to Head teacher/Clerk to Governing Body | Mrs Clements | hcl@penglais.org.uk |
| Student Services Manager | Miss Jones | cej@penglais.org.uk |
| 6th Form Manager | Mr Barnes | J.Barnes@penglais.org.uk |
| Finance Manager | Mrs Williams | maw@penglais.org.uk |
| ALNCo | Mrs Shaw | kks@penglais.org.uk |
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| Student Attendance  | Miss Jones | attendance@penglais.org.uk |
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